

École Agnes Davidson School Council Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, March 12th, 2024, 7:00pm

At école Agnes Davidson, we discover, create, and explore on the traditional lands of the Niitsitapi, Treaty 7, and Foothills Métis District. We honour the stories of this land. We are grateful for its beauty, gifts, and privileges. We commit to our role in speaking truth, restoring relationships, and caring for the land. We strive to instil this sense of responsibility within our community of Aakaipookaiksi as an act of reconciliation.

2) Approval of the Agenda – Approved by Jo Ann and Michelle

3) Approval of the Minutes – Approved by JoAnn and Michelle

4) Reports:

A) **Principal Report:** (Terra Leggat)

- We had a successful Book Fair; I do not yet know how much money we raised. Thank you for all the parents who helped contribute to the Book Fair, it was fantastic.
- Our Science and Heritage Fair was a huge success. We had about one hundred or so entries. We encouraged as many students as possible to go to the Regional Science Fair/the Regional Heritage Fair if they so choose to put their projects in. So, thank you parents if you had any involvement with your children. We had parents judging this year, which was the first time that we had done that, and it was phenomenal, so it was great to see our parents. And it was great, because the parents who responded to my email about coming, essentially sent me a resume about why they were qualified to judge. I am thinking this is great and wonderful, it is grade 1.
- Coming up on Friday we have a Professional Learning Day for our teachers. We are going to be working with a French Immersion consultant from Calgary, who is going to be showing us, and working with us on French Language Art resources and some curriculum resources and its special for us, because the French Immersion materials is always a little bit more sparks than the English version of the thing, so we are excited to have a connection where she can guide us through some of that, so that's great.
- Roland Bibeau joined us for a rock concert a couple of weeks ago he sang some kind of popular songs, and then translated some to French and it was a rocking good time on a Friday morning, so that was lots of fun. Then the following week we had a Cabane a Sucre music concert which was really fun because they were more traditional right with the fiddles and the spoons, and that sort of thing. So, our kids got the rock version culture and then they got the more traditional piece, so that was lots of fun. Lots going on in February.
- Re-registration I am told is going out on Monday. So, you can check for your emails Monday if not Tuesday. Just so that we can get a sense it helps us in the office, so we know who is coming

back to our school. Cause people move or have other plans and that sort of thing. So, when you get that email for the re-registration, please follow that. It will be the same process as last year. And then we also open up our profile forms at the same time frame that we do our re-registration and that will be found on the website. So, and the profile form again, is a chance for parents to share with us some information about their child that might help us place them into a classroom. We do not take teacher requests. So, if your profile says, "Oh I want to be in Madame Jory's class," it goes to a pile of ok well whatever, because we do not take teacher requests. And we do not request that have kids in with their friends. So, if you request us can you please put my child with their best buddy or with so and so, we do not honor that. And the reason why is making class lists is an extremely complicated process. We never put kids in isolation where they do not have a buddy but as a parent of a graduate of French Immersion our division. I got one in grade 11, you have a couple kids in the program, they become cohort. Right, so by the time my kids now and you've got older kids to you probably see it, as they go thru the French Immersion experience and if they stay in French Immersion, they become this tight nit cohort and they and its good that they have some interactions with all of their people. I find that once they get to Middle School and High School if they had class with the 99 other kids in their cohort than it serves them well, right and kids in elementary make friends so fast, right like I had parents call me and say they don't have any friends their in grade 1, and none of their kindergarten friends are in their grade 1 class. Well, I tell you by noon recess they got a new bff right. As so that is good. So, we do not take any requests for friendships to pair them together. So, ya you can look for that. If you want to do a profile form, its not mandatory its not necessary, its only for parents to choose to provide a bit more information.

B) Vice Principal Report – (Megan Cummins)

- As you know Report Cards were released digitally last Friday, so make sure that you take a peek at those.
- Again The Celebration of Learning is this week we are trying a little bit of a different way, so make sure that you connect with you classroom teacher because they have specific information about their events and the times and some of those pieces are on our website where you need to sign up and some of them are just emails from the teachers so your best contact is your homeroom teacher, so please do that.
- Our Panago Pizza fundraiser is on Mar.26th/2024. So, share with friends and family and let them now. Say Agnes Davidson because its nice. Just say "I am supporting Agnes Davidson." But you do not have to, we get the funds anyway.
- On Mar. 27th/ 2024, is going to be our 'Read-A-Thon' kickoff. So, more information is going to be coming home to parents. Its going to be a similar format to last year. Lots of great opportunities to be reading with your kids. Flashlights, outside, with grandparents, or whatever it might be, its not a matter of reading a certain amount of pages, it is just a matter of falling in love with reading. So, there will be different types of reading in there as well. So, I would love to see as

many pictures as possible, so if you email them to me, I will make sure that they get up onto the screens, and the kids love to see a nice home connection too. So, they absolutely love that, they are funny they stop there for the paper copy pictures the traditional ones, I added some new ones today and they are just like "ooh you see the new ones?" They are just like oh you can get so close to it, and of course the tv screens are a different piece there. So, we are excited about the Read-A-Thon, it is going to be a nice event for the school.

- Terra talked about the Science and Heritage Fair, but if your little one participated in the Science and Heritage Fair and they are wishing to sort of continue on that learning, they are welcome to sign up for the Science and Heritage Fair at the University Sci Fusion as well as the Science Olympics. It is a really fun event if your kids have not done it. You would get a problem and then they must solve it, you get a certain amount of time to do it. And the kids absolutely love it. For the same for The Galt as well. Those are open community events. We are one of only a couple of schools in Lethbridge School Division that continues to do the Science and Heritage Fair. So, anybody can sign up. That is what keeps the events alive. So, feel free to do that. It is a good opportunity for the kids to be able to talk about their learning and get to practice in front of different people.

C) **Staff Rep Report:** (Mlle Kohn)

- March 25th & Mar 27th French Story tellers from the Lethbridge Public Library are coming to the school to tell animated stories to some of the classes. French ones.
- Christian Mbanza is presenting at our school on Mar.18th and as his message is about the inclusion and black people in the Prairies.
- We have Handbells and Senior Choir that are heading to the Lethbridge and District Speech & Music Festival. Mlle Thorlakson would have sent out a note to her club members regarding the events on that.
- Clubs that are going on in the school right now include:
 - 1) Senior & Junior Choir
 - 2) Handbells
 - 3) Climbing Club
 - 4) Yoga Club

We just finished up a Book Club, a Dodgeball Club, Grade 5 Basketball.

And then Running Club will be taking place later in the Spring.

- Green Shirt Day will be on April 9th. The first day back to school after the Spring Break.

D) District School Council: (JoAnn)

- There was a lot of discussion about the I.C.E. scholarship because the showcase is happening on Mar 20th. I.C.E. (Innovation Creativity & Entrepreneurship). So, its just students from the district they come, and they showcase their ideas and apparently, it is a really great event, I've never been but it's supposed to be a lot of fun. So, they are encouraging all families to come and take a look, and then there is a scholarship available to students. Its open now and it runs until May 6th. So, its Middle School & High School children.

(Terra said):

There was a couple of High School kids who won last year, and they did a project on Bees & Pollination of bees, and they are former French Immersion school students, and so, they are going to be coming in the beginning of April after Easter break to connect with our grade 2's. So, they spent some of their money on resources to now teach our grade 2 students about the importance of bees.

(JoAnn said):

- There was a lot of discussion around the different committees in the division and lots of communication around the policy and procedures committee, and lots of discussion around how policies are becoming under review. The division actually hired someone to come in and review policies. Apparently, we have a lot of policies in our school division and so they are looking at redundancies and whether we need all these one hundred and some policies.
- There was a question about fundraising a parent from another school is asking if other school counsellors are having difficulties with school cash online? And just the fees from school cash online take from the fundraising right, they acknowledge that yes, its an issue, and that is just the price you pay for using school cash online right. So, there was just some discussion as to whether you can sort of prevent that, I think there will be more discussion around that. But it sounds like for right now if you are using school cash online that you really do not have much of an option. And a lot of schools do not want cash, it just creates other issues as well. So, it was just something that was discussed briefly.
- The ASCA Grant. Just making sure that all the school divisions are spending their ASCA Grant. And then we have forms that we have to fill out, and submit at the end of the year, just making sure that we are all doing that.
- Discussion about the Town Hall in how all of those results have now come out and they are up I believe on the website, and so if you are interested in what happened at Town Hall and what the responses were go to the Lethbridge website, I believe its the community engagement site thru the Lethbridge School District. So, it sounds like there was great reviews, lots of them like the format of it, there was so many people that came it was a little bit surprising to I guess the organizers, that that many people showed up, which was fantastic. I myself was there, I thought it was a great event, I've never been before so, I can't compare to other years. But I thought it was really great how it was organized. I liked having students there I sat at some tables with

