

Racette School Council
Meeting Date: Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2025
Time: 7:00 pm

1. Call to order - 7:07 pm

a. Welcome - Prayer and Land Acknowledgement:

*Our Father, Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy Will be done,
On earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
Amen*

*I wish to also respectfully
acknowledge that we gather today
on Treaty 6 Territory, a traditional
gathering place for many Indigenous
Peoples both past and present.*

- b. Attendance - 7 parents, Principal Andrea Austin, Admin Corinne Pashko**
- c. Teacher Representative - n/a**
- d. Additions to the agenda - New Business - field trips, Christmas concert**
- e. Approval of agenda -**
- f. Review and approval of minutes -**

2. Old Business:

- School council grant - \$500 - still available. Suggest the Dare to Care program. Seven modules available for classroom instruction and parent use. Requested a preview before purchasing.
 - **The parent resource can be shared with parents who would like to preview them. Interested parents should email Andrea.**
 - **Another suggestion for the grant money was to book a faith-based presentation/retreat for students (much like Chris Bray's presentation in October)**
 - **Another suggestion was to have Terra-Lee Gratton share a presentation for parents about technology basics (G-mail, Google Classroom, other technology tools used by students...)**

3. Trustee Report -

- Sylvie Smyl sends her regrets as she is not able to attend tonight. The main things from today's board meeting: the board has a 2024/25 calendar in progress, they are looking for feedback from the parents and staff, the Dec. board meeting included a completed audit of the financials (available on the website)
 - **A question was raised about the calendar survey. Junior & senior high students received the survey directly from Superintendent Peter Barron. Concerns:**

- **The superintendent should not have direct contact/communication with students via email. Some students did not recognize who the email was from and had concerns about opening an email from an unknown sender.**
 - **The student voice should not carry weight in the school calendar. Parents are the ones who must deal with concerns such as schedules, child care, and transportation; therefore, the parent voice is more important.**
 - **Parents reviewed and discussed the two draft calendars for the 2025-2026 school year. In general, parents would prefer:**
 - **the school year to start after the September long weekend.**
 - **students to be in school closer to Christmas (until Dec. 22) and have more break time after the New Year.**
 - **to have a PLC Day scheduled the first day back after Christmas break so students can more easily get back into routine with a shorter week.**
 - **to have a separate calendar for elementary schools that end earlier in June.**

4. Principal's Report -

- Since the Nov. meeting: Christmas lunch held Dec. 20, 2024(prepared by Connie and Jenna). Thanks to both the parent and student volunteers that helped with the preparation. Christmas spirit days were held the last week before the break. SPAA curling coming up on Jan. 29-30th (3 teams participating). We were able to hire a new EA (additional support) and a new part time teacher (replacing Danica St. Arnault). A maternity position beginning February 19, 2025 is still available. Other student events include: Relics tour, Herman Poulin - Jan. 27th, 11:30 - 1:00 pm, La vie en musique - 6e année - le 6 fev. , Cinémagine and Daniel Gervais (whole school performance), NET Retreat in Mallaig, Feb. 11th, Grade 8 ski trip - Feb. 26th

5. New Business

- Science Fair - The information was presented to all Science teachers and emailed to all parents. Last year we had four participants from Racette, with one going to the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Ottawa and winning a silver medal! Terra-Lee Gratton also available for support.
 - **A suggestion was made to promote the Science Fair to students in the grade 8 Project Hub course. That way, students might choose to focus their projects on something that could later be entered into the Science Fair.**
 - **NOTE - Parents would like the opportunity to see the various Project Hub projects that students have worked on in a showcase of sorts.**
- **Field Trips**
 - **A question was raised as to whether all grades will have a field trip this year. It was confirmed that all grades will have a field trip at some point in the school year.**

- Grade 9 - River Watch field trip was attended in the fall. A ski trip to Kinosoo Ridge is also planned for March.
 - Grade 8 - A ski trip to Kinosoo Ridge is also planned for February.
 - Grade 7 - TBD
 - Grade 6 - TBD
- **Christmas Concert**
 - This year's concert seemed especially crowded. Discussion around ways to increase seating or accommodate the large number of people who want to see the concert was had.
 - **2024-2025 Executive positions available - Chair and Secretary**

Are there any nominations or volunteers for these positions?

6. Next Meeting: Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2025 @ 7:00 pm

7. Meeting Adjourned: 8:40 pm