

**Gateway Christian School**  
**School Council & Red Deer Society for Christian Education Agenda**  
**October 18, 2016**  
**(GCS LIBRARY)**

**7:00 - Welcome and Introductions** - Cherilyn - call to order, introductions & attendance sheet  
Attendance sheet passed around.

**7:03 - Devotions** - Warren  
About love. Christian love allows us to love enemies, we love because we are children of God and His love flows through us.

**7:07 - Adoption of Agenda(s)** - Cherilyn  
All in favour

**7:09 - Adoption of Minutes:** September 20, 2016  
All in favour

**7:10 - Caring and Sharing**

- Where's Waldo and other leadership/student council activities recently held were a big hit
- Discussion that the cake walk was not very clearly communicated to parents so some kids were not aware of it and disappointed that they didn't bring money and couldn't participate
- Idea to allow parents to sign up for student council/office remind notifications in order to be notified of school events
- School buddies have begun which is positive for students
- High school students have responded very positively to the "Got Your Back" program

**7:20 - Student Council/Leadership Report**

Siana KlugKist reported about 5 activities that have happened so far (Siana represented one of the Gr. 7-8 )

leadership programs: Where's Waldo, Crime Scene, Leaves Please

Twin Day will be happening November 4, Poppy Picking will be happening on November 8.

**7:30 - Joint School Council & Red Deer Society for Christian Education Initiatives**

- Staff Appreciation- Great team of 6 ladies. Have plans mapped out for the year with an event happening each month. Looking for parents to help out by bringing in food for these events. Monthly notices will be going home so please watch for them and pitch in where you can.
- Community Prayer Time - Started on October 5. Takes place every Wednesday from 8:45-9:45am in the band room. Have 4 ladies volunteering as hosts and have had parents coming out to pray, more hosts are welcome. Coffee is provided and everyone is welcome.
- Teresa Tataryn spoke about the atmosphere of prayer time being very positive, humbling, and uplifting.

### **7:35 - Treasurer's Report**

- Follow up from September 20 meeting: setting the budget in regards to revenue and what happens to the revenue at the end of the year.
- Maria provided a break down of where the budget is allocated
- Carolyn expanded a bit about the surplus from MAC leasing and Lifetouch and how that might be handled while being carried forward
- Discuss about surplus delegation followed.
- Surplus spending plans will be touched on again next meeting.

### **7:40 - Feedback/Discussion**

- Literacy
  - Lucille Snyder described her new roles to build a literacy plan, strategies, and framework both within the framework of the school system and Gateway itself
  - Lucille pointed out the necessity for Grade 5+ students to spend more time reading to help keep reading levels as high in quality as they tend to be in the lower grades.
  - Literacy Team involves Lucille Snyder, Lynette Loonstra, Teresa Tataryn, and Jeremy Horlings
  - A Practice of gathering all students within a grade level and dividing them up in targeted groups based on their reading levels and needs has just begun here at Gateway. Positive feedback was shared about the effort and practices being put into developing reading for our students.
- Lifetouch
  - Teresa would like to explore whether Lifetouch is the only option for picture company.
  - Quality of Lifetouch photos are highly questionable.
  - Spring photos with Lifetouch are concerning due to their method of printing packages out prior to payment - seems wasteful and unnecessary.
  - Discussion about company selection, photo quality, and practicality followed.
- Playground
  - Playground space is challenging due to school high population on the school grounds
  - Discussion followed about fundraising for new playground equipment and where to allocate supervision surplus funds
  - Motion brought forward to move ahead with fundraising and the goal to purchase and install a new playground by John Jenkins, seconded by Jamie Siler, all in favour.

### **8:50pm - Alberta School Council Association report - Brad Vonkeman**

#### City Wide School Council Report

City wide school council meeting was held on October 4 at Annie L. Gaetz School. The school has just completed a modernization. They highlighted a couple of areas for the council.

- Strong music program
- They have done a benchmarking with all students
- They have a strong positive relationship with their business partner, The Red Deer Rebels, where they will have players come in and work with the students during the year.
- They have a very strong parental support group in the school.

Elections were held for the City Wide School Council Executive, and Lisa Mace was re-acclaimed as chair, and Jealene Tweedle was re-acclaimed as vice chair

A presentation was done by Purnima Lindsay from district office around the Literacy project the district is working on, highlighting some areas on the district's web page with information and resources for parents and students.

