

# THORHILD CENTRAL SCHOOL: SCHOOL COUNCIL



Meeting Minutes  
November 23, 2021  
4:00 PM  
Zoom Call

**1. Call to order at 4:06 pm.**

In attendance: Leah Schryver, April Bauer, Harco Middelkamp, David Amiot, Jessie Schimpf, Krystle Crosswell, Miranda Middelkamp, Jamie Green, Miranda Middelkamp, Pat Topolniski, Kristy Krause

**2. Approval of Agenda:** Harco moved to approve the agenda. Carried.

**3. Approval of Minutes:** Jamie moved to approve the minutes from last meeting as amended. Carried.

**4. Trustee Report:** Report by April Bauer attached for full details.

- Letters from parents to the Minister of Education are encouraged regarding the new curriculum and delaying or slowing down the implementation.
- It was suggested and agreed upon to start reviewing school council policies at the beginning of each meeting in small chunks to cover all the information.

**5. Principal's Report:** Report by David Amiot attached for full details.

- It was suggested that the new Junior high/Highschool School Support position could help grade 12 students set up their My Pass accounts.

**6. Old Business**

6.1 Pancake Breakfast: Due to the covid situation and restrictions still in place, planning for a pancake breakfast will be pushed another month. It was suggested to have one pancake breakfast a year, possible along with Teacher's week in May. This will be moved to the parking lot for discussion later. It was also asked how to further improve the breakfast plan already running at the school to limit waste and utilize the funds not being accessed for pancake breakfasts.

6.2 Breakfast Club of Canada: The application form needs to be signed by the principal of the school. The funds will sit with TEAM if approved and TEAM has been asked to take over the application process.

**7. New Business**

7.1 School Council Christmas Party: Christmas goodie bags will be made for all students, including any online learning students. A request has been sent to TEAM to approve the annual \$500 budget item to make the bags. The bags will be made ahead of time, possibly at a residence, and delivered to the school for distribution.

**8. Parking lot:** nothing to be added to the parking lot.

**9. Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be on December 13 at 4:00 pm.

**10. Adjourned at 5:11 pm.**

## **TCS School Council Meeting November 23/21 - Trustee's Report**

We had our Fall General Meetings this month, ASBA and PSBA Nov 14-19. There were four advocacy action motions moved of importance. #1-Added transportation dollars to offset the inflationary costs for our Contract Bus Operators, #2-Delay the implantation of the curriculum, #3-Access to reliable internet for all, #4-Remove ministerial approval to access surplus dollars. Minister LeGrange opened our conference. In her speech she mentioned that \$45M has been allocated to assist in the Gr 2-3 learning loss with additional funds being announced for Gr 1 in January. Enrollment dropped by 25k students in 2020/21 across the province. There has been \$64M spent on curriculum development over the last ten years. The government has not landed on what the implementation process for the curriculum will look like and are committed to listening to all feedback received from outside sources and developing resources.

The Board had our swearing in and organizational meeting October 25. All trustees new and returning were sworn in. Elohe Chizawsky has returned to the Board for Ward 5, and we welcome Cindy Lutz in Ward 3. Candy Nikipelo was elected back into the Chair's position and Anne Karczmarczyk to the Vice Chair. I have stepped into ASBA Rep, TEBA, TEAC, Grievance, Labor Relations-ATA, Policy, Finance, Political Advocacy, and Audit committees. We made no changes to remuneration for this year.

At our last budget discussion meeting we took a look at the last five year: we have seen a decrease of 334 students, we have seen a decrease of 3.4 FTE teaching staff and a decrease of 15.5 FTE support staff. This year we still have a 15:1 pupil teacher ratio, there has been no increase to school based fees, and salaries and benefits make up 67% of our budget.

We held a Special Board Meeting November 8 where we had a presentation from Mark Critch who is the president of the Alberta School Bus Contractors Association on the inflationary insurance premiums CBO's are facing, and instructed Administration to draft and implement a Covid19 vaccination status administrative procedure.

Our next Regular Board Meeting November 26 in Athabasca

## Principal's Report - November 22, 2021

### 1. Remembrance Day

- The TCS Remembrance Day Ceremony was held on Friday, November 5, 2021 at 10:45 a.m.
- Students watched the ceremony in their classrooms via live streaming.
- Led by Mrs. Schryver, Grades 1, 2, and 3 sang beautifully during the Ceremony.
- Individual students were asked to lay wreaths during the ceremony.
- TCS students created wonderful posters and poems that were displayed on the foyer walls. They were entered into the Legion contest.

