**OLPH School Council Meeting**

**Thursday October 24, 2019 @ 7:00 pm – OLPH School**

In Attendance:

Natalie Wallace – Chair, Charles Ward – Vice Chair, Andrea Medvescek – Secretary, Julie Corriea – Treasurer, Natalie Lavigne – Past Chair, Krista Taylor – Grade 8 Fundraising Chair, Heidi Jones – Fundraising, Barb Crowley – Volunteer, Sandra Sharp, Warren Bitzer, Heather Pouliot, Trish Ibach, Tammy Start, Lisa Hall, Susan Hunter, Dave Wimmer, Jeanine Losty, Kristy Partridge, Jennifer Brownlee, Geri Olney, Kelly Vass, Carole Diarcy

Staff: Alyre Morin, Amie Gartner

Guest: Ted Paszek – EICS Board Trustee

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
* Meeting was called to order by Natalie Wallace at 7:00 pm.
1. **OPENING PRAYER**
* Led by Amie Gartner
* Indigenous Acknowledgement statement read
* Attendee introductions done
1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 & SPECIAL MEETING**
* Motion to approve the September 25, 2019 minutes
* Moved by Sandra Sharp, seconded by Charles Ward
* Motion to approve the Special Meeting minutes from September 25, 2019
* Moved by Krista Taylor, seconded by Heather Pouliot
1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
* Motion to approve the agenda
* Moved by Tammy Start, seconded by Barb Crowley
1. **SPECIAL GUEST: CHAIR OF EICS BOARD OF TRUSTEES, TED PASZEK**
2. **REPORT FROM EICS BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
* It is not known yet what effect the new Alberta Budget will have on the school board and funding available to the schools.
* UCP Government is very supportive of a Catholic Education being fully funded within the public system.
1. **OLD BUSINESS**
* No old business
1. **REPORTS FROM COUNCIL**
2. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – ALYRE MORIN**
* Mr. Holden and Mme Gagnon attended WE Day with the leadership students; it was an amazing day for the students.
* Students enjoyed first theme day, Jersey Day on Oct.2.
* Everything went smoothly on photo day with the larger student body.
* Mme Gagnon and the leadership students organized a Turkey Hunt for Thanksgiving which was enjoyed by all. Winners received a pie.
* Linking Generation has a grandparent assigned to every homeroom in the school. First visits have taken place.
* Mme. Streadwick’s Grade 5 French Immersion class led the Thanksgiving faith celebration in the school and did a wonderful job.
* Grade 8’s attended a religious retreat at Birch Bay with Mme Dufour and Mme Taylor which was a huge success. The parents had written letters for the students to read while there.
* French Immersion Mass was attended on Oct. 24 with EPK and ABJ.
* 3 out of the 4 junior high volleyball teams have made the playoffs. There has been tons of improvement from the students this year. Many tournaments have been attended and medals won.
* Coats for Kids and Family, old shoes, and food bank items have been being collected at the school for anyone that has any to donate. The students receive a coupon for a chance at prizes with the donation of old shoes.
* OH&S needs to be done at the beginning of every meeting. During an emergency our muster point for the staff room is the parking lot.
1. **EXECUTIVE REPORT – NATALIE WALLACE**
* A statement has been drafted from the feedback received regarding the question “What does choice in Education mean to you?” brought forth at the last meeting. The statement reads “As parents with children in the Catholic school system, choice in Education means that we can continue to choose Catholic schools within our public system, without additional costs. We value the choice to educate our children in line with how we live our lives and the opportunity to honour the traditions and celebrations that align with our Catholic faith. We believe choice in Education also means the opportunity for parents to have access to a variety of options in a public school offering; including specialized programs, such as sports, performing arts and language without a loss to the option of religion.”
* All attendees were in agreement with the statement and it will be submitted.
* The next question from ACSA is a survey regarding vaping. 4 volunteers agreed to complete the survey.
* **GRADE 8 COMMITTEE UPDATE – KRISTA TAYLOR**
	+ Canteen and hot lunch are up and running
	+ Pub night will be Feb. 1.
	+ Raffle is in the works
	+ Letters have been sent to local businesses to request bottles for a bottle drive.
	+ Nitza’s Pizza coupons will be sold
	+ Parent surveys were sent out, response rate was good. 23 parents indicated they are interested in fundraising, and 9 were OK to lead a fundraiser.
	+ Other ideas brought forth from parents for fundraising include: family photo sessions, raffling a trailer, Epicure meal kits, grocery gift cards, pancake breakfast after mass at OLPH served by the grade 8 students, and Booster Juice cards.
* Christmas movie fundraiser has been cancelled. We will be doing a Purdys chocolate fundraiser instead. Order books are being sent home with students this week.
* Break a rule day is Nov. 8. It will cost $0.25 - $5.00 per rule for students to break. Volunteers are still needed for this.
* School Apparel has been set up. We will be offering hoodies, sweatshirts, shorts, joggers and t-shirts. Every effort was made when choosing and designing the apparel to keep costs low enough to make it available for all families. Samples will be available at the school to try on during 3 way conferences.
* The traditional Molasses Taffy will happen at the school on the morning of Nov. 25th. This tradition is to celebrate St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, the 1st Catholic teacher in Canada who used taffy to excite the children to attend school and for learning rewards at school. Volunteers are needed. Last year it worked well having 2 students from each class coming to make the taffy and learn the story of the tradition and then going back to their classrooms to share the story and taffy with everyone.
* Natalie Lavigne is our OLPH parish liaison, she provided us with an update from the parish. All grade 4’s have received their bibles. French Immersion mass was big and wonderful and full of life. 2 parent info sessions have been done for students celebrating Confirmation this year. They will need to complete 5 classes over a 6 month period; there are many dates available for these classes. Catholic Education Sunday is the weekend of Nov. 2 & 3rd, each school will be hosting a mass. OLPH hosts the 5 pm mass on Nov.2 with EPK. There is a Catholic Education Session taking place at the church on Monday Nov.4 in the evening; it is open to the public to talk about Catholic Education.
* There will be a book fair in the library during 3 way conferences with French and English books.
1. **UPCOMING EVENTS – CHARLES WARD**
* Oct 25 – Gr 5/6 Volleyball Tournament at OLPH, Oct 25 – School Picture retake day, Oct 31 – Halloween, Nov 5 – Early Dismissal / Twin Day, Nov 8 – Break a rule day, Nov 11-15 – Fall Break – no school, Nov 19 & 21 – Three way conferences, Nov 25 – St. Catherine’s Day – Taffy, Dec 18 – 9:30 am Mass. There will be no school council meeting in December.
1. **NEW BUSINESS**
* No new business
1. **ADJOURNMENT**
* Natalie Wallace adjourned the meeting at 7:52 pm.