



**Notre Dame  
Collegiate**

# School Council Board Minutes

*Date | Time* 10/9/2024 6:45 PM

*Location* NDC Library

*You are made for greatness. (Pope Benedict XVI)*

## Agenda Items

**Location:** Notre Dame Collegiate, High River

**Date:** October 9, 2024

**Attendees:** Jodi deKlerk (Principal), SL S, Mark MacDonald (Trustee), Jacqui Vanderfluit, Terri Walker, Sara Jerke, Cathy Dudgeon (Teacher Representative), Nancy Barton (Community Member at Large), Adrienne Maerz. **Regrets:** Mr. Maerz, Christiane Kowich, Lindsay Sager, Wynter Brown.

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Notre dame Collegiate School Council meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m. on October 9, 2024. Opening prayer lead by principal Jodi deKlerk.

### II. TRUSTEE REPORT

- a) Mark MacDonald, Trustee, gave his report: Announcement by Premier Smith that 8.6 billion will be allotted to new school development funds. Trustees will be meeting in Edmonton with the Premier to further discuss distribution of funds. Brooks schools are at the top of the list for new school funding. K-12 funding is based on WMA (weighted moving average), a new system model is being proposed, more news to come.
- b) Arch Bishop's dinner was held in Edmonton on October 3, 2024 with a focus of worship and witnessing to all. Attending this dinner was approximately 1200 people. A list of young seminarians at St. Joseph's seminary was passed around to the council for point of interest.
- c) October 20, 2024, is Catholic education Sunday. Jodi d. to speak at St. Francis de Sales Parish. There is a focus on teacher recruitment with bursaries and lodging being offered to many Catholic teachers.

- d) The Grace Summit will be held on October 25<sup>th</sup> which is open to parents as well. There will be a focus on “Testify” walking in faith and sharing testimonials of coming into the Catholic faith. This will be held at St. Luke’s Parish in Edmonton. Registration details to come.
- e) Lastly, Mr. MacDonald mentions that the board of trustees is still reviewing the new cell phone policy put forth by the government as it looks within the CTR schools. A final draft will be reviewed hopefully by November.

### III. PRINCIPAL’S REPORT (See Attachment One)

- a) Jodi deKlerk, Principal of Notre Dame, gave her report: Access 52 event with speaker Michael Chiasson was a success. Students really enjoyed his presentation and appreciated his candidness. There is a parent resource link which can be found at <https://access52.com/media/>. Jodie played a quick video “what I wish my parents knew”. This is part of a presentation which she gives at the graduation retreat.
- b) Jodi mentions that October’s theme for Catholic social teachings (faith lessons within school) is Common Good. In Nov/Dec will be focused on preferential option for the poor and marginalized.
- c) This year’s Divisional theme: Continuous improvement (always with a lens of faith). School theme: You were made for greatness.
- d) Aspiring leaders program: Connor MacDonald and Jessica Shewchuk in the 2- year program.
- e) District department heads: Jenelle Pittman (HS chem), Chan Phu (HS math), Corrine Chisholm (JH math), Jason Reid (PE all grades), and Jason Sekura (post secondary).
- f) Grad fundraising has begun with ideas for food at sporting events and a bottle drive in November. NDC fine arts is also fundraising with their farm-to-table veggie boxes and the sale of NDC toques.
- g) Discussion around the new cell phone policy the NDC. Jodi would like to open the table to discussion and ideas on the tentative policy. These were the discussion points and outcomes from the discussion by student council:
  - Overall liked the policy and how it was written.
  - Love the social media lockdown
  - Exception: ISP system worked really well for a parent. Find a system for her to have her phone/music when necessary and placed it in the ISP. Parent was complimentary on how the system to do this worked
  - Concern: Student is doing online courses with CFL and YouTube is lockdown so she couldn’t do the work at our school. The student works better at school but was able to do it at home. Is there a way to provide access to videos that are needed
  - Concern: use of personal devices
    - Brought personal device to do online course but the guest network was too slow to be able to do the work here
    - Uses an iPad for notes (personal iPad) but the guest network didn’t allow her access (too slow), tried to hot spot but the cell coverage was not strong enough to get into google to get the notes
  - Afterschool courses - in this case band - does that count to the rules if students are getting credit for the course (but is after school)

- Liked the way that we were already encouraging no use of phones last year - this is just a bit more which is good
- Liked that parents are being given an opportunity to give feedback and that CTR wants to hear their voices
- Parent asked if a student could use ear buds (with music) in individual classes that may be louder as the child likes it quieter without an ISP - Jodi indicated that an ISP would be needed overall but the parent can contact the teacher to discuss the noise levels in class

#### IV. FAITH LESSON

SL S. and Cathy D. both shared in the faith lesson for this meeting. First, SL mentioned that she wondered why more of the school/congregation pray in the traditional manner of holding hands in prayer, rather than, holding open and facing their palms to the lord. She was under the impression that this act of holding up palms was reserved for the Deacon or Priest? She ran this by Father Marius, and he did say that yes, in fact, if you are praying, then you should be holding your hands together. She wonders if “we should go back to the traditional way of praying and encourage others to also do so”. She asks if this is something the teachers during religious studies could focus on. Jodi d. cautions on this, as it may cause some tough discussions for parents/children at home. Cathy D. suggests merely making the students/families aware of different traditional and non-traditional practices in the Church. Cathy D. stated that this was a great discussion because her faith lesson was also focused on tradition; how to use the principals of prayer and Catholic tradition to help know how to act in society. This month’s ‘faith focus’ in the school is – common good.

