

**St. Michael's School  
School Council  
Operating Procedures**

**Approved: Feb 9/23**

**1. DEFINITIONS**

In these Operating Procedures:

- A. "School" means St. Michael's School;
- B. "Council" means the School Council for the School;
- C. "School Board" means the Board of Holy Spirit School Division
- D. "Parents" means parent, guardian or primary caregiver of any child enrolled in an educational program at the School, including the ECS program.
- E. "Regulation" means the School Councils Regulation as provided through Alberta Provincial Legislation;
- F. "School community" means persons other than parents (as defined in 1D above) who have, in the opinion of the majority of the Members of the School Council, an interest in the well-being of the students and the School;
- G. "Operating Procedures" means the governing document serving the same purpose as Bylaws referenced in the Regulations.

**2. AUTHORITY**

The St. Michael's School Council derives its authority to participate in the education of our students through Alberta Provincial Legislation, hereinafter referred to as "*legislation*".

**3. MISSION STATEMENT/PHILOSOPHY**

**St. Michael's School Council Mission**

Our mission is to provide for the intellectual, spiritual, and well being of our students, rooted in the Gospel Message of Christ. As followers of Christ and His teachings, we will, as a team work together to facilitate communication between the school, community, and church to provide a learning environment where students may achieve their potential.

**4. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the School Council, in keeping with the legislation are to:

- A. Represent the parent perspective by providing advice to and consulting with the Principal and the School Board on matters relating to the

School such as: the School philosophy, mission and vision, policies, improvement plans, programs and directions, and budget allocations to meet student needs;

- B. Foster a positive, collaborative environment with a variety of opportunities for meaningful engagement by Members of the School community;
- C. Support special events that will support and enhance student learning, encourage participation and promote the well-being of the School community;
- D. Produce a Report of our School Council and communicate the results of this Report to the School Board and the School community;
- E. Share information with parents and the community and facilitate communications with all educational stakeholders;
- F. Adhere to School Council's Code of Ethics;
- G. Consult with other School Councils and provincial organizations;
- H. Support an approach to education in which decisions are made collaboratively;
- I. Advise School Boards, Alberