



Minutes

Tuscany School Enhancement Society Meeting (TSES)
September 9, 2021 at 6:30pm
- Via Zoom -

Call to Order & Welcome

Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm.

Introductions

Welcome and thanks to Michelle B., for stopping in and helping out for this first meeting.

Mariana H., Chair 1st year

Patrick T., Principal - will be giving his report – welcome to our new Principal.

Laura D., Vice Principal - welcome again

Barbie W., Secretary 1st year

Deanna H., Treasurer 6th year

Carrie C., Casino Chair 2nd year

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion for approval by Deanna and seconded by Maureen.

Approval of AGM June 10, 2021, Minutes

Motion for approval by Maureen and seconded by Deanna.

Updates

1) Budget – Deanna H.

Of the two accounts, the General Account (one time donations form) – at the beginning of the year that go direct to the school with a tax receipt provided; and the 2nd account is the Casino Account with is all AGLC monies. Done every 2-years and must clean out the funds every 2-years also. The General Account holds the company donations and special events – for insurance purposes. The TSES stands for Tuscany school enhancement society. The TSES is the charitable entity of the school council. We carry two accounts one is the General Account; you would have received a form in your recent school package your child brought home. If you choose to do a one time donation you will receive a tax receipt for this year and the funds will go directly to the school to the direct categories listed home reading, technology, arts, general enhancements, or any of the above. Mariana and I will work closely with the Admin team on how to spend the funds each year. We also run the school special events through this account as we hold the

insurance policy. The money for expenses that are not covered by the event are out of school council funds. We also hold company donations in this account as well.

The second account is the Casino account. We receive a Casino date every 18months-2years. We are required to have all funds cleared from the account every 2 years. Only casino funds are able to run through this account. We follow very specific guidelines through the AGLC in regard to how we can spend the funds for the school. We are currently waiting to hear of our next casino date however with COVID it has pushed everyone's dates back. Marianna and I work very closely with the Admin team on how funds will be spent and generate ideas on enhancements for the school.

The General account \$3,976.13. Here is the breakdown of the account we have:

\$249.58 carry over from special events Halloween dance two years ago

\$1961.55 Company Donations

\$1765.00 carry over from a previous GIC.

The Casino account is at \$48,708.88. We received a very generous donation from the Lions Club of Calgary in the amount of \$500.00 to allocate towards technology. Big thank you to them!

Some items outstanding is that we already paid for Alien inline skating in the 2019-2020 school year but due to COVID we had to cancel it. The school is holding funds for this coming year. We will re-evaluate as the year progresses. We voted on handwriting without tears last year for \$3500.00 the items were ordered at end of last year however the invoice did not come in yet so we will pay once received. We need to have all funds cleared by February 18th, 2022 however if our casino is delayed we apply for an extension.

We are working with the Admin team on a wish list for this year and will have some items to vote on in October :)

2) Casino – Carrie

No current updates. We will be putting our availability for 2022 out. Michelle B., suggests that we won't be ready until 2022 because of Covid.

Next Meeting Date

Thursday, October 14, 2021, at 6:30pm.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm.



Minutes

Tuscany School Council Meeting
September 9, 2021 at 7:00pm
- Via Zoom -

Call to Order & Welcome

Meeting called to order at 6:46 pm.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion for approval by Maureen and seconded by Melanie.

Approval of June 10, 2021, Minutes

Motion for approval by Deanna and seconded by Maureen.

Committee Introductions and Plans for 2021-22

Intro & Updates

Secretary – Barb W., 1st year here, one daughter, grade 1 community

Treasurer – Amit 2nd year, 2 kids, French. Budget reconciled as of yesterday (September 8th) - \$900 cheque written for signs.

