

**MINUTES**  
**Gateway Christian School**  
**School Council Meeting**  
**March 19, 2024**

**The School Council is an advisory council to the School Principal and the elected Board of Trustees with respect to matters pertaining to the School.**

*As we gather tonight at Gateway Christian School, we would like to thank God for all of creation.*

*Here south of the Red Deer River, Gateway is on land that is known as Treaty 7 territory. First Nations people used the Red Deer River to follow and hunt wildlife - it was a place of provision.*

*Later, the river was a landmark for First Nations to meet, trade, and come to agreements. The Métis continued on with these traditions and the river was a place of community building and justice seeking.*

*We acknowledge the traditions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people whose footsteps have marked these lands for thousands of years, and we ask God to help us to use it in a way that honours Him, and blesses those around us.*

**Attendance: Julie Cavanaugh, Stephanie Stutheit, Alisha Wiens, Geannette Lehman, Carolyn Stolte, Wendy Faith, Cathy Mottus-Landry, Jamie Siler, Shannon Driedger, Lauren Visser, Carolyn Anderson, Caroline Swanson, Jenessa Parker, Neil Hill, Trish Robichaud, Nick Robichaud, Joanne Koyina, Cory Kloss**

**1. Welcome and Introductions - Julie Cavanaugh**

- Meeting called to order at 6:34PM

**2. Land Acknowledgment and Prayer - Julie Cavanaugh**

- Psalm 32

**3. Adoption of Agenda - Julie Cavanaugh**

MOTION: Wendy Faith, Second - Julie Cavanaugh

**4. Adoption of Minutes from January 23, 2024 - Julie Cavanaugh**

MOTION: Wendy Faith, Second - Julie Cavanaugh

**5. Reports:**

**a) Principal Report: Geannette Lehman**

- 1) Sports - City Boys basketball won gold. Grade 5 basketball has started. Badminton has started. Grade 5 is starting swimming lessons.
- 2) Grade 1 Literacy and Numeracy interventions have started.
- 3) Middle school leadership is spending time at Noah's Ark Preschool.
- 4) Student-Led Conferences had a lot of positive feedback from parents and teachers.
- 5) Grade 8 orientation is next week.
- 6) Grade 4, 5, 7 and 8 students went to the District Health Symposium. Grade 8 drama students also went to Lindsay Thurber's production of The Little Mermaid.

- 7) Middle school students are joining in the Christian school track meet this year for the first time since before Covid.
- 8) March 20 is the K-5 Easter Production at Crossroads Church.

**b) Update from Society:** Carolyn Stolte

- 1) Parent prayer time before family worship.
- 2) Staff appreciation has been a huge success.
- 3) Spring fundraising drive will be kicking off soon. Saturday, June 5 is for our spring market/pancake breakfast/silent auction.
- 4) Society AGM is in April.

**c) Update from City-Wide School Council:** Alisha Wiens

- 1) Evelyn Chan gave an update in regards to classroom sizes. A website suggested was [stoptheexcuses.ca](http://stoptheexcuses.ca)
- 2) RDPSD spoke about funding issues they are having. 9 fewer teachers/1000 kids.
- 3) The superintendent is fighting for cross-ministerial funding so that Red Deer Public is not paying for all the support they provide.
- 4) Funding comes in at the end of March. Reviewing the results of the survey sent out.

**6. Library Report - Mrs. Cathy Vaartstra (Librarian)**

- 1) Mrs. Vaartstra has been the librarian since 2019. How do we purchase books in the library? School book fairs help purchase new books. The school provides a budget to purchase Christian content for the library.
- 2) Stickers are put on books suggesting appropriate grade levels to help manage a K-12 library.
- 3) Book fair - why Scholastic? One of the few that we can bring into the school.  
Question - how are books picked to be in the library? Relationships with the kids are important to establish which books are wanted/appropriate. Tours are given to students at the beginning of the year to show which books are grade appropriate.
- 4) Question - is there a database to which parents could help point a student in the right direction? [www.destinydiscover.com](http://www.destinydiscover.com) can be looked at at home.
- 5) Do you need volunteers in the library? Yes, you need all your volunteer applications done. Do you take donations? Yes.

**7. ASCA Proposed Resolutions for Public Education:** Julie Cavanaugh

- 1) To integrate climate and biodiversity education in the curriculum from K-12  
**Vote tied. 7-7**
- 2) Funding for More Assessments of Learning Disabilities  
**Please ask - Where does the proposed funding come from? Majority passed, 9-3**
- 3) Improving Indoor Air Quality in Alberta Classrooms and Shared Environments  
Can Karen clarify? - Where does the proposed funding come from?  
If it's not coming out of a learning budget, **majority passed.**
- 4) Equity in Playground Funding

**Majority passed.**

- 5) Preserving Safe and Inclusive Spaces for 2SLGBTQI+ Students  
Can Karen clarify - what the vote to preserve means?

**Majority denied. 3-10**

- 6) Resource Support for French Immersion Teachers (Available before implementation of curriculum changes)

**Majority passed.**

- 7) Enhanced Reporting of and Support for Class Size and Complexity

**Majority passed.**

8. **Questions** - When will we hear more about the Bible curriculum updates? Hopefully before the year is out. She was not able to make it for this one.

**9. Parent Prayer for Students and Staff**

**10. Adjournment - meeting adjourned at 7:40PM.**

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Next Meeting Date: April 23, 2024 - AGM

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