



## Monthly Menno Simons School Council Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, March 10, 2022  
**Time:** 7:00pm to pm  
**Meeting Room:** Virtual  
**Facilitator:** Lori Kruger (Chair)  
**Timekeeper:** Lori Kruger (Chair)  
**Minute Taker:** Janet Bates (Secretary)  
**Attendees:** Dayle Vienneau, Lori Kruger, Grant Fong, Janet Bates, Ann Pan, Lorelei Bexte, Kelly T, Aferdita B, Emmanuel E, Stephanie S, Natalia, Piper P, Chelsea T, Barby P, Nilani, L, Lisa K, Daniel H, Loralynn C,

AGENDA ITEM	NOTES	SPEAKER
1. Welcome, Call to order, absence for apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:02 pm – Greetings from Lori. Call to order.</li> <li>Thank you for coming</li> <li>7:02 pm – Lori K opened in prayer</li> </ul>	Lori K
2. Roll call.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secretary conducted roll call. – tracked virtual attendees.</li> </ul>	Janet B
3. Open Orders of Business: Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motion to approve the minutes for January 24, 2022 meeting: Lori K</li> <li>Second: Grant F</li> <li>Passed Minutes for January 24, 2022</li> </ul>	Lori K

<p><b>4. New Business: Principals Report</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We just finished the book fare.</li> <li>• Thank you to Deanna and student crew. And for parents for continued support of our library. It was another successful book fare.</li> <li>• <u>Teacher convention:</u></li> <li>• Virtual. Lots of sessions that were recorded earlier. With this format we get to see more PD items. Sometimes we could not get into sessions, but virtual you could hop into them whenever you wanted because they are available even now (for 30 days afterward).</li> <li>• Final speaker was Jann Arden, was a great way to end off our convention together.</li> <li>• School without masks is great. So good to see faces. Still have some students wearing them. Think students are comfortable either way,</li> <li>• Parent teacher conferences are next week. Menno memos will announce more.</li> <li>• Working on transition plan on how to transition into opening our school back up. The recommendation is to not fully open because we need to watch the health of our school.</li> <li>• Looking to open in-person chapels that parents can join after spring break is the goal. Unless we hear or see otherwise because of numbers.</li> <li>• <u>New curriculum:</u></li> <li>• Update this afternoon by minister Lagrange. Answers some of our questions. The roll out was still ambiguous, until announcement today. Looks like they are planning to roll out math and LA in k-3, the PE/wellness for K-6. There are still updates that are happening continuously. Hoping for more indigenous content to be added. LA &amp; Math should be completely updated by April.</li> <li>• Some of the anxiety for teachers has been unable to prep because it keeps changing. it will be good once things stop changing so we can make plans moving forward</li> <li>• Palliser has been a great support. They are putting extra funds, there is a curriculum advisory group to be able to do ongoing reviews as things changed. Our school was invited but none of our teachers volunteered. The fact that none of our teachers joined shows how busy they are, how</li> </ul>	<p>Dayle V</p>
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hard they are working and that taking on more was a bit overwhelming. It is hard to run the athletic program, that's 5 teachers involved each season. There is more teams still to come, offering extra programs, making use of learning loss funds. Have applied to gr 1 learning loss funds, but have not heard back. Do not know what funds we qualify for.

