

**Ecole Notre Dame Elementary**  
**Parent Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

February 12, 2025

Minutes by Brittani McDonald

Attendees: Kelsey Hynes, Brittani McDonald, Monica Langmaid, Lorne Pedersen, Noreen Radford, Michelle Baril, Carmen Hills

**1.0 Call to Order**

- Meeting called to order at 6:01pm

**2.0 Opening Prayer and Land Acknowledgment**

- Led by Kelsey Hynes

**3.0 Approval of Previous Minutes**

- Approval of January 2025 minutes by Monica Langmaid, seconded by Brittani McDonald

**4.0 Approval of Agenda**

- Additions: none
- Motion to approve agenda – approved by Kelsey Hynes, seconded by Brittani McDonald

**5.0 Reports**

**5.1 Trustee Report – Mrs. Noreen Radford**

- Student Engagement Plan – A Student Engagement Committee has been formed with the intent to enhance student voice and participation in the governance process by creating opportunities for dialogue between students and trustees. The initiative will begin with two students, nominated by school administrators, in grades 7-12 from eight schools across the division. The first meeting will serve as an introduction of trustees and a short presentation of the board's responsibilities.
- St. Jean Baptiste Award – was established to recognize and celebrate French immersion students in our high schools who demonstrate perseverance and dedication to making a meaningful contribution to the French Immersion spirit and culture – recommendation was to add an additional \$500 annually to support this award
- Faith Formation – The Faith Formation Committee developed a plan to involve trustee and, as deemed appropriate, administration led faith

formation sessions at the Committee of the Whole public meetings. This would be 15-20 minutes in length with topics such as:

- a. Saint of the Day
  - b. Reflection of the monthly prayer
  - c. Topics of current interest in our faith
- Inclusive Education Programming Update – review of the Inclusive Education Programming in GSACRD under the headings of:
    - a. Continuum of Supports and Services
    - b. School Learning Teams
    - c. Imagine Learning
    - d. Diagnostic Assessments
    - e. Individual Program Plans
    - f. Dossier
  - Waivers – There are lower transportation waiver amounts which may be attributed to the reduction of fees – total projected value of waivers is \$3,017 for 2024-2025
  - Education Foundation – The objects of the foundation, as filed with AB Corporate Registry in 2016, are:
    - a. To advance education by providing equipment and educational aids to students and schools of Greater St. Albert Roman Catholic Separate School District No.734
    - b. To advance education by providing publicly available scholarships, grants, awards, and other forms of financial assistance to students of Greater St. Albert Roman Catholic Separate School District No.734
    - c. To do all such things as are incidental or ancillary to the attainment of the above purposes.
    - The Foundation has provided annual support to district schools since 2019, for a total of \$40,380, through the “Futures Fund” Group Grant Program, which has benefitted 14 different schools and 19 different projects (ranging from \$4,150 to \$8,400 each year, depending on fundraising success). The Foundation has also provided \$12,250 in support to 28 different students directly through two annual grade 12 scholarships (since 2018) and up to four annual grade 9 scholarships (since 2021 – delayed in 2020 due to Covid-19).
    - On October 21, 2024, the Foundation launched its fifth annual Christmas Cash 50/50 Raffle. The Foundation raised just over \$2,900 to assist in funding group grants for educational enhancements.

- This year, a total of \$8,400 in funding was provided to five schools: \$5,000 to Friends of SKT Association for an outdoor classroom structure; \$1,000 to Ecole Notre Dame for English + French decodable reading resources; \$700 each to Morinville Community High School and Georges H. Primeau Middle School for the development/enhancement of Star Spirit Lodges; and \$1,000 to Legal School for supplies for team building activities and indoor recess.
- It is through fundraising events and tax-deductible donations from district supporters that the Foundation is able to move forward with a common goal of “Building Better Futures, One Student at a Time”. For those who wish to support Catholic Education in the district, consider attending events, volunteering for the Foundation Board (AGM is planned for April 3, 2025 at 7pm, via ZOOM or in person at the SACHS Hawks Nest), or by making a donation online at [www.foundation.gsacrd.ab.ca/donations](http://www.foundation.gsacrd.ab.ca/donations) (a tax receipt will be issued for all donations \$20 or more).
- For more info, or if interested in fundraising and volunteer opportunities, email: [foundation@gsacrd.ab.ca](mailto:foundation@gsacrd.ab.ca)

## **5.2 Administrator’s Report – Mrs. Michelle Baril**

- Registration
  - Offering a prize for registration before March 7<sup>th</sup> (either a Chromebook or a gift card)
  - So far, there are 138 returning students registered as well as 12 new students in English Kindergarten and 14 new students in French Immersion Kindergarten
- Mrs. Miniaci has returned.
- Mrs. Livingston is away until next week.
- Lunch hour has changed – students will now be eating lunch first and then having recess
- Jump Rope for Heart – raising funds for heart and stroke research – runs from Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> to Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> – so far \$400 of \$2,000 goal has been raised
- Cereal Day – held approximately once per month
- Breakfast Club – by invitation with Madilyn
- Important Dates and Upcoming Events:
  - Feb. 21 – Indoor Journal Games
  - Feb. 24 – French Immersion Carnival

- Feb. 26 – Student Awards Assembly (Husky Hoorays!) – six awards: Faith, French, Sportsmanship, Academic, Artistic, Heart and Hustle
- Feb. 24-28 – Wheelchair Basketball
- Mar. 4 – Gr. 4 and 5 Ski Trip
- Mar. 5 – Ash Wednesday
- Mar. 11 + 13 – Parent-Teacher Interviews
- Mar. 12 – Parent Information Night: “Bring Back the Calm” (presentation on anxiety by Lauren Chow of GSACRD Voice) – 6:30pm at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy
- Mar. 13 – Pasta Lunch for students
- Mar. 14 – PD Day
- Mar. 19 – next school council meeting
- Apr. 4 – presentation of the play “Quand maman sourit” for the French Immersion Students
- Jun. 6 – presentation of the play “Rapunzel” – all students
- Jun. 12 – Indigenous Musicians – Curt Young Music
- Jun. 21 – Indigenous Day at Morinville Community Cultural Centre

### **5.3 Teacher Report – Mrs. Carmen Hills**

- Math and reading are going well
- French immersion is still rewarding students when spotted speaking French
- Started a Puzzle Club for any students in grades one and two that are interested – Tuesdays and Thursdays at lunch
- There will be a student retreat in April that is centred around video games
- Considering hosting a family games night for the open house

### **5.4 Chair Report – Kelsey Hynes**

- Received a \$1,000 grant from Alberta Music Education Foundation – will be used to purchase xylophones for the school
- ASCA Grant Update: Kwesi Millington will give a presentation on “Raising Resilience”, which will take place in May at Georges H. Primeau Middle School
- Looking into available options to bring in an Indigenous beading artist
- Wish list item – teachers interested in simple, fast-play board games for Puzzle Club, indoor recesses, etc. – will motion at fundraising meeting

## **6.0 2025-2026 School Fees Review**

- Small increase in fees to account for rising inflation.

- Agenda fees have increased by \$1.00 since 2024-2025.
- Art and Sewing have been added as available options for grades four and five – there are associated fees if course is taken.
- Programs and activities involving bussing have increased to compensate for rising cost of bussing.

#### **7.0 New Business**

- None

#### **8.0 Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

#### **9.0 Next Meeting**

- March 19, 2025 at 6:00pm.