some Middle school & High school students, and it was just really fascinating to hear their perspective on where they see education going and what they see as some things that need to be fixed as well and I thought that was really cool.

D) **Alberta School Council Association:**

Are we going to use that grant money? How are we going to use it?

E) **Trustee:** None

5) **Old Business:** (Tyler)

A) Parent French Classes:

- French classes are going very well. The ability to learn French in the way a grade 1 child learns has been totally amusing. If I were to take French at the University, I would be making more progress from an academic standpoint. But this is a journey together with the kids. This is a very enjoyable to have this opportunity to be taught the exact same way as the grade 1 is learning French.
- In the Beginners class the attendance varies per week. Between 4-6 people.
- In the Intermediate class the attendance is between 4-6, for all that signed up. For the people who are taking the intermediate almost everyone comes to class.

6) **New Business:** (Terra)

A) School Supplies:

- I had sent out a survey around Christmas, so really it was asking “do we want to continue with our bulk supplies or go back to individual packs?”
 - ❖ 92% of parents like the bulk order
 - ❖ 6% of parents want to go back the individual.So, its pretty obvious. How we are hoped to proceed there.
There was a questionnaire about how much what would be a good amount, and most parents think between \$40 & \$50, \$50 & \$60, or \$60 & \$70 is sort of where the bulk of parents put it. They realized the cost of supplies.
So, you can look forward to that next year. It will be a bulk order again. And it will probably be around that \$60.

B) Bell Times:

- So, it looks like we are going to be changing our Bell times slightly. I was really looking forward for the Fridays. But I cannot get the Friday changed yet. But we are going to change the ending bell Monday thru Thursday, so, rather than 3:45pm it will be 3:30pm. So, this coming year there was talk about changing, cause bell times are based on bus schedules right, and across the Division. And there was conversation of looking at for this coming year because as you also know the bus schedule is going to have to change slightly because we are now adding in the 1.2 km for kids. More kids are going to access the bus right so Division wide more busses. So they talked

about doing it this year however, the following year the new school on the west side will be opened and so there is going to be a lot of boundary changes on the west side for that school, so bussing is going to be affected, so then they have to redo the do schedule again, so rather than blowing it up next year and the year after that they are just going to blow it up the year after that, cause you have to start from scratch essentially right so they said us to hold on for one more year with the current bus schedule and then not next year but the following year they will look at it again, so I am pleading for an earlier dismissal on Friday.

C) Choir & Fees:

- So our meeting that we had in December or January we discussed having fees for Choir and then chatted with the staff about it and then it actually sort of donned on me, our parents pay for field trips right for classrooms for curriculum based things you have your school fees all of that's for field trips, so, why are parents not paying for extra-curricular field trips so to speak, so, we will be charging a fee to parents next year for Choir, its not for Choir, its for the field trips for Choir, its the bussing, and the registration fees and that sort of thing. As a staff we talked about all the other activities that we do, like there's a Climbing Club going on right now, it costs \$41 I think to be a part of the Climbing Club, there was not even a question that the school would pay for that that's charged to the families right. We got Basketball we do not transport our kids to the basketball games, which is up to the parents. Why are we transporting for Choir? And not charging I know its during the day there's different logistical pieces around it right. We charge our parents for the Basketball jersey and then when you return your jersey, you get your money back. So why are we not treating Choir in the same respect? So that is what we decided to do. But we also talked about if there's a family that couldn't afford the fee the field trip fee for Choir that absolutely the school would be happy to cover that, and we do this for our classroom fees as well when there's fieldtrips so just a FYI when you are looking at your fees for next year and that sort of thing you can expect a Choir/Handbell fieldtrip fee as part of that.

Next Meeting April 9th, 2024