



School Council Meeting

Thursday, April 10, 2025 / 6:02pm - 8:11pm / Divine Mercy School

In attendance:

Amy Cooper (Principal), Lindsey Fowler (VP), Shelagh De Rossi (Chair), Tommias Ksiazek (Co-Vice Chair, Helping Hands), Andre Santos (Co-Vice Chair, Casino), Innocent Madawo (Secretary), Chelsea Dustin (Fundraising).

Parents: Adeniyi Patricks, Sulina Mukhtar-Lasisi, Tsobeny Nono Danielle, Sandeep Virk

6:02pm - Meeting Call to Order – Chair, Shelagh De Rossi

6:02pm - Prayer and Treaty Land Acknowledgement - Mrs Lindsey Fowler/Mrs. Amy Cooper

6:03pm - Approval of Previous Minutes - approved unanimously.

6:04pm - Adoption of Agenda - adopted unanimously.

6:06pm - Round Table Introductions - All

6:10pm - Chair's Report – Shelagh De Rossi

- Announced the Alberta School Councils Spring Symposium which will take place virtually on April 26, 2025 from 9:30-3:30. All parents are invited, and those interested can register for free with the School Council to attend the virtual event together at the school. The meeting voted unanimously to allow the School Council to take from its \$500 Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) annual grant to pay the \$95.64 attendance fee by April 14, 2025.
- The meeting discussed possible uses for the remaining \$404,36 from the grant which will expire at the end of the year if not utilized. The meeting voted to authorize the School Council to seek a wellness program that could benefit the school community.
- Parents can reach out to the School Council chair for more information.

6:20pm - Grade 6 End of Year Celebration - Chelsea Dustin

- The meeting discussed volunteers for the Grade 6 end of year celebration on June 24, 2025. The principal suggested that more than volunteering, the School

Council and the school staff could set a tradition that could be followed each year to celebrate the end of the Grade 6's learning journey at the school. The School Council will consider options and come up with a plan by the next meeting.

6:12pm - Principal's Report (copy attached) – Mrs. Amy Cooper

Highlights of the new school year:

- Starting next year, the school will have a second vice principal, Mr. Greg Hansen
- Midway summary reports are available on PowerSchool. It is important for parents to visit the site and review the performance of the school.
- Cell phone connectivity within the school building is being upgraded.
- The Jump Rope fundraising activities have raised \$2000.
- The school community will hold celebratory events towards Divine Mercy day on May 2, 2025.

*The school keeps growing with current student population at more than 470 and could surpass the 600 mark by the beginning of the next school year. The school has a maximum capacity of 650 students. For the next school year Divine Mercy will have 4 classes each for K-Gr1, 3 classes for Gr2-Gr5 and 2 for Gr 6.

- ❖ The continued growth of the student population will affect the provision of space for extra-curricular programs such as Generations, the Running Club, and more critically, the Day Care program which will lose one of its two rooms next year and the remaining room by the beginning of the 2026/27 school year.
 - ☐ Such options as multi-purpose use of the gym and the common room will be considered as the possibility of portable classes is not feasible in the near future.

7:09pm - Helping Hands - Co-Vice Chair, Tommias Ksiazek

- **Very Visual Valentine** cards were presented to staff at the Alberta Women's Shelter Association with whom an ongoing relationship has been established.
- **Shrove Tuesday** was a success, although the Deny's management demanded marketing assistance that was not comfortable to the school staff.
- Lost and Found items were cleaned, paired and donated to **St. Vincent De Paul**.
- **Spare Change** collection for the **Gianna House Support Project** is continuing until Easter. Gianna House is a Catholic Social Services initiative that supports women and children.

7:22pm - Next Meeting - Chair, Shelagh De Rossi

- Due to lack of Operating Procedures in the early years of the school's establishment, the School Council had been erroneously holding the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the month of May. The Division requires that the AGM be held before October 31 in the new school year.
- With the School Council's fiscal year ending August 31, the AGM will be held in September, including elections to fill open positions in the Council Executive.

7:30pm - Other Business - Mrs. Amy Cooper

- The principal announced a plan to introduce a Meet the Teacher program the week before school opening week to allow school staff to introduce themselves to students and their parents before classes start.
- Parents will also use the opportunity to bring school supplies before opening day.

There being no other business, the Council Meeting ended at 7:34pm.

The last meeting of the current year will be held on **Thursday, May 29, 2025 at 5:30pm.**

Society Meeting

7:34pm - Meeting Call to Order – Chair, Shelagh De Rossi

7:34pm - Adoption of Previous Minutes - approved unanimously.

7:34pm - Adoption of Agenda - adopted unanimously.

7:35pm - Fundraising Report - Chelsea Dustin

- Only 22 spring baskets have been purchased, half the amount purchased last year. Perhaps this is indication that we need to make some changes.
- The Council to pay for 6 baskets for the school.
- Other fundraisers - Healthy Hunger and Cobs - are ongoing

7:41pm - Winter Festival Finances Summary

- **Expenses** - Donovan Day Magician (\$900.00), Long Riders Sleigh Ride (\$1,964.17) and Canadian Maple Shack (\$1,932) = **\$4,796.17**
- **Ticket Sales - \$3,777.00**
- **Balance Owing - \$1,019.17** (\$900 paid directly to Donovan Day and the school will write-off \$119.17)

7:45pm - Treasurer's Report - Tania Nieto

School Council Account

- **Expenses** - Child care during last council meeting (\$60.00)
 - Magician for Winter Festival (\$450.00)
 - Very Visual Valentines (\$135.19)
 - Spring Baskets for the school - **pending** (\$140.00)
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- **Receipts** - **Healthy Hunger (\$882.81)**
- **Available - \$3,793.59**
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Casino Funds

- **Expenses YTD - \$13,871.32**
 - Snow Valley (\$5,706.00)
 - Christmas Concert Rental (\$3,065.32)
 - Edmonton Arena Corp. (Hockey) (\$5,100.00)
- **Closing Balance - \$44,536.47**

7:50pm - Principal's Financial Requests

Financial Requests

- Chromebooks \$35,000 - increase due to current stock breaking down and inflation.
- Activity fee \$4,000

7:56pm - General

- Meeting voted for the School Council to spend up to \$500 buying gift cards for Teacher Appreciation Day.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm