

**Saint Francis de Sales School**

Parish Education Committee

Agenda

March 12, 2025 6:30 pm

Meeting called to order at 6:42 pm by Mr. Franco Caligiuri.

Opening prayer and reflections - Faith Development: *Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming our Faith!* (10 minutes)

1. Prayer/Reflection - **Fr. Mark (lectio divina style)**

**An excerpt from Archbishop Elect Richard Smith's Ash Wednesday homily 2025:**

“With this mass of Ash Wednesday, we enter the holy season of Lent. To lead us into its deepest meaning, allow me to share with you a chance meeting I had on Sunday with a little three-year-old girl.

It occurred downstairs in the lower level of this Basilica following mass. She was playing with other children, climbing on and over things, and, when I passed by, she was standing on a ledge about two-feet in height. Her father was right next to her. Obviously, two feet is a major drop in the perspective of a three-year-old, yet she wanted to show me how she could leap off of it. What she meant, of course, is how she could jump into the arms of her father, whom she knew was sure to catch her, which he did. She had total faith in Daddy's nearness and protection. Had her father been absent, we can be sure she would not have climbed onto that ledge in the first place. She was ready to take a leap, but only if her father was right there with her.

Lent is the blessed season in which we are called to look honestly and truthfully at the many “leaps” we have taken without acknowledging our reliance upon God our Father, and His love. The essence of sin is a turning away from God and toward ourselves, a choice to place confidence not in the love of the Father but in my own abilities. Whenever we do that, we “land” badly, usually at great harm to ourselves and others. As Christians, we are, certainly, called to “leap”. By this I mean the leap of faith, jumping into the arms of God with the entirety of our lives. Lent provides us with the wonderful opportunity to admit our forgetfulness of God, our self-reliance, to repent of our foolishness, and to turn back to the Father, seeking once again his presence, and placing our full confidence in His nearness, ready to catch and carry us.

Let's keep in mind that we enter Lent this year in the context of the Jubilee of Hope called for by Pope Francis. He knows, as do we all, that the whole world is in search of hope right now. Anxiety abounds. This is because of the many “leaps” being taken without reference to

the love and commandments of God, by not only individuals but also families, nations and entire continents. We are leaping without being at all sure where we will land, or even if there will be a landing. Small wonder people everywhere are anxious, fearful, and angry. Both individually and communally, in families and among nations, it is time to admit our folly, turn back to God, and ask Him by His mercy to catch us, prevent us from the damage we are sure to do to ourselves, and set us on a secure footing.

That secure footing is faith in the love of the Father. Notice how Jesus, in the Gospel, refers to the Father again and again. As we fast, pray, and give alms, he says, our Father, who sees in secret, will reward us. Our Lenten practices have as their aim the healing of self-reference and the return to the embrace of the Father. Fasting and almsgiving take us out of ourselves to focus instead on God and the needs of others. These are supported by prayer, in which we open our eyes to the reality of limit and need, and our hearts to the truth of God's never-failing love and mercy. And what is truly beautiful is this: the more we examine our lives in prayer, with the guidance we receive from God's Word and Holy Spirit, the more we realize that, even when we did forget God and had taken foolish and dangerous leaps, our Heavenly Father had never forgotten us and was always close, catching us in ways that sometimes only hindsight can reveal. God is love; God is faithful; God is always near. We need, the whole world needs, to decide no longer to rely upon ourselves but instead on the love of the Father, and learn once again to live by the leap of faith."

✠ Most Reverend Richard W. Smith

St. Joseph Basilica, Edmonton [March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025]

2. Approval of Agenda (5 minutes)

**MOTION:** Accept the Agenda (Mr. Anthony Tillman, Ms. Jacqueline Lamasan)

3. Adoption / Review of Minutes (5 minutes)

**MOTION:** Accept the Minutes (Ms. Rossa Sung, Mr. Chris Chung)

4. Reports (45 minutes)

Pastor	Father Mark McGuckin
Assistant Pastor	Father Medard Kamanzi
Principal	Mrs. Irene Wihak
Teachers' Representative	Mr. Greg Chapman
Chair	Mr. Franco Caligiuri
Treasurer	Mr. Anthony Tillman
Vice Chair	Ms Rossa Sung
Parish - School Community Building Initiative	Ms Rossa Sung
Secretary	Mrs. Jacqueline Lamasan
Facility and Maintenance/Tech	Mrs. Leah Canete (regrets)
Community Engagement	Mrs. Paula Ramor (regrets) Mr. Chris Chung

## **Reports**

### **Fr. Mark McGuckin (7:01 pm)**

- New Archbishop Most Reverend Richard Smith
- Will be going to Edmonton with Fr. James Hughes with the seminarians and will have another opportunity to meet with the Archbishop. End of May will likely be his installation.
- Confirmation Mass on May 2. Celebrant will be chosen closer to the date.
- First Communion Mass on May 4
- Last night, was the first Sacrament of Reconciliation for the Gr. 2's. Very positive experience overall.
- After Spring Break, the other grades will have an opportunity for confession before Holy Week.
- Share Lent Campaign (Development and Peace) has begun. The Givers will spearhead a rock painting activity about turning debt into hope.
- Spring Alpha will soon begin with an opportunity for school parents to receive volunteer hours. Starts April 24 - July 3, 11 weeks. People can sign up through the parish newsletter or website.
- Alpha Youth is rolling out. May have some potential in the future.