EXPENSES	
Item	Proposed--2021-2022
Administration fees	300
Banking fees	100
Contingency	2,000
Folders K-4 (2020/21)	326
Fun Lunch	75
Naturalization	2,000
Parent Education	300
Special Events (Contingency)	500
Spirit Wear	350
Teacher Appreciation	1000
Terry Fox	300
Tuscany School Wish List	700
Welcome Week (2019-20)	900
Yearbook (Memory) Contingency	200
Year End BBQ	4,000
kiss and drop sign	2,200
Totals	15,251

Michelle: At the beginning of every year, the typical standing items include, Admin Fees, Banking Fees, Contingency, Fun Lunch, Naturalization, Parent Education, Special Events, Spirit

Wear, Teacher Appreciation, Terry Fox Run, Wish List, Welcome Week, Yearbook *grades 4/5, Year-end BBQ.

Emma C.: Teacher appreciation needs more than \$500. Can extra money be applied here?

Sasha: A planning conversation is still to be had to discuss what's the budget, what months, what we can do, and then put together a plan.

Teachers really wanted toilet paper to increase to \$750 – wish list from the teacher, not be wasteful but if there is more to be allocated that would be ideal. Example: TMC has a \$800 budget for 60 staff members. Tuscany school staff: 46 members.

Motion by Shaun to increase Teacher Appreciation from \$500 to \$1,000. Seconded by: Carrie C. Motion passed.

Amit has asked about masks for teachers, which were done last year.

Shaun says the ease of getting masks has increased but what do others think?

Laura says Spirit Wear is great and would buy one but doesn't need TSC to provide.

Patrick agrees with Spirit Wear.

Shaz: There are still masks available, but not subsidized.

Michelle B.: Spending \$1,000 is a great idea and now is the time to be more generous and then scale back as needed.

Communications – Karen T., 1st year, 3 kids, 2 in Tuscany Community

Nothing to report at this time. We have to submit to the Tuscany Sun by Oct 6th for the following month. Karen has been working throughout the summer and submitted the September issue in early August.

Kiss n' Drop – Chelsea Broos., 3 kids, one in community, been doing this for a few years now.

Thank you for the new signs. Laura and I love them. Colourful and stand out. Kiss and Drop was very important a number of years ago when parking was terrible and unsafe and a bone of contention. Smoothly run now with Eric Harvie open.

There is no parking at the Kiss & Drop by the bike racks. Volunteers are welcome via Facebook or email and all it takes is to arrive at 8:10 am put the signs out and usher traffic so there is smooth flow. Only takes 25 mins and you get to park by the dumpster and after school you get VIP parking at 2:54 and put the signs away at the end of the day. Please send an email to Chelsea if you are interested.

Bylaw says: do not get into fights with motorists, but legally there is no difference between parking and stopping according to the city bylaw. That is a no parking area. Parents are encouraged to follow the rules and not to be there too early – in the winter can be a headache. Please DON'T use the teacher parking log for drop off and pick up. Patrick and Laura are encouraged to be stern and to stop it if possible. It's unsafe and kids do cross in that parking lot.

Special Events – Karisa D., & Chelsea Baxter

Hoping to see what the year will be like in getting that community feel back and are open to discussion and feedback. The start of the year breakfast didn't seem feasible, but the signage

was the replacement and the Welcome kits to Kindergarteners. Typically, we would do a Halloween dance, but are navigating a change for that to figure out if there is something we can do, and then Christmas/Year-End And, then spring formal and the year end BBQ. We want to make it fun for the kids and the parents.

Mariana: We just really want to up the tone and make the experience really great for the kids – the signs and flags that were put together were a great welcome.

Fundraising – Natalie Shelby-James, 1st year, Grade 2er in Community.

We have the apple fundraiser coming up and we can expect the forms to come soon; next week and from there a deadline of October 1st to order. Pick up the week of the 21st. The second fundraiser is the Sobey's g/c – and a discussion is needed if that's something we even want to do. The executive should discuss with the school. Obviously the read-a-thon is coming up too.

Spirit Wear – Shaun H., Mariana's husband, 5th year on council. Nominated his wife.

Has been doing Spirit Wear for the entire 5-years. We have 57 participants here tonight and this is just a really great turn out.

What we typically do is 2-runs: one in September and one in February for the spring. It's been interesting this year because of orange shirts. Do we want to facilitate that? We don't have a lot of time now and it's quick turn around. We thought we could, but we didn't want to do anything before the council meeting. We've talked about it in years past. What are the rules and what should we be doing? Not sure if we should or not?

