



Notre Dame **School Council** Collegiate **Board Minutes**

| *You are made for greatness. (Pope Benedict XVI)* |
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Location: Notre Dame Collegiate, High River

Date: March 12, 2025

Attendees: Lindsay Sager, Jacqui Vanderfluit, Terri Walker, Sara Jerke, SL. S, Christiane Kowich, Mavel Predas, Jodi deKlerk (Principal), Mark MacDonald (Trustee), Cathy Dudgeon (Teacher/Faith Representative), Nancy Barton (Community Member at Large)

Regrets: Adrienne Maerz (Secretary) Wynter Brown, Terri Walker, Christiane Kowich

I. OPENING PRAYER AND CALL TO ORDER

Notre Dame Collegiate School Council meeting was called to order at **6:52 p.m. on March 12, 2025**.
Opening prayer lead by **Lindsay Sager**.

II. **ADDITIONS AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** **Sara J** advised SC that there is an outstanding item that was discussed in the establishment meeting of SC on September 11, 2024, and would like a follow up for discussion or action on Agenda Item: Re: Scholarship for Grade 12 Students. **Moved by S.L. S** to adopt the agenda with the addition of Discussion Item: SC Grade 12 Scholarship added to business. **CARRIED S**

III. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES of February 12, 2025.** Jodi d. requested clarification pointing out that the minutes pointed to the intention to circulate the February 12, 2025, minutes, via email, for the purpose of moving up signing authority on the bank. SC provided information that Jessica Nelson's transferring authority was not received right away and now there existed an issue with scheduling to make the bank appointment so as opposed to circulating the minutes for approval via email, the minutes are being presented at this meeting because the appointment at the bank has not been confirmed. **Moved by SL S to adopt the minutes as presented. CARRIED.**

IV. TRUSTEE'S REPORT – Mark MacDonald

- a. Mark previously sent his regrets at February 12, 2025, NDC SC meeting, as he had a prescheduled event with Catholic Woman's League. There is no Trustee report.

V. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Jodi deKlerk

- a. No principal's report this evening to leave room for discussion about Night at T Wolf Den

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT – Lindsay Sager

- a. No Chair report this evening to leave room for discussion about Night at T Wolf Den

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT – Wynter Brown

- a. No Treasurer's report this evening to leave room for discussion about Night at T Wolf Den
- b. SC asked Wynter to advise SC of our bank balance for next meeting.

VIII. FAITH LESSON – Cathy Dungeon and Nancy Barton: Theme - Lent - 40 days and 40 nights leading up to Easter Sunday.

- a. **Cathy** opened our SC faith lesson with a brief discussion of the Catholic faith's preparation for lent. Lent is the period, starting on Ash Wednesday (Some may be familiar with the ceremony of ashes being placed across the forehead) and the 40-day period (signifying the time Jesus spent in the wilderness) leading up to Easter, but actually ends on Holy Thursday. Then there is Good Friday and Easter Sunday.
- b. **Nancy** shared information about why the Easter calendar changes from year to year. This year's Lent calendar runs from Wednesday, March 5, 2025, to Thursday, April 17, 2025. Early Christians wanted Easter to coincide with Passover (Secretary note: The Jewish calendar is tied to solar and lunar cycles. Passover and thus, Easter, fluctuate with the vernal equinox {Paschal full moon}). Nancy explained why Easter Sunday shifts from year to year thus affecting when Ash Wednesday and how to count the Sundays leading up to Easter Sunday. Nancy explained that Easter feels later this year because it is, falling on the first Sunday after Spring.
- c. **Cathy** shared information with SC about the **THREE PILLARS of LENT: PRAYER, FASTING AND ALMSGIVING**. **Prayer**: a time for us to intensify our prayers with God. **Fasting**: On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics eat only one full meal and two smaller meals and this includes not eating meat during these two days or any Friday during the season of lent. SC members had questions about what kids do during lent. Those Catholics, aged 18-59, in reasonable health, are required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Those 14 and over shall abstain from meat on Fridays during lent. The church encourages common sense in approaching fasting in applying exemptions. SL S inquired about Fish. Cathy pointed to the Church's position that a modest meal of fish is aligned with the season of lent rather than a

large seafood feast. **Almsgiving**: is a sign of gratitude for all God has given us and Catholics give to the poor and those in need as an act of love. It doesn't have to be money, it can be a gift of your time as a volunteer or a donation of an item.

- d. **Nancy** shared information about Stations of the Cross/Soup and Buns being held **every Friday evening** during except Good Friday through to April 11, 2025. Stations of the Cross begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by soup and buns. Nancy shared enthusiasm for the growth of the parish and community engagement in sharing that numbers have increased for this yearly event – almost 70 ppl attended last Friday's Stations of the Cross with soup and buns to follow. SC had questions for Jodi as to what NDC does to observe Lent or the Stations of the Cross. Jodi shared a brief history of a beautiful celebration outside using props from the school to celebrate the Stations of the Cross. Historically, Holy Thursday is the school day set aside to observe this important part of Lent tradition, but Jodi indicated that windstorms in the last couple years put a damper on celebrations outdoors and outdoors became a thing during Covid.
- e. Please visit St. Francis de Sales Website for more information and consult the Parish Newsletter. Great information inside. <https://www.francisdesaleshighriver.com/>
- f. **Cathy** left the faith lesson for us to consider that fasting doesn't have to be confined to abstaining from food – Whatever we struggle with in terms of self control (ie. Video games; social media, self control) , such as anything getting in the way of our relationship with God – consider abstaining or praying about it during the Lent season! Whatever you give up for lent is between you and God, you are not to brag or boast. Alms giving – can be everyday of the 40 days.