Board of Trustee report was presented by Cathy Peacock, board Vice Chair. Items mentioned:

- The board has changed when they meet. They now meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month starting at 1:00 pm.
- The board is doing work on Equity as it is one of the target areas for the board. All schools have been asked to establish an Equity committee, consisting of Administrators, teachers, support staff and parents. Trustees will come to each school council to present what they are hoping for. They are trying to recognize and respond to some of the disparity in the district.
- The new Inglewood School being built is ahead of schedule.

The district's Electronic round is being held on Saturday Oct 15 and 22 at both Lindsay Thurber and Hunting Hills schools.

There was a short report from the Alberta School Councils Association.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 22, 2016 at Fairview School

#### Alberta School Councils Association Report

- ASCA has a new president, Allison Pike from Lethbridge as Brad Vonkeman finished his term and is now serving a year as past president. Allison was elected at the April AGM by the membership.
- The Association has just released a replacement for the School Council Resource Manual (Binder). The new resource is an electronic School council Resource Guide. This new guide is only 40 pages and is also full of live links to various resources for school councils. This resource guide is available on the association website- [www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca](http://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca) it is also available on the Districts website.
- The Board of Directors has also established the School Council Advisory Task force, formerly the Parent Advisory Task force. This will have questions that the board is looking for information from our members in order to properly advise government, partners and others that may be looking for a parental perspective in regards to education matters.
- The association's annual report is now available on the website, for members to review for the past years activities.
- Red Deer Public's Board of Trustees has once again voted to pay the membership fees for all of the district's school councils. This is because the trustees believe in the valuable asset that the association is to the district's school councils. Part of this is the availability of the workshops to school councils, Webinar Wednesdays that occur at 9:00am and 8:00pm so it is available to as many parents as possible.

#### **8:59 - City Wide Meetings for 2015-16 (open to all parents in the district to attend)**

Monthly meeting where schools in district get together to share what is happening in the schools

- Tuesday, November 22, 7-9pm @ Fairview Elementary School 5901 55 St
- Tuesday, January 24, 7-9pm @ Mattie McCullough Elementary School, 26 Lawford Dr.
- Tuesday, March 7, 7-9pm @ Gateway Christian School, 4210 59th St.
- Tuesday, May 9, 7-9pm @ West Park Elementary School, 3814 55 Ave

#### **8:00pm - Adjourn - School Council**

## 8:05pm - Open Red Deer Society for Christian Education Meeting

### 8:05pm - Communication & Updates

- Bus - update on research and we're pursuing options to bring to the table at a future time. If you have suggestions or preferences please email them to Carolyn.
  - \$27/hour to rent the district bus
  - Seems to be somewhat neutral regarding who owns the bus, the society or the school.
  - It's necessary for schools to either fundraise for a bus or share/rent a bus within the school system
  - Discussion about advantages/disadvantages and practices about bus maintenance and management ensued.
  - Carolyn will come up with options to vote on at the next meeting. Advantages to sell, rent, keep the bus within the society, etc.
- Auction
  - Carolyn passed out some signs to be hung up in different churches
  - 8:30am-12pm on Saturday, November 12 we will have access for decorating
- Thank you card signed to go to RDPSD
- Board Member Hosts for Christmas Concert Dec 15 & 16 (there are both afternoon 1:30-2:30pm & evening 7-8pm performances)
  - Invite trustees and use as an opportunity to build community during the events.
  - John Jenkins will be at both performances and willing to host Bill Stuebing

### 8:25pm - Strategic Plan

- Review Community Building Strategic Plan - moved to November meeting due to time restrictions. Board members please review this document and come prepared with thoughts.
- Other Business
  - John Jenkins proposed the idea of using ice melt in the fall and fertilizer in the spring as a source of fundraising. He would be able to take a large part in organizing and managing the fundraiser program because his place of work would provide the materials.
  - Lucille Snyder made motion for the Society to hold a fundraiser to support HANDS and other programs within the school - motion passed

### 9:00pm - Adjourn meeting

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

##### Upcoming Dates

- Friday, November 18, 2016, Annual Fall Auction @ First CRC
- Christmas Concert - Thursday, December 15 and Friday, December 16.

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Board Chair, School Council and Society

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Secretary, School Council and Society

#### Upcoming Board Meetings & Devotions:

- November 15 - Corinna Van Niejenhuis
  - Other devotion leaders TBD next meeting.
- December 13 (Society Only) -
- January 24 -
- February 28 -
- March 21 -
- April 18 -
- May 16 -
- June 20 (Society Only) -