

**Fort McMurray Christian School  
School Council Meeting Minutes**



**Date:** October 18, 2022

**Time:** 7:00 - 9:00 pm

**Location:** Fort McMurray Christian School

**Present:** Geoffrey Bishop, Laura Blake, Christine Gogolinski, Lacey Miller,  
Tunde Oladipo, Riva Walters

**Regrets:** Elizabeth Benner

**I. Welcome and Call to Order** (7:08 pm)

Chair: Tunde Oladipo

**II. Opening Prayer**

**III. Review and Approval of Minutes from September 20, 2022**

Motion: Christine Gogolinski

2<sup>nd</sup>: Laura Blake

Unanimous

**IV. Reports**

**A. School Administration Report**

Geoffrey Bishop

- Current enrolment has increased to 237 students in elementary and junior high combined.
- FMCS welcomed Francis Achus-Got as the new junior high math and science teacher, a role supported through funding from the School Society.
- Students participated in the Terry Fox Run, raising \$2100 for cancer research.
- The junior high classes recognized Orange Shirt/National Truth and Reconciliation Day during a field trip to Maqua Lake. Indigenous Elders shared their perspectives while teaching traditional activities and games, including cooking bannock on an open fire. Students were not participants in any Indigenous spiritual activities.
- Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (NVC) training will be provided to all teachers and educational assistants with a focus on de-escalation strategies and non-restrictive interventions. Two school staff (principal, LAC) will be trained in advanced crisis prevention approaches to allow them to safely intervene during heightened situations.

- Grade 6-9 students had the opportunity to participate in the Survive Outside presentation where local paramedics encouraged outdoor safety awareness and the importance of preparation to survival.
- Junior high students attended a presentation about the Mayor's Advisory Council on Youth (MACOY), which offers youth in the community a chance to share their voice on related services, programs, and issues. One FMCS applicant was successfully accepted onto the committee.
- Division I students participated in Fire Prevention Week with a presentation on fire safety and prevention. They learned about smoke detectors, escape plans, and who to call when there is a fire.
- Through the development of a student council, students have been given the opportunity to develop leadership, communication, teamwork, organization, and public speaking skills. Together with other council members and class representatives, the elected executive will help organize spirit days, sports days, fundraising, and other special projects such as the creation of a junior high lounge.
- The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA) will be hosting an evening of fun, hands-on science activities and demonstrations on October 20 at the school. All are welcome to this no-charge event!
- The volleyball teams have been working hard and doing an amazing job this season! The junior high boys and girls teams are currently undefeated, and the grade 5/6 team is having a lot of fun while learning many new skills.
- Five staff members will be attending this year's PCCE Conference in Calgary, with two participating in Teaching for Transformation 101.
- Stakeholders can ensure they have the latest information by regularly visiting the school website for announcements, current events, and photographs from recent student activities: <https://christian.fmmpsdschools.ca/>
- Parent/teacher interviews will be held at the school on November 2 and 3.
- A FMPSD trustee will be visiting the school on November 8. One elementary and one junior high classroom will showcase a Teaching for Transformation (TFT) activity.
- In partnership with Timberlea Public School, students will commemorate Remembrance Day with a service on November 10. A Christian veteran has been invited as guest speaker.
- Many parents have signed up to volunteer their time, and their efforts are much appreciated. A current police reference check is required for all in-school volunteer positions. An information packet is available in the main office to obtain the police check at no cost. Completed checks remain valid and on file for five years.
- The hot lunch program is ready to go for the month of November. Orders and payments are made via the Parent Portal.

- The Division II playground is being upgraded. The municipality will be removing the current equipment shortly to allow for prompt installation of the new equipment in the spring.
- Gym classes will be participating in the Alien Inline Skating program in November, allowing students to learn skating basics, and more challenging skills, depending on their current abilities. All equipment and protective gear will be provided. The school hopes to also host a family skate night in January.

## B. Fundraising Report

Christine Gogolinski

- Fresh wreaths and Christmas signs are for sale until November 4.
- The Dieleman fundraiser is being held from October 17 to November 17. A variety of products are available including gift wrap and gifts suitable for Christmas. Orders will be shipped to a home address with arrival by December 14.
- The Doug Barnes cabin has been rented for November 20 for a Christmas fundraiser. The event, which will be open to the public, will include a market, coffee house, and worship music evening.
- Junior high students in the Life Skills program participate in student-led learning which involves choosing a term project. The school has submitted a funding request of \$215 to help with the programming cost for four students to complete a babysitting course as their project. Each student will also contribute \$25 towards the fee.
- The School Council unanimously votes in favour of releasing \$215 from the fundraising account to help fund a babysitting course for four students in the Life Skills program.

## V. New Business

### A. School Council Executive

- Laura Blake has volunteered to fill the open role of Volunteer Coordinator.

### B. Refundables Return

- The school has indicated that the grey bin is at capacity and requests that arrangements be made to return the refundables to the bottle depot. Laura Blake will arrange a parent volunteer for this task.

**VI. Tabled Until Next Meeting**

- Division Networks Meeting Report (October 11, 2022)
- The Alberta School Council Engagement Grant

**VII. Next Meeting:** Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 7:00 pm

**VIII. Call to Adjourn** (8:57 pm)

Motion: Christine Gogolinski

2<sup>nd</sup>: Lacey Miller

Unanimous