Get our new school logo/ English French, so support the cause. We don't want to put the school in the negative attention which we cannot predict.

Melanie: Do we need to have a logo? Or can we provide non-logoed shirts, so parents don't need to look for one.

Mariana: I agree Orange shirts are far more accessible this year, and it might be easier for parents to find/buy them this year. From my point of view, it would show leadership to have our own Orange Shirts and support the cause and donate proceeds of Spirit Wear of orange shirts to the organization. Promoting and acknowledging and proudly wearing it, and it should say "Every Child Matters" as that is the real statement.

Kelsey: My thought is obviously it might be a little late, could be a Patrick question: What about working with So'ko'ko'to for next year? And the kids can be involved?

Patrick: I think that is a great idea. So'ko'ko'to will be going to Tuscany School the last week of October.

Amit: Do the kids know about "Every Child Matters"?

Patrick: Truth & Reconciliation is discussed at an age-appropriate level and there is focused work the week of September 27th.

Shaun: Everything is all set up, but the timing is just too short and maybe it could be done after (in the winter) designing it with So'ko'ko'to. Let's consider it more and work with So'ko'ko'to.

Sasha: Could purchase mid-year to be prepared for next year. Mariana: agrees and is in favour.
Shaun: Normal Spirit Wear is coming out in September. A catalog will be sent out.

Amit: last year there was a discussion to have a used shirt sale – has there been progress or is it kiboshed.

Shaun: This was tough to do with Covid; will think about doing in the future *post covid.

Chelsea: As the logo is changed, will it be tough?

Shaun: It would be better to have any logo than no logo with the “used clothing sales drive”.

Patrick: Please encourage family members to re-use the old logo clothing and then the new stuff will trickle in.

Shaun recommends a Facebook page for used Spirit Wear clothing.

Fun Lunch – Maureen A., 2 kids, 1 in Tuscany.

The new years fun lunch days are booked; some vendors are booked. Thinking of looking at Boston Pizza and Costa Vida with “Healthy Hunger”. These are good choices and the prices are decent. We just have to make sure they can facilitate a school as big as ours. Just working out treat days with Patrick and Laura.

We can actually have volunteers this year as of Friday. Sign up genius has started , and we just need to post it after “Healthy Hunger” goes live. Will work out volunteer details with Patrick and have to be locked in. Oct 28th is the first date. Kind of Halloween related? The parents can dress up too! It’s Papa John’s Pizza. They have delivered numerous times and understand the Covid protocols and are packaged and named/or listed and should be easy.

Fun Snack – Susan B.,

Has already worked behind the scenes for the kinder-kids and has their handout to each child this week. Working with Laura to put that together. Going to coordinate the snacks which will land on lunch so if there are siblings they experience the same.

CBE Liaison – Sasha Bailey 3rd year

Nothing to report at this time. Meeting coming up in a couple of weeks and will provide info at the next meeting. Teacher Appreciation 1st year – worked with Vicki on it then, Emma C. is getting us extra funds. Melanie is helping out with Teacher Appreciation, and we will be ready to make a plan for the spoiling of teachers soon. We have done one event so far – we replenished the coffee pods and provided cookies.

Naturalization – Morgan K., 5th year doing this

Just trying to keep the lawn looking good and fertilized. We’ve had various projects for naturalization and are working hard to make sure it stays good and comes in. Notorious rabbits mowing down the shrubs. Talking to Andrea B., for a planted tree (big) in honour of Cindy White (ret.) Maybe for the fall. Will look for pricing and come back to the council for recommendations. Or maybe a bench with a plaque, or a stone with a carving. If anyone has some ideas, please let Morgan know.

Question: How is security working?

Patrick: The igloo play structure had graffiti and some spray-painted walls. The Facilities team was notified, and it was removed right away and there are some bottles and garbage still being found. In the mornings (suggested between 7:00am - 8:15am) teens are hanging out on the grounds.