#### V. COUNCIL BUSINESS

- a. Announcement that SL S. Chair, will be resigning her position. **MOTION** by Jacqui V. to stay the discussion and put forth nominees at the next Council meeting and continue meeting, all were in favor and motion. **CARRIED.**
- b. Fundraising: Ideas put forth to the council by SL S.; an afternoon Christmas craft sale in the NDC school gymnasium where parents and students could rent a table to sell their craft/baking items. This would be held either on a Friday or Saturday afternoon with the proceeds from the rental of the tables to be split with other groups ie; NDC Fine Arts and 2025 grads. Grads would be welcome to sell popcorn. Table costs to be discussed at next meeting. **MOTION** by Jacqui V, seconded by Sara J: to accept the craft sale event with proceeds being split with the Grad committee. **CARRIED.**
- c. The Board thinks it would be great for School Council to supply the student body with a Halloween treat, being distributed by student helpers. We would be able to grab some treats from Costco up to 600 treats with an approximate cost of \$250. A receipt will be submitted by Jacqui V. after purchase of the treats. **MOTION:** by SL S., seconded by Terry W, to approve the cost of the treats. **CARRIED.**
- d. Discussion by the council on starting a scholarship program; tabled until next meeting; all were in favour.

- e. Jacqui V. would like to discuss the ASCE grant of \$500 awarded by Alberta Education. This money would support Student Council with focus on parent engagement. Application deadline is October 31<sup>st</sup> and Jacqui would like permission to work with Jodi d. in outlining a plan on how the funds would be allocated. **MOTION:** by Jacqui V., seconded by SL S., that SC proceed and request CTR and/or the Principal to apply for the ASCE grant on behalf of SC for parent engagement. **CARRIED.**
- f. It was discussed that several items would be tabled until next meeting when the new Chair will be appointed. Points to be discussed will be: new signing authority, procedure for adding your discussion points to the agenda/emailing to the executive before meeting, final date/rental table price for craft sale.
- g. Council accepts SL S. resigning her position as chair. Next meeting we will put up nominations for her position.

## **VI. NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting is scheduled for Weds, November 13, 2024, at 6:45 p.m. to be held at NDC; December date TBD but looking to confirm for December 4, 2024, as the Band Extracurricular Concert runs on December 11, 2024.

## **VII. CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



## Principal's Report Notre Dame Collegiate

### Notre Dame Collegiate Parent Council Report for October

*You were made for Greatness*

*Pope Benedict XVI - "The world will offer you comfort, you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness" - faith, academics, extracurricular, service to the community*

### Faith

- **Michael Chiasson and Access 52 was amazing. Many students were inspired.**
  - Video
  - parent resources - <https://access52.com/media/>
- Many and One: Catholic Social Teachings (Faith Lesson)
  - Oct: Common Good
  - Nov/Dec: Preferential Option for the Poor and Marginalized
- Diocese Renewal - Be a Church of Encounter and Witness - Year 2
- Thanksgiving liturgy and the Common Good
- Grade 7s went to Mass
- Father coming in to bless the icons next week
- Faith Leads: Shelli McCallum and Denise Paquette

### Safe and Caring

- **Human Dignity - CST for September**
  - **That are people are welcomed and loved; basic foundation of all that we believe; stand against racism, discrimination and prejudice**
  - **linked it to September 30 and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - Activity**
- **Community Service hours - we are called to love and serve - Common Good**
- Role of the FSLW/Connections team
  - grade 7 presentations are upcoming in October
- Sports teams
  - 6 volleyball teams, 2 flag football, golf, cross country
- Yearbook is up and running again
- Fine Arts - music has all bands started; play is deciding on what to do this year
- Leadership group has started and are organizing spirit events for Halloween
- Grad committee has started planning the banquet

## Learning

- Divisional Theme: Continuous Improvement (always with a lens of Faith)
- School Theme: You were made for greatness
- PD Day - focus on new EAL benchmarking; Faith Year 2; How best teaching strategies support achievement and assessment
- Powerschool is available to parents - important to check the progress of your child's learning, attendance etc.
- Town of High River - High Country Drive corridor - linked to Social curriculum: helped connect the idea of civic engagement and active and responsible citizenship with local issues
- **Mobile Device Policy - let's take a look**

## Stewardship

- New teacher - currently interviewing for semester 2
- **Aspiring Leaders: Connor MacDonald, Jessica Shewchuk**
- **District Department Heads: Jenelle Pittman (HS Chem); Chan Phu (HS Math); Corrine Chisholm (JH Math); Jason Reid (PE - all grades); Jason Sekura (Post Secondary)**
- Grad fundraising has begun - food at sporting events, bottle drive (November)
- Fine Arts - Farm to Table and NDC touques