

CEPAC Meeting January 14, 2021 - Meeting Notes

6:30 pm

Attendees:

Shelley Borowski, ABJ	Holly Zacharko, St. Nicholas
Natalie Wallace, OLPH	Paige Smith, St. Theresa
Monique Gagnon, EPK	Ted Paszek
Andrea Minarchi, Holy Redeemer	Le-Ann Ewaskiw
Kerstin Adamson, Madonna	Jean Boisvert
Heather Spraklin, OLA	Michelle Szott
Samantha LeDrew, OLA	Teresa Makowecki
Stacey Walker, St. André Bessette	Ron Baier
Shawnene Wallgreen St John XXIII	Ted Paszek
Alana Seymour, St. John XXII	Jean Boisvert
Pamela Bunclark, St. Mary's	Teresa Makowecki
Lisa Menzel, OLMP	Susan Johnson
Erin Crawley, St. Luke	Aoife Cahill
Karen Antoniuk	Pamela Gravelle
Thérèse deChamplain-Good	Paul Corrigan
Lorraine Court	Cindy Wang
Shawn Haggarty	Lisa Wispinski

Opening Prayer - Led by Shawn Haggarty

Introductions and welcome to new chairs.

Divisional Faith Theme - Paul Corrigan

- We are proud of how our school communities have embraced the division faith theme of Joy this year.
- EICS raised almost \$7,000 in support of Valeda House over the Advent season with various initiatives.
- Celebrating a [great news story from OLA](#) - a student raised nearly \$5,000 in support of Valeda House by selling paintings.

Mid Year Update - Shawn Haggarty

- Covid
 - Feelings of resilience and pride as to how staff, students and parents have navigated the past couple of months.
 - All students are back in class as of January 11th. Increased emphasis on masking protocols, cleaning, cohorts and screening.
 - Feedback from online learning for grade 7-12 students in December, and all students the first week back after Christmas has been very positive. Student attendance was high and synchronous learning went really well.

- Alberta School Council Association Update:
 - Information letter from [ASCA](#) about funding reductions was emailed to CEPAC members on November 19th, 2020.
 - Service levels have been impacted, response time is longer than it has been.
 - ASCA AGM will be April 25, 2021. Information is included [here](#).
- 2021-2022 School Calendars:
 - EICS Board of Trustees approved the draft copy of the 2021-2022 school year calendar for Sherwood Park, Fort Saskatchewan, and Vegreville.
 - Please ensure that the draft calendar is brought forward to school council for review and feedback at your next meeting.
 - EICS is waiting for Battle River School Division to approve their draft 2021-2022 calendar. Once we receive the calendars, they will be distributed to the Camrose school communities for review and feedback.

Questions:

- Is there an option for students to return to in person classes in March?
 - The re-entry dates communicated to return to in person classes (from online) were November 16 and February 1.
 - Please discuss with your school principal in the coming days if you wish your child to return to in person learning at the end of January.
- Will students that continue with online classes through St. Isidore be able to participate in school farewell activities?
 - This will be brought forward as information to school principals at an upcoming meeting.
- Are students required to write final exams?
 - Grade 12 diploma exams are optional for students for 2020-2021.
 - EICS is not waiving final exams, but encouraging schools to look at a wide range of final assessments.

Best Practice Sharing:

- Suggestions on how to get new members to join school council and keep parents engaged:
 - Virtual meetings are successful, seeing increased participation, easy access. Some councils expressed they will continue with this format going forward.
 - Have campaigns, mini-sessions to build an online community.
 - Plan for a variety of topic discussions/presentations throughout the year. This engages different parents throughout the year. Suggestions include: scholarships, awards, post secondary, wellness, guest speakers, local RCMP school resource officers.
 - Invite student council members to present initiatives or projects they are working on.

- Survey parents for suggestions. Work with school administration to see if there are any current topics relative to the school community that would benefit parents.
- Keep business agenda items brief to allow for more guided conversations, keep meetings on schedule.
- Reach out personally to parents that you see regularly volunteering in the school, on the playground, at church, or in the parking lot and ask them to attend meetings or fill vacant rolls. Personal contact seems to work best to get new members.
- Some school councils have Facebook pages to reach their parent community. Make sure they are private secure pages that require parents to request to join, mindful of FOIP and to not publish photos of students or families.
- Work with school administration to advertise upcoming meetings and events in school newsletters.
- Work with school administration to update your school council page on the school website to keep information current. [St John XXIII](#), along with many other schools, have great school council pages. Check out other school council links on school websites to see what others are doing.

Closing Prayer - Shawn Haggarty

Meeting Adjourned - 7:35 pm

Other resources:

- [EICS School Websites](#)
- The [Alberta School Council Association](#) website still has valuable information for council members to use. (Updated information coming in January)
 - [Online Learning Resources](#)
 - [Workshops](#)
 - [Effective School Councils](#)
 - [Agenda Topics](#)