Amit: A tree for the departing grade 5's? Every year we just keep adding trees for their graduation

Morgan: One list item was to create something like the Silver Springs Community Garden. I would like to see something like that. Contemplated idea to plant trees on the east side and the outgoing kids plant their own. Morgan will think more about how this can work. Any ideas, please let Morgan know.

Deanna: There have been some posted content on the Tuscany FB community pages. More calls to police needed to get on the route. Seeing older kids in trees and breaking branches but is not a war I wanted to confront.

Maureen: Call 311 to make sure it's reported, and they would get someone to manage right away. The one (graffiti) on the rainbow playground is still there. Is the camera on the whole summer and is it seeing these kids? Another question: we had a couple parents this last week about the garbage and the cans because the cans beside the rainbow playground are full all-the-time and just blows out. Can the cans have a lid? If the kindergarten kids can't open the lid? Is it a moose? Bigger cans?

Patrick: Will follow up with facilities to have those garbage bins emptied.

Maureen: the blue one (garbage bin) between the rainbow playground and the logs. The Tuscany one at the community playground is always full. Is there another CBE Garbage can? The blue one for use is overflowing often. Too often.

Patrick: Will have it checked daily.

Principal's Report – Dr. Patrick Tomczyk

Happy to be back, teachers are happy to be back and capitalizing on the great things going on. Special Events thank you! Great to see. Thank you for the Teacher Appreciation cookies and coffee, the new signs, the bus zone, and Kiss & Ride. We appreciate and are thankful to the Council.

This year we have approximately 500 student enrollments.

Growth in French immersion, as predicted. We have six new teachers joined, five of which are in French. Part of the change is in highlighting we are bilingual.

We have updated our logo to reflect our French Immersion in the school.

Community engagement was about some of the language we use. We are one community.

90% of the students live in Tuscany.

Twitter presence has been updated, with daily updates.

Teacher blogs are being updated as we speak. They will be posting once a week to give you an idea of what's going on in the classroom.

Volunteers back-in-school. Forms were sent out last Friday/Monday – looking forward to having them back, with some parameters in place. A reminder, if you've had a volunteer check – they are good for 5-years and we can check at the school to see if it's still current. There are a

number of new volunteer forms at the school office. The CBE will pay the cost of Vulnerable sector check.

We've had a small mishap with our phone lines, and the voicemail is not kicking in nor is the absence line. Please stay on the line until someone answers. Thank you for your patience while this is being managed

There is exciting work about the school facilities team who are painting, and also looking at painting some of the outside walls and the common areas, in the next couple of weeks.

The federal election and municipal elections are booked in the school gymnasium. Pre-voting starts tomorrow, entering through the front door; walking directly into the gym (Covid protocols in place); exiting directly out the gymnasium onto the playground.

Kiss and drop and bus zone: Thank you for managing that. We are reminding parents you can't park there as it prevents the bus.

With respect to wish list and society: teachers are working on Wishlist items. Including: tech, home reading kits, classrooms resources, etc. There are a number of smaller items and a proposal and sharing of the wish list at the next meeting.

End of month Open House (Virtual) information to come out shortly.

Run sessions 3-times in a row to allow for other classes if needed in multi-child families. A Q&A and general information by Patrick will also be held.

Multi-aging was done many years ago and it's back. Multi-aging is supported by research and Patrick will share that at the Open House and Laura will be doing a session on early and late literacy.

The Terry Fox Run is coming up on September 22nd. Volunteers and route shared – the staff will see this tomorrow and it will be unique to Tuscani School. (Not joined with the other schools this year). There will be grade groups and cohorts.

Finally, Alberta Education wants Assessments done to assess the kids in learning gaps due to the pandemic. Across the province, from K-Grade 3. Assessments are due in 2-weeks.

It is an intentional quick turn around to play for the rest of the year.

So'ko'ko'to will be back in October and the artist in-residence and just finalizing the details of that, for trips into the Coulee.

Chelsea: Regarding the Terry Fox Run: happy it's happening, is the parent council doing refreshments for the kids?

Patrick : finalising on our end and will reach out to the council about that, including the Covid protocols.

Chelsea: Question for Michelle: – is there a standing offer from Sobey's for the Terry Fox Run?

