

# Immanuel Christian Secondary School Council Meeting



Monday, February 10, 2025

7:00 pm @ Learning Commons

## Agenda

### 1. Welcome – Marina Grant

Attendance: Matthew Bekkering, Laura Whitten, Danielle Friesen, Erica Anderson, Jodene and Joseph Moradel, Nicole Williams, Genny Steed, Tanya Koster, Marina Grant, Carrie Boschman. Dan Hummel. Tim McLean.

ONLINE: Sharla Hummel

### 2. Devotions & Prayer – (ICSS Staff) – Danielle Friesen – PROVERBS 31 website... reminder of how we can influence the children in our lives (parenting God's way). (1) Pray! Prayers are powerful. Pray for the present and the future. Phil 4:6, Let prayer be our GO TO not our last resort (2) Protect Proverbs – need our active protection from dangers by being authentically present, be vigilant and guard their innocence (3) Teach (and model) Deut 5:6-7. Take advantage of every moment we are given with our children.

#### Prayer Requests

- Focus for this week prior to the week off. Staff can have a great week off.
- Staff member's family with cancer and journey through final day.

### 3. Review Agenda

- Approval of the agenda: Dan Hummel
- Seconded by: Danielle Friesen

### 4. Minutes from Previous Meeting – Council Secretary (Carrie Boschman)

- Approval of the minutes from November 13, 2024: ???
- Seconded by: ???

### 5. Tft report – Erica Anderson + Laura Whitten

- Bible Curriculum PowerPoint shared how this is being transformed (ATTACH FILE)
- CFRR narrative – integrating Bible and reading scripture IN class.
- Purpose of Bible Curriculum – Support Staff deep hope, learning continuum grade 6-12, can fit any teacher/teaching style, increase Biblical literacy, promote questions and conversations
- Staff deep hope: Authentic Faith, Pursue Understanding (what practice support authentic faith?)
- Continuum Grade 6 to 12: read through the entire Bible, addition of Bible 10, connect to creation-fall-resurrection-redemption story arch through entire Bible curriculum, existing resources (CSI –

Christian Schools International: Walking with God and His People), existing classes (Religious Meanings (11)/Sociology (12))

- Biblical Literacy: Best practice to teach BIBLE is to actually read the Bible. Components: Home reading, in-class reading. Goal: read through the Bible from grade 6-12, inductive, read it for what it says, not what we want it to say (Romans 10:17)
- Essential Questions for each grade. Asking the essential question (grade based) every day with the passages and writing what they are thinking about.

6. **Society Board Update** – Dan Hummel on behalf of Monica Loewen (Executive Director)

- Kindergarten registration open!
- Board workshop on January 31 with Jeremy Horlings, PCCE - TtT training at ICES)
- April 5, Spring Bazar! Looking for donations, auction items, volunteers to organize the kid zone (Jeff and Melinda will be stepping down after this year... great to learn this year to run next year)
- Passed high school modernization: moving offices, painting, new lockers, bathroom renovation to accommodate accessible needs of students attending

7. **Division Trustee Update** – Genny Steed (Board Trustee – Vice-Chair)

- Appreciate being welcome to hear about the work done in this school
- Town Hall survey – due February 14 – comments are ALL read by each Board Member
  - Appreciate all who went to Town Hall and all the feedback on the website
  - Share ANYTHING that you'd like (not constrained to the questions asked)
  - Staff/Community/Parent – Choose what you'd like... how do you want your input to be considered? (All feedback is weighed equally)
  - Will work to identify common themes – but trustees will read through the raw data before Strategic Planning
- The board passed next year's school calendar!
- Budget and strategic planning is coming quickly. Identifying goals and input from individual schools is helpful.
- High level feedback – grade configuration within the division (grade 6 and 9 – have previous moves met the needs best of these students?)
- Policy consultant – helping to create a framework with fewer policies that are more accessible and separates policy (board) from procedures (executive). Currently a mess!
- Looking at an election year... consider joining the school board and run as a trustee (Genny happy to share knowledge and connect people with resources if you are interested).

- Policy Advisory Committee – reviewing feedback as of Wednesday.
- Digital Wellness Grant was extended through this year (was supposed to end last year) but will end as of June. This is NOT a fully supported initiative by the Board.
- Christine Lee (works in the Education Centre) is retiring as of August

8. **Division Executive Update** – Christine Lee (Associate Superintendent – Business) Sends Regrets

9. **ICSS Teacher Update** – Danielle Friesen

- Semester 2 has begun!
- Grade 12 – lots of grad planning underway
- Middle school spirit week activities – LOVED seeing kids creativity
- Grade 11 Student Council organized the Literal Olympics (Teachers victorious!). Very engaging and tons of fun.
- Grad fundraiser: cookie dough
- February: Middle school clubs active again (January had a pause on clubs). Spanish, archery, sculpting, etc
- Cold snap – Remind kids to bring coats, gloves, toques!!!
- Reminder for parents and kids – checking PowerSchool and staying on top of academic requirements
- Emails coming out shortly about Travel club!!! Mr Overbeeke.

