

St. Mary's Parent Council/Advisory Meeting

Oct 2, 2023 - 7pm

Attendees: Brad van Middelkoop, Sharla Lindsay, Alicia Doud, DonnaMae Melle, Jennifer Aguirre, Renee Tatro, Rochelle Cowan, Sarah Franchetto, Chelsea Peterson, Lanette Recio

Agenda & Minutes:

1. Prayer & Land Acknowledgement - Brad van Middelkoop
2. Parent Council Vs. Parent Advisory
 - Parent Council - requires certain protocols to follow and positions to be held so we can keep our council status and run a bank account
 - Parent Advisory - more about discussion & feedback
3. Community Speaker / Grant Money
 - \$500 grant available for each school's parent council that can be pooled together
 - The money was not used last year but we have permission to use it for this year
 - MHCBE has Darci Lang as a speaker coming in for the division staff so the school councils can piggy-back off of this event to host an evening event for the parents/community
 - Brad will let central office know they can use our parent council money for this joint venture
4. New School Update
 - St. Mary's has a survey out about the new school (see the newsletter). This survey is open for only 1 week.
5. School Year Start-up Feedback
 - Staggered start - discussion of how the options were chosen
 - Spirit week
 - Blue day
 - Dance
 - Nemo Jr.
 - Art club - Ms. Remeikis opens her art room for some lunches
 - Volleyball - 5 girls team & 3 boys teams
 - Xcountry
 - Football
 - Meet the Staff Night
 - Chaplin BJ Groves
 - Student Leadership (similar to student council)
 - i. 2 conferences they can go to throughout the year
 - ii. Do small fundraisers like the staff pie in the face

- Orange Shirt Day – was Fri., Sept 29th at the Cypress Centre with McCoy & NDA

6. Looking forward

- Turkey Trot - students can win a turkey by predicting how fast they can run
- Faith Leadership Group - develop school prayer, meet the Bishop once a year, meet with the faith leadership groups from other schools, ran by Mrs. Marshall
- Fine Arts Parent Council Group - next meeting is Tues., Oct 10 at school library
 - i. Current Fundraisers - Hot Lunches
- School mass next week with NDA

7. Parent Council Positions

- President - Alicia Doud
- Vice President - Renee Tatro
- Treasurer - Sharla Lindsay - no report
- Secretary - DonnaMae Melle
- MHCBE Parent Association Representative - DonnaMae Melle
 - i. Superintendent Report (Dr. Zarichny)
 1. Summer Registration was up so 3 new teachers were hired within the division
 2. Division Faith Day for MHCBE staff was August 25th with speaker Father Leo (website: Plating Grace)
 3. Truth & Reconciliation - 10 year anniversary so presentations were larger this year
 4. PD Day Childcare - child care is available on PD days and during the November break (Nov 6 - 10). If there are more registrations then there is a possibility of having a second location for childcare.
 5. New School Update - letter went out to parents via email. A meeting was held at central office with administrators and teachers to discuss details, concerns and ideas about this project. The plan is to build the school behind St. Francis so the St. Francis students can stay at their school until the new school is ready - this is dependent on the architectural plans.
 - ii. Board Report (Kathy Glasgo)
 1. There is a Board and Superintendent Evaluation coming up by a third party.
 2. MHCBE has purchased 3 stained glass windows that were originally in the convent in Medicine Hat. These windows will be refurbished to be used in the new school
 - iii. Mission Project - each parent council is asked to have a mission project for a charity or the community so that our parent councils are not just about fundraising.
 - iv. Next Meeting - Monday, October 30th at 7pm at the Board Office

8. Adjournment