

Secondary School Council Meeting – December 1, 2016 @ 7pm

Welcome - Chair, Paul Verhoef

Opening Prayer – Chaplain, Pastor Layne

-shared a story about what's happening at CCS

>Giving Tree; currently being filled with angels to help others

>4 girls approached Pastor Layne to start Alpha @ CCS. They have just finished their 5th week with 30-40 students each week, meet at lunch time.

V.P./Principal Reports

-Principal's Report, Mr. Boody:

>Noticed in the last week, kids are getting tired and worn down. Encourage students to get enough sleep and eat well.

>Leadership Conference in Lethbridge: leadership team presentation from event will present to their own CCS students.

>feedback from Grade 7 parents re: parent interview

>Remembrance Day Service: a beautiful service

>Grade 12 invited for breakfast on Wednesday. Since they're not all collective together in classes, this is an opportunity for them to connect and a chance for Principal Boody to get to know them better too.

>lots of activities leading up to Christmas - concerts, students attending theatre, students helping and volunteering surrounding their Passion and Senior projects

>Exam schedule is posted on the website

>Students who have an Individual Personal Learning Plan – LRC staff have connected with them.

-assisting students with exams, time, and quiet space

Vice Principal Report, Mrs. Vienneau:

>Foods Program with Mrs. Chrest – this class is not only about cooking. Mrs. Chrest is getting students to think beyond the classroom. They've been making meals (individual and family) for those in our communities in need. Also a Grade 5 class was able to work together with Foods Class. Some students go to Co-op and shop with their lists to purchase items, learning life skills.

Palliser Update - Robert Strauss, Chair of the Board of Palliser Trustees & Ryan Brennan, Director of HR Palliser

>Robert is filling in for Craig, who is on vacation. Background: long and positive relationship with Christian alternative schools. Feel it's a mutual beneficial relationship - the opportunity to interact (eg. leadership conference).

>Organizational Review: it is now complete. Recently released 230 page report with 21 recommendations. The Board has approved and embraced those recommendations and will provide a positive path forward for parents, students and staff. A table will be posted on their website with the 21 recommendations to let everyone know the status of where Palliser is at with following the recommendations.

Question asked: "What's at the heart of the shift" in the report?

Relationships between people and how they relate, facilitate and supports their goals. This is the core, and there is room for growth there. We have great academic results which is a testament to the teachers and their students and behind that, their parents.

> Ryan: highlighted an exciting thing that will affect CCS. Ryan works with Jason Kupery - one of the projects being worked through is a dual credit program with Ambrose University. This will provide opportunity for students at CCS to take course at Ambrose and receive credit for both high school and university. Details/logistics are still being worked out. Another great reason to keep your students at CCS! Palliser is looking at new and creative ways to have students stay for High School - this is a common theme for all 4 High Schools (Palliser) in Calgary.

Question asked: "What Grades can participate?"

It is a pilot project for both Ambrose and CCS. This will be open to a small number of students for Religions 105, once a week there is class time in addition to some online time. Once we've completed the initial trial, then there can be a broader opportunity for additional students.

Society Update

-Executive Director, read by Leona for Ken DeWyn

Strategic Plan first draft reviewed by Board last month. Looking at a 10 - 15 year plan that will address long term growth, facility improvements, strengthening our financial independence, etc. Hope to layout the priorities with society by the Spring Meeting.

- Secondary Facility Expansion Plans are underway. This also flows from the strategic plan priorities. Building design on work previously done as well as understanding of new needs shaped by changes in pedagogy; will be doing some more research - exploring other new facilities/examples of good design. Concepts have been informed through board and staff interviews; students and parents will also be polled on priorities and basic concepts before final design or its approval.

- We are addressing concerns relative to declining high school enrollment. CCS is not alone in this challenge. We have a task force of staff and community representatives looking closely at the motivating factors affecting this shift. Based on our findings, there will be a communications and operating plan to address these key factors. Expect to see survey questions and focus group opportunities around this topic to participate in during new year.

- Changes in waste management at CCS; working towards full compliance of separation of waste (trash, recyclables, and organics). ES already has program in place. New separation stations being purchased for secondary campus and "public" locations within both facilities.

Question asked: Is there an exit interview or a process to collect information for students who are leaving? Paul - yes. Leona shared how anonymous surveys will also be done going forward.

-Nicholas O, Grade 12, student representative shared a little bit about himself.

>attending since Grade 9 and is extremely involved with athletics, music and leadership. A great experience at CCS, feels very welcome and included. Taking advantage of all the opportunities the school has to offer. Has recently been selected to be a semi-finalist for Loran Scholar Foundation, will be interviewed on December 4th.