### **Fr. Medard Kamanzi (8:37 pm)**

- Members of the senior's home where Fr. Medard does weekly Mass were happy and uplifted to have received Christmas cards from SFdS Students

**Principal – Mrs. Wihak (7:15 pm)**

- As per report sent out in advance
- Technology updates (MacBooks, iPads, Chromebooks) discussed after meeting with Classmate
- New leases for the above discussed based on a 4 year plan/cycle
- Upgrade of internet to the portable discussed
- “Securely” software product and its benefits discussed

**Teacher's Representative – Mr. Chapman (7:27 pm)**

- Shared in the technology update above
- Teachers have been working hard on report cards
- Intermediate teachers have been breaking down priority standards into “I can” statements
- AI softwares MagicSchool and ChatGPT were discussed as potential tools

**Chair – Mr. Franco Caligiuri (7:39 pm)**

- Updates shared regarding basketball tournament at the Spring Fair
- Franco continues to meet with the bball tournament coordinator
- SFdS Parish Soccer Team (St. Francis de Sales Football Club) updates shared. 20 people have signed up, including a goalie. Also a great opportunity to have faith sharing moments infused into the sport. Sport is a vehicle for mission work as well.

**Treasurer – Mr. Anthony Tillman (7:50 pm)**

- Financials discussed including education grants and fundraising
- Readathon tallies still need to be added into the fundraising totals
- May have room in the annual budget for necessary maintenance repairs/upgrades

**Vice Chair – Ms. Rossa Sung (8:00 pm)**

- Continues to work on The Longest Day Race initiative
- Family oriented event and great social aspect
- A parish coordinator has come forward and has taken initiative to involve students in the race
- There may be a training day in the future
- April 15 is the next PEC-Staff meeting, which Rossa will be coordinating

**Secretary – Mrs. Jacqueline Lamasan**

- Nothing to report
- No correspondence

### **Facilities and Maintenance – Mrs. Leah Canete (8:10 pm)**

- As per report sent out in advance
- Security concerns with open lights/windows as well as alarms unset
- Mrs. Wihak follows up with staff regarding these protocols
- Rental groups also need to be sure that the facility is properly closed
- Rental groups and parish/school representatives have been asked to take pictures of any mess/damage, which has led to improvements
- Voted: all in favour of replacement of fire and heat detectors using the Acme quote
- Tractor leasing/purchasing and snow removal discussed. Maintenance cost factored in as well.
- Action required: find two additional quotes for tractors as this is a large, capital expense
- May incorporate part of Project Advance toward the cost

### **Community Engagement – Mr. Chris Chung and Ms. Paula Ramor (7:55 pm)**

- As per report sent out in advance
- Readathon and Book Swap were key events in Feb/March
- Readathon funds raised online discussed. Cash donations need to be tallied.
- Plant Sale Coordinator has been found. Website is set up and promotions have begun.
- List of sub-committee coordinators have been shared with the Spring Fair Coordinator

5. Correspondence (5 minutes) – onsite inspection from Catholic Mutual Group (insurance broker). No concerns were reported.

6. Parish - School community building initiative - (10 minutes)  
-Longest Day Race, discussed above

7. Ongoing Business/Action

-Ongoing discussion with Mr. Bencze regarding leasing and buying options for a tractor with a cab

-March Volunteer of the Month: Mr. Johnny Chow (coach)

-April Volunteer of the Month: Ellen (Spring Fair)

### **Mr. Chapman – Ongoing Business**

-Send the names of the chosen coordinators for Confirmation, First Communion, Gr. 7 Farewell to Chris so that he can update the coordinator info in On Volunteers

8. New Business (30 min)

- A. Volunteer of the Month recognition (new volunteer for April: Ellen)
- B.
- 9. In Camera - Follow up to drafted structure for supporting staff advance education

### **Closing Prayer**

Meeting closed at 8:56 pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 23 @ 6:30 pm

### ***Phase A of the Strategic Plan – Our Ideal Future State:***

#### **Our Vision - 2025**

We are a Catholic School, instilling the knowledge of Christ's love  
and mercy in our community.

Our students ignite their passion and potential to love and serve others  
as Jesus would, in our safe and inspiring learning environment.

#### **Our Mission Statement**

We are a Christ-centered Parish School that seeks to serve the whole child  
– intellectually, spiritually, physically and emotionally – through the development of  
faith, family and community.

We use dynamic learning opportunities to produce resilient Catholics who lead by example and  
thrive in a global community.

#### **Our Core Values**

**F – Faith:** Living actions that show confidence and trust in the love of God

**L – Learn:** Developing creative and critical thinkers whose actions contribute to a better  
world

**A – Achieve:** Committing and focusing on reaching your goals

**M – Mercy:** Demonstrating the love and forgiveness of Jesus with one another every day

**E – Engage:** Choosing to be actively involved in the life of our school

**S – Serve:** Seeking and accepting the call to act for the greater good

**Our Rallying Cry**

***“Ignite the Saint Within”***