

HCA School Council minutes – February 1, 2018

Attendance:

HCA vice-principal - Elisabeth Kaiser
Career and Academic Counselor - Charlene Foster
HCA Communications - Jen Airhart
School council chair - Robyn Kunz
18 parents, 1 teacher, 10 students

Agenda:

- STUCO president highlighted student council activities including the new HCA Guinness Book of School Records, a pep rally for middle and high school, and the upcoming Palliser leadership conference for grades 4 and 5. HCA students from these grades will be attending this conference, and our STUCO co-presidents will be guest speakers.
- Elisabeth Kaiser encouraged parents to tell their friends who are parents of grades 4, 7, and 10 students about the importance of taking the Accountability Pillar Surveys. She also reported on a cyberbullying presentation for grades 6 - 12 by a Christian police officer from Saskatchewan.
- In her presentation to grade 9 parents and students, Mrs. Kaiser explained high school timetabling/scheduling, credits, options and class numbering system. She clarified that -2 courses are not necessarily easier than -1, but rather different in terms of what is taught and how it is taught. Post-secondary institutions often prefer or require one over the other depending on the program. Students are encouraged to find this out when deciding whether they will take -1 or -2.
- Charlene Foster talked about Alberta Education's new "Redesign" program in high school. One interesting initiative of this program is "dual credits" where students can take courses at participating post-secondary institutions and receive both high school and university credits. There is no financial cost to the student as the province and school board each pay half. SAIT, for example, is participating in this program and offers courses at times that work with high school schedules. Ambrose University is also participating and two HCA students have already taken Basic Religion 101 there and received 3 university credits plus their high school credits.
- Jen Airhart presented Junior High Hangouts, a new initiative this school year that gives families an opportunity to connect. Jen explained that middle school students and families are often not as engaged as in elementary and high school, and these activities seek to bring parents and students together in fun activities at the school. The last event, "Glow in the dark Dodgeball", was a great success with about 130 people attending. Jen is enthusiastic about future events and welcomes ideas from students and parents. She also spoke about the Grade 9 Blessing on March 16th and of the great impact this has on students. Parents give blessings and letters to their child, with family, friends, teachers and pastors in attendance. It is a powerful marker of the foundation and future of these students as they move into high school.