Michelle: last year we bought, separated them out between the schools, when the classes got back they received their refreshments. Granola bars, juice boxes, and they were put together Covid friendly. Sarah Jane has a relationship with Dana at Sobey's and in supporting the Terry Fox Run. The more lead time Dana has, the more options he has for freebies. \$300 already voted in for the Terry Fox Run.

Chelsea: Open house about multi-aging, but briefly, does that government conditions to cohort force a change in how they are being taught?

Patrick: the multi-aging decision was made irrespective of the cohort. Classroom is a cohort.

Outside, because of more space, the cohorts are bigger to allow for age-appropriate cohorts so that they can interact with others in another class. Alberta Education says schools can determine how they are cohorting, depending on space, and still maintaining physical distancing, wearing masks, and hand washing. Our teachers are trained in training all grade levels to grade 5 and that is, for our teachers, to learn and collaborate on concept-based learning to support kids.

No two kids are at the same level in the same grade. There are customized lessons, worksheets, may be the same, but it's up to the teacher to differentiate levels in a single classroom and personalize.

Laura: Comments from the chat – Amit suggests we ask for donations of old CD-ROMs. Are there plans for a Xmas Concert?

Patrick: I will get back to Council about that, but no plans yet. Students are going back to music this year and use the music room and are allowed to sing and use some instruments. Masks on. We might not be able to have visitors, so it could be a virtual concert.

Kristy: Assessments - are they attached to possible increases in funding for the school?

Patrick: It is, but not necessarily a certain school. Funds are sent based on need.

Karen: Following the open house, if teachers or parents would like, can they have a one-on-one?

Patrick: Yes. Parents are always welcome to reach out to the teacher to book an in-person or virtual one-on-one. We need to schedule our visitors as per Covid protocols. Learning conferences are in the fall and spring and initiated by the teachers and book time with the teacher. In terms of how the assessments will be communicated – through Power School and Parents can ask and teachers can share that. PowerSchool parent portal will be used beginning in early October.

Mariana: Thank you to everyone for behind the scenes help.

New Business

Vacant School Council Positions:

- Vice Chair – Mariana would love a Vice Chair. Please consider or recommend.
- Grade 4&5 Farewell – been told not to panic and create the buzz and get that spot filled.

Social Media: Mariana loves that Tuscany School has a twitter, and the council now has a Twitter too and she created an Instagram page as a Student Council tool, and use those forums to reach out to parents. Social Media is a great informal communication tool in our community.

Questions: Is the Twitter/Instagram Public or Private?

Our Facebook is public – so, should we make it private, or should it open up?

Michelle: We inherited a public Facebook page – a good reason to make it private is to post pics of kids – however, we never discussed it. Just grandfathered in.

Barbie: The Tuscany School website will need to be updated to include the current members of council(s).

Jennifer: Question re: Phone systems – the phones have been down. How are suspected Covid absences in general being reported?

Answer: If Tuscany School absences are more than 10% it has to be reported to AHS. Parents that are sharing information are kept private.

Patrick: As soon as kids are sick at school (unless allergies, etc.) they will need to go home. As of today, our absence rates are no different than a non-Covid year. Additional cleaners on staff this year.

THANKS FOR ATTENDING MICHELLE!

Next Meeting Date

Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 7:00pm.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Attendance: Deanna H., Shaun H., Michelle Piper B., Barbie W., Amit S., Chelsea B., Emma C., Keri G., Maureen A., Melanie G., Karen T., Chelsea B., Farzeh E., The Corrighalls, Milan, Jennifer D., Joanna B., Dan, Colleen G., Sasha, Marty K., Kelsey S., Vanessa B., Shaz, Laura M., Patrick T., Karisa, Krista C., Michelle R., Tammy C., Natalie S., Selima, Natalie, Erin M., Steve, Kristy R., Jen, Derek D., Susan H., The Hum Family, Troy, Liam S., Morgan K., Adrienne, Andrea H., Ava Z., Sonia M., Lindsay M., Carrie C., Floria, Sundus, Hesam R., Melissa, Kate M., Lucy, Adrienne.