>Plans to go into commerce, study in Ontario

Question asked: "What brings you the most life?"

The volunteer team, which he's been involved for the last 2 years where he is able to help other organizations such as the Drop in Centre, Veterans Food Bank as well as Shalem, next door.

Question asked regarding the Volunteer Team:

"Are you able to keep longer term connections with these agencies?"

A survey was done by students to see where they want to serve. The goal is to show students all the different opportunities to find out where their passions and where they want to serve.

-Topic of Discussion: Principal Boody - School Goals

>Each school has 2 or 3 Goals to focus on as per Palliser's suggestion.

Accountability Survey Results - based on a number of things - student surveys, parent surveys and province data.

Results from last year's information presented:

Areas to note:

>Area with Red (decline) - this data is limited because it collects data of those going into post-secondary in Alberta only. We show a decline however, we checked and many have gone on to post-secondary - just out of province, so this reads as a false/negative. With a little research on where these students have attended it is more like an 84% which matches our previous results. Therefore we feel this result is misleading.

>School Improvement: are you proud of your school, would you recommend your school?

Grade 7 responded yes, enthusiastically. Our Grade 10 students from last year were lower, more like 40%. This is a legitimate reading based on feedback. So how do we tell our story? Are we fulfilling our purpose? These are questions being asked.

>Diploma (Grade 12) Results: Overall measure is very, very positive as we have great results. In conversation, when students ask if CCS will have them ready for post-secondary? Principal's answer: Absolutely. Our results show that parents and students work hard to have good results.

>Decisions being made for school are different than they were in the past - students have more to say about the decisions. In Grade 9 LA - opening the dialogue, having conversations. Allowing for students to share their story, share our success that students can relate to. By Grade 9, most have made the

decisions about High School. Maybe conversations need to happen earlier, in Grade 8 or even Grade 7 and connect with Charlene Foster our academic counselor.

>PAT results for Grade 9. Outstanding results - teachers are doing a great job preparing our students, who are doing excellent. Achievements "very high"!

>What might the cornerstone/capstone experiences be at every grade level? Eg. Frontier Lodge for Grade 12 students in September. Circle Square Ranch for end of Grade 9 in April. So what are we doing at Grade 7 and 8, 10 and 11? A possibility would be to connect with SCREAM - faith based group, with transitioned educators.

Nicholas: Feedback from Grade 10 would be to have an event activity as this is a transition year with new faces.

>asking open-ended questions and inevitably themes will be identified, allowing for actions.

>Goal #1: Literacy

Highlight: data for level reading, Palliser would like students to be reading at Grade level. CCS does testing right at the beginning of the year for those who have not hit "Z" (with Fountas and Pinnell) at the beginning of Grade 7. Tools are used to bring them up to their Grade. Ontario Comprehension Assessment - all teachers participate in marking which is helpful to see where students are at; successful and/or struggling.

Skill Development:

-PD support and resources for One to One, as well as vocabulary. Continue to bring in speakers and other tools, to assist teachers with improving this area.

-Use commonality throughout the grades / classes so language is consistent.

-Google classroom, google apps for teachers - staff and students working together.

>Goal #2 Safe and Caring Environment

-Understanding of who we are together, what makes us unique? Phil 4:13

-Identify Opportunities

-Passion Project for Grade 9

A video was viewed of last year's students with their Passion project.

-Senior Project for Grade 12

>Goal #3 High School Redesign

-CCS is new into this program. We need to figure out what is the first step; understanding "Why", listen to each other for a collective visioning process, engaging stakeholders (voice), identify targeted area.

-We will likely need the rest of this year to get a picture to implement in the Fall of 2017.

Question: "Is there a place for the community's voice in this process?" Principal says yes, there will be an invitation and an opportunity.

>Strengths finder for Staff

A wide range of results showing - which is why there's such a great working team. Diverse gifts, talents.

>Committees Updates

- Blessings and Burdens - Natalija

Since September there have been about 15 families to provide assistance. Our goal is to be there for families to show them we care, regardless of their situation. Recently had a cooking event at the Elementary - cooked more meals than they planned! The freezer is full right now. Enjoys coordinating this ministry and appreciates the space for this kind of care in our community. Natalija is hearing from teachers and parents about who they can support. Paul thanked Natalija for leading this kind and supportive ministry at CCS.

- Parents Who Pray, update from Darla

Pray for all the grades, Preschool to Grade 12, parents and staff. Our biggest prayer is for students and for them to know God personally. They intercede for protection and the Spirit's leading over our school. A great group of parents! You can reach them on our website, through their email - they will keep it confidential.

Close in Prayer – Natalija R.

Next Meeting: will take place in February