IX. COUNCIL BUSINESS

- a. **INFORMATION ITEM - SC BEST PRACTISES FOR COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MEETINGS:** Lindsay S. shared a "best practise" model with NDC SC members to facilitate effective communication between our monthly meetings.
 - i. Meeting agenda items should be emailed to the SC Chair in advance so the Chair can include these council agenda items in the Agenda that is circulated to all SC members prior to our monthly meeting.
 - ii. Those agenda items which SC members deem requires the attention of Administration (Jodi – Principal) should be forwarded to the Principal with a cc to the Chair.
 - iii. If your agenda item includes a concern about the chair, SC members may, in the alternative, forward their email to the Principal and the VP. If you have a matter that concerns the Chair or VP Chair, then you follow the order of Executive Council which would be to forward your agenda item to the Treasurer or Secretary and include the principal
- b. **DISCUSSION ITEM -SC SCHOLARSHIP:** Sara J. Background Information: When the High River Fine Art Catholic Association had disbanded, it donated its remaining funds to NDC. This money was used to award scholarships to students in the Fine Arts. Jason Sekura helped create the google forms for application and the eligibility process was simple and anonymous to protect

the student's privacy. Sara asked for SC to revisit one of the brainstorming ideas discussed at our first meeting of the year which was to look at sponsoring a scholarship for Grade 12 students. Sara wanted council's feedback on whether this is an action item we can proceed with this year. SC discussed the ability to commit to a 5 year plan to award a minimum of one scholarship every year to a student who is interested in pursuing continuing education in a Trades program.

- c. **ACTION ITEM - APPROVAL OF NDC SC TRADE SCHOLARSHIP:** **Moved by Sara J.** for NDC SC to commit to a 5-year term, to award a Trades Scholarship, to at least one Grade 12 student, for a minimum amount of \$250, per year, with council's discretion to award multiple \$250 scholarships in any one year, subject to availability of funds. **CARRIED.**
- d. **ACTION ITEM - NDC SC TRADE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM:** **Moved by Mavel P.** that SL. S and Sara shall draft a simple "google form application" for the trade scholarship to bring to the April 2025 SC NDC meeting for review and approval. The criteria for the SC Trades scholarship shall not consider "academic grades" in the eligibility process. **CARRIED.**
- e. **INFORMATION ITEM - GROWING SMILES UPDATE:** As presented. SC is hosting a spring fundraiser built around Mother's Day in hopes to increase sales of spring florals. This is our permanent website with Growing Smiles for as long as NDC SC wishes to raise funds Christmas and spring. <https://notredamecollegiate.growingsmilesfundraising.com/home> . The funds raised were originally earmarked for "tables" per SL. S's recommendation to SC to purchase equipment for the students to participate in future Christmas fairs. SL. S deems the Trades scholarship a priority for SC. Nancy raised awareness around a fundraiser that CWL participates in every year – similar but not quite the same. SC wants to ensure that we do not compete with CWL in subsequent years with their Easter Basket fundraising efforts. Nancy offered to put SC's fundraiser in the Parish's newsletter. SL. S. would like to see our little sister school, Holy Sprit Academy, support NDC on this venture. Wynter offered to follow up with Peter. Jodi will circulate emails and put
- f. **ACTION ITEM - APPROVAL OF GROWING SMILES FUNDRAISER:** **Moved by Sara J** to accept the Growing Smiles fundraiser as presented by Jacqui V. and allocate funds raised into SC's general operating bank account, with the first \$250 raised earmarked for the Trade Scholarship. **CARRIED**
- g. **DISCUSSION ITEM – HISTORY OF NIGHT AT T – WOLF DEN:** Jodi has provided SC a history of Night at the T Wolf Den. The Chair requested some background information as many of us are new to SC. SC revisited information from our September 2024 meeting in review of what school council is and what school council is not in terms of our mandate. Jody circulated an information sheet to inform SC about Night at the T Wolf Den and what worked and what has not worked as well in past. Council members presented some great ideas but perhaps a bit ambitious and/or outside the scope of SC's mandate. In the interest of time, it was decided that

a SC sub-committee be struck and meet on Thursday, March 20th at 7 pm to put together a final proposal for Night at the T Wolf Den for council's approval at next meeting.

h. ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF DATE FOR NIGHT AT T WOLF DEN (OR YEAR END ACTIVITY):

Moved by SL. S. to schedule the year end activity for June 25, 2025, from 5:30 to 8:00 pm and direct the sub committee to build the activity around this date. **CARRIED.**

X. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for **April 9, 2025, at 6:45 p.m.**

VI. CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

Lindsay Sager closed us in prayer. **MOTION BY S.L. S** to adjourn meeting. **CARRIED.** Meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.