10. **ICSS Principal's Report** – Matthew Bekkering

- School Theme, Chapels, Tft (Teaching for Transformation) are aligned
  - Christmas and Advent
  - Peculiar in how we approach humanity (Pro-Life)
- Annual Choir and band concert
- Estate donation received – purchased a class set of Bibles (NIV translation) as it ties to the CSI curriculum
- PCCE Board (Prairie Center for Christian Education) – met in Calgary to discuss challenging topics in schools
- Tft 101 – 2 staff continue to take this
- SWATCA Teacher's convention on Feb 20-21 (Lethbridge)
- Student life – Sr High Christmas Banquet (student planned)
- Gr 8 skills exploration day in December (skills Canada)
- Legion Poster/Essay contest – student submissions and awards earned!

- Mrs Onciea returned for semester 2 after a leave – High School humanities
- Mrs Barwegan EA had resigned prior to Christmas. Mrs Wetmore was added to the EA team.
- Bill 27 coming from Alberta Government – parental consent of pronoun uses in schools, parental OPT-IN for all human sexuality education,
- Bill 28 – Ensuring access to schooling during public emergencies
- Bill 29 coming from Alberta Government – preservation of female sports and prevention of male born athletes from completing.
- Thinking about next school year... budget from division kick starts school budgets, staffing considerations, site-based visits coming up
- PCCE AGM – March 8 (delegates from society board coming up)
- March 13 + 14 Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences
- NEW Grade 7-9 curriculum coming!
- Feb 28 – Diploma analysis working group with AB Education group
- Board resolution – ASCA motion passed can be used for school councils to be used for providing food for parent engagement opportunities
  - Inaccuracy in framework for pooling money for ASCA AGM. (\$450 registration + \$250 bursary to go to AGM)

#### **11. Division School Council Update**

- Next Meeting: Monday, March 3

#### **12. Members Business**

- Corporal Heather Bangle (RCMP officer) Presentation Opportunity - Internet Safety and Awareness Presentation (SACPA – Southern Alberta Council for Public Affairs).
  - Danielle – Motion to spend up to \$300 to bring Heather Bangle to present for the division. Seconded by Nicole Williams.
  - Request: Other schools to contribute ASCA \$100 to provide refreshments for this event along with splitting the cost of the rental of CASA.
  - IN FAVOR. NONE OPPOSED.
  - March 27 at CASA (200 seats) – Presentation for Parents (\$300 rental of CASA)

Agnes Davidson willing to pay half

LCS - Concern for capacity – could create a sign up

ICE promotional event is the same night at WCHS

- OTHER ASCA - IDEA – Spring Pickleball tournament (competitive and non-competitive options). Equipment is at the school. (Workshop for Healthy Living). (Rent Legacy Courts and Pavilion with splash park) BBQ to follow. Matt will look into dates (End of May?) and email the group if he needs to book something
- Third party classroom teaching groups (Nicole Williams)
  - PREFACE – We all understand Mental Health is a huge concern. Concern: Signal Hill Curriculum being used to supplement the health curriculum. (Lesson Plans available for sensitive topics such as Suicide, Self Harm, Depression)
  - Community Helpers came in to speak to the class (Lethbridge Family Services (LFS); John Thompson was willing to share with parents what was shown, and taught.
  - ASK: When bringing in 3<sup>rd</sup> party teachers/presenters - PLEASE give parents the opportunity see content presented and give parents the option to permit/exempt a child from participating PRIOR to such presentations.
  - MATT – lots of conversations happen ahead of time with the presenter, the school counsellor and admin AND a teacher is always present. LFS is a very common group to bring in to talk to the students. Agreed that we can do a better job of communicating about what is upcoming as they do not want to undermine parents. Students DO need an education on these topics and growth in language around these.
- Using PowerSchool (Carrie) – wondering how parents are using PowerSchool and if there are insights or requests stemming from their experiences with various teachers – not all students have phones / are accessing PowerSchool – what other means of communication are teachers using to share this data.
  - Request to not just use it as a live grade book but for teachers to add assignments/quizzes/tests into PowerSchool at least a few days ahead of a due date. This is a great tool to help students (and parents) plan and schedule studying and homework time, especially when other non-academic commitments are also vying for time each day.
- IDEA – Do a live demonstration of PowerSchool and how it can be used.

MATTT – email Barbi regarding Melissa Stroeve and ICES Parent engagement seminar....

### **13. Next Meeting Dates**

- Monday, April 14
- Monday, June 9

### **14. Closing and Prayer**

**Adjourned at 9:11**