- Covid has caused continuous interruptions whether sick or hesitant to come in Teachers are trying to monitor this.
- We are starting to see the holes and gaps in their learning. We have noticed in gr 2 who are struggling with pencil grip or writing on lines. Notice in kindergarten the similar things. Because of the interruption, we are starting to see this. Or some of the social and emotional pieces that are not developing in the same way.
- At the same time. Seeing some independence. Ex. Kids could not do up jackets, get snow pants on, bags on hooks, required a lot of parent support. It required teacher support to get students out the door for recess. We are seeing this independent behaviour growth.
- Moving forward with curriculum, it is important to be as effective with our time as we can be. There are some gaps, gr 1,2,3, the curriculum is building from year to year. We needed more time to transition, thankfully they are transitioning on div 1 first because jumping into higher grades would be hard.
- What do we now we can already teach, what can we tweak, where did it move to, adapt it, aid another teacher. The minister mentioned there would be funds to put towards subs so teachers can look at curriculum. But sub plans are hard to put together too. It is tricky, time is a big thing. New curriculum is knowledge based. Want our students to think critically. Want to approach how to teach conceptually rather than you memorize and writ it on a test. We want to develop good citizens, who are asking questions we want them to be Christ like in their lives. This will require some supplement in how we are approaching within our school with the new curriculum.
- We will start to use some of our PD time, so Div. 1 teachers can look into this more.
- 2022/2023 Calendar:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This calendar has been submitted but have not received approval from Palliser. November break is still there. February break as well. Christmas and Spring Break are set. Spring and easter breaks are not separate next year. PD days mostly on Fridays. Parent teacher conference will be similar to this year.</li> <li>• Aug 30 is the start date this coming year. The last day in June 27.</li> <li>• The other big change is the need for our teacher to connect, PD days and a way to support the athletic programs. Looking at early dismissals on every Friday. Some of the hours are made up by our reg school day will end at 3:30 instead of 3:22. This will help meet all the hour required. The Friday hours are key to support teacher for new curriculum, connect with teachers from other schools. This will be key. By doing Friday afternoon early dismissal this will help us align with our other schools. Helps support athletic programs.</li> <li>• The tricky part is for families with early dismissal. This year, seeing how the teachers are handling the pressures on them, the curriculum that is coming out, we want to be able to offer the extra programs. Teachers are coming and saying they can't do the extras because they do not know how they can fit it in. So this felt like this needs to be the year that we make this move. We do not want to see our teachers burn out. We love our teachers.</li> <li>• Menno is very unique and we want to keep that and save that. Taking care of our teachers which affects our kids.</li> <li>• We are trying to see if we can start up a before and after care. Including Friday afternoon. We have looked into how to get this into place for September. We will be updating that as we figure things out.</li>   <li>• Q: Back when new curriculum was announced, there was a lot of opposition. With the roll out they are proposing, are teachers happy? Have we resolved the issues? Is there a sense that whatever we didn't like, we are happy with now?</li> <li>• A: No, not everything has been moved to the way teachers are happy with. The biggest was Social Studies and they are not rolling that out, so</li> </ul>	<p>Lisa K</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not recall half day Fridays being a thing. If we try this next year, will you reassess to see if it needs tweaks?</li> <li>• Yes, this time next year if it has not worked, when we build the next year calendar we will look at changing it again. We will be reassessing as we go.</li> <li>• I thought I remembered half day Fridays in earlier years, when a new principal came in, they changed. There were 2 or 3 a month and then the calendar was changed back to full Fridays because of parent complaints. If there was an after school care program that would be great. Public schools have them and they fill up really quickly. I guess we are interested in seeing what the after school program would look like plus what the cost would look like. I remember it being a point of frustration for the year we rolled it out.</li> <li>• Some of the feedback that we heard it was the consistency was more difficult. Which is why we are looking at the consistent route. Whenever a half day happened parents took out their kids. When it was more consistent it falls into the regular routine. This may not be an issue if it is every Friday.</li> <li>• Was chatting with another mom, we were saying because of covid, kids at home, learning on line, the time they spent on their devices learning on them learning from home has carried over to in school now. Is there discussion on how we can gain a little more balance?</li> <li>• It has been brought up. Teachers were planning because if they had to flip to online it was easier to set up already so they went with this model.</li> <li>• Moving forward, we have talked about how to get them off devices and do more face to face. It has come up but not full discussion yet.</li> <li>• We do have to finish out this school year. But nice to hear that it is on the radar.</li> <li>• Was wondering if there was a way we could get all the teachers on the same platform for homework, agendas, what has a been covered in class. Some send out emails, some use google classroom, in covid some were on zoom, some on others, all different platforms. It would be wonderful to have something streamline. Heard rumble that we may use power school. I could always go in and see which page they were</li> </ul>	<p>Lori K</p> <p>Dayle V</p> <p>Loralynn C</p> <p>Dayle V</p> <p>Lori K</p> <p>Dayle V</p> <p>Lori K</p> <p>Loralynn C</p>
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	<p>working on. It seems so great to have it all in one spot and see what you are looking at.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coming in as a new admin, I could not make changes right away. But yes, we will be looking at something streamlined. We do not have anything for our school district. A new one called Edsembly is being discussed, we are hoping that this will be implemented. Will be good for high school, but may not be good for elementary. Not sure what it will look like yet. We will get more training as we move forward and have a better understanding.</li> <li>• Glad we are working on this.</li> </ul>	<p>Dayle V</p> <p>Loralynn C</p>
<p><b>5. New Business: Update from Palliser</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did not have a Palliser update this meeting.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>6. New Business: Update from School Council</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will be putting the pea gravel into the gaga ball pit.</li> <li>• We will be hiring for this but if we do need help, Ann will engage.</li> <li>• The \$500 grant money for community building. Talked with Ann about a community movie night. It would be a neat opportunity to watch last years acting a musical production. But we only saw it on line but could watch it together. We are still in the planning stages. Look for updates as they are made available</li> <li>• We have discussed the possibility of some possible education evening or classes. Are anyone interested in topics of mental health or technology, or any other ideas. Any feedback?</li> <li>• We had planned for things in the past, but so long ago can't remember what they were. Love and logic, was one.</li> <li>• You are strong, Friendship seminars, Screenagers</li> <li>• Is there one on bullying? Relationships, conflict management?</li> <li>• Thank you. That is all for now, we will get back to everyone.</li> <li>• In hind-sight the no skating rink may have been a blessing. We may have had more of a slip and slide than an ice rink. Hopefully we can get it up and running next year</li> </ul>	<p>Lori K</p> <p>Lisa K</p> <p>Loralynn C</p> <p>Lisa K</p> <p>Lori K</p>

<b>7. New Business: Q&amp;A with School Council &amp; Mrs. Vienneau</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No new business.</li> </ul>	
<b>8. Outstanding tabled actions: Curriculum update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No outstanding tabled actions</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	
<b>9. New tabled actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No new tabled actions.</li> </ul>	
<b>10. Adjournment:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enjoy your spring break.</li> <li>• Good night – 7:52pm</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	