### 2. Extracurricular Activities from January - April 2022 •Mondays and Wednesdays 3:15 – 5:00 p.m. will be Badminton.

•Tuesday and Thursdays 3:15 - 5:00 p.m. will be Archery. Once all registration forms are gathered, Ms. Christina Gabbey will inform what grades for what days. Cohorts will be 4-6, 7-9, 10-12. Early morning practices might be a possibility depending on the number of registrants.

•Senior High Basketball practice will be right after school for now, and then in January, it will change to run from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

All sports practices will be added to the TCS Google calendar by the head coaches of these activities.

### 3. Volleyball Season

Volleyball at TCS was a positive and successful endeavor this year!

For the first time ever, we ran our junior high volleyball program as an option class to allow as many students as possible to have access to learning the game and competing in games. Our junior high volleyball numbers were very high this year with a lot of students participating who would not have, had it been a strictly after-school program. On the court, we had a lot of success. Each team definitely won more matches than they lost throughout the year. The players are looking forward to the Aspen View Regionals, which has been rescheduled for Tuesday, November 23rd (today). Big thanks to Olivia Berry and Nicole Nendze in grade 10 for coaching and helping with the practices.

Our senior boys' team didn't have as much success on the scoreboard this year, but they learned and improved a lot, as many of them were new to the game and not a single player had ever played a high school volleyball match before this season. They have laid a solid foundation

for success next season, as there are no grade twelves, which means the whole team can return and play again next season. Huge thanks to Mr. Matt Kolotyluk for volunteering to coach the team!

We had enough high school girls come out this year to run a Senior team and a JV team. The JV team was in a similar situation to the Senior boys team. They were inexperienced and eager to learn. They made continual progress throughout the year and ended up finishing second

place in JV zones and brought home a silver medal. It was awesome to see how far they came this season. Thanks to Ms. Taylor Vaughan for coaching!

Although Zones didn't quite work out the way we had hoped, our senior girls team has had a great year right from the beginning as they won their first tournament out of the gates in September. This season has seen them bring home gold at three different tournaments. The experience of this team shows, and the roster is composed of 10 grade 12s and 2 grade 11s. All 12 compete hard and bring out the best from each other on the court! Thanks to Mr. Shaun Kiselyk for coaching these athletes this year!

It has been awesome to see students playing sports again this year. Win or lose, this has been a rewarding experience for all involved!

#### 4. Junior and Senior High School Support (0.2 FTE)

High Schools within Aspen View have been allocated a 0.2 FTE to assist junior high and high school students with their high school completion and career goals.

Dr. Karen Penney is supervising these positions.

These individuals will be responsible for the following:

- • Developing and reviewing a high school completion plan with all high school students
- • Compiling, posting (online and at school) local, provincial and national scholarships.
- • Reviewing dual credit opportunities with students
- • Reviewing off campus programming with students
- • Credit recovery based on individual student needs

Additional areas to assist with include:

- • Identifying students requiring credit recovery
- • Coordinating parent information sessions
- • Supporting transition planning session for grade 9 students
- • Coordinating and supporting career fairs

How are we running our Support classes at TCS?

In Semester 1, Grade 7-11 students have 1 period per week with Mrs. Feledichuk to have focused, planned support. Grade 12 students will have this time allotment next semester in their schedules. There is also allocated time during the week that Mrs. Feledichuk meets individually with students to help create support plans to meet their individual needs. Some of this time has been spent guiding students and their families with post-secondary questions and helping the students with their applications.

Mrs. Feledichuk has been spending a lot of time meeting with the grade 12 students individually to help them with credit recovery, course planning to meet Graduation requirements as well as post-secondary goals, post-secondary planning, creating My Pass accounts, and scholarship guidance.

The focus for Grade 7-11 students support time since September has been on helping students create and monitor their PowerSchool accounts, work through the Enriched Academy course, understanding high school course pathways and graduation requirements, setting up "My Blueprint", and teaching students to use it to guide their high school and post-secondary

planning. My Blueprint helps students track their progress in school and in turn their Rutherford Scholarship progress.

Students in Grades 8-12 completed a CAREERS: The Next Generation survey to help guide CAREERS to plan supports for our students. We are working closely with CAREERS to plan and offer opportunities that will benefit our students in their career exploration and planning.

We are in the middle of creating a student survey and parent survey that will go out to students and their families soon, to help guide us, as we continue to make our plans to support students.

#### 5. Métis week

Métis week is held annually Nov. 15th - 21st in Alberta as the week to highlight the culture, history, and contributions of the Métis people. This year, the Thorhild Central School Education for Reconciliation planning committee organized a few school wide activities that highlighted the Métis school community and culture.

As part of the week, Bannock and bison were highlighted as two feature foods from the Métis culture. Some of the items were presented through the Breakfast Program, and some were sold through the canteen. Two free school-wide, Métis food themed lunches were provided to staff and students. The inception of this idea began with a generous donation from the Executive Director of the Canadian Bison Association (CBA). The CBA generously donated approximately 110 lbs. of bison meat to contribute towards our school wide activities. The Executive Director asked that the meat be used to directly support learning within the school community. In return,

we will be writing a review of our week's learning events for the *Canadian Bison Magazine* - the school will be featured in this nation-wide magazine. .

Phat Patties Concessions, (the Bulldog Cafe cafeteria contractors - Chris Martin & Ginger Grayson) generously volunteered to donate their time to prepare the lunches. There was also a local Métis parent who helped Chris and Ginger prepare Bannock during the November break (this person preferred to remain anonymous). TEAM donated a generous \$436.88 for miscellaneous costs such as cutlery for the free lunches. The remainder of the costs were covered by a generous donation of 10% off the groceries from the Thorhild CO-OP.

The Executive Director of the CBA sent us coloring book materials and an ***Honoring the Bison picture book for our library***. These resources will be used in elementary classrooms to support learning about the bison.

#### 6. Earth Rangers - Monday, November 22, 2021

<https://www.earthrangers.com/>

Thorhild Central School (Kindergarten to Grade 6) was selected to receive the new Earth Rangers Virtual Presentation for free on November 22, 2021, thanks to sponsorship from one of EarthRangers.com's generous sponsors – Shell.

Earth Rangers VIRTUAL presentation:

Due to COVID-19, the program was designed in a way that reflects the changed world we continue to find ourselves in.

The virtual presentation featured:

- Real time broadcasting live from the Earth Rangers Centre

- Immersive and engaging technology, such as green screens, and interactive segments
  - Live animals demonstrating their amazing natural behaviours
  - Curriculum links
  - An exciting 'choose your own adventure'-style narrative that allowed students to take an active role in the experience
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- Cooperative game play elements to further encourage student participation
  - Run time was approximately 45 minutes

The presentation focused on empowering children to work together to create positive change for the environment by participating in actions, both big and small.

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## Your child experienced the virtual Earth Rangers show today!

Earth Rangers is the kids' conservation organization, committed to instilling environmental knowledge, positivity, and the confidence to take action in every child in Canada. Our programs show children that it's not too late to help the planet, and the things we do today *will* matter tomorrow.

Today your child experienced our new interactive, virtual experience, which not only featured our live Animal Ambassadors, but celebrated biodiversity, spoke passionately about the need to protect it, and introduced students to real-life conservation projects across Canada.



**We hope your child was inspired to want to get involved. Download the free Earth Rangers App and sign them up to become a member today.**

Joining is free and as members they'll have access to:

- Earth Rangers Missions that encourage actions like planting pollinator gardens, reducing food waste and sustainable crafts
- Conservation projects across Canada through our Wildlife Adoptions Program
- A ton of interesting content on our Wild Wire Blog, podcasts, habitats section and more



This project was undertaken with the financial support of:  
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



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# Kids, start saving animals with the Earth Rangers App



DISCOVER AMAZING ANIMAL FACTS

COMPLETE AWESOME MISSIONS



Scan the QR code to download the Earth Rangers App.



ADOPT ANIMALS TO SUPPORT REAL-LIFE CONSERVATION PROJECTS LIKE THIS ONE!

LEVEL UP TO EARN BADGES, ITEMS AND MORE



## Polar Bears

In the Davis Strait, the polar bear's primary food source is the harp seal. Sadly, as the sea ice is disappearing, harp seals are becoming less abundant and without them, polar bears would not survive! That's why Earth Rangers is working with University of Alberta researcher Larissa Thelin on a project that will use satellite radio tracking to see where both harp seals and polar bears spend their time, and more importantly, where their habitats overlap – this is where polar bears will have the easiest time finding food! Then, with the help of over 40 years of sea ice data, Larissa will be able to create predictions about how these important areas will be affected as climate change continues to cause sea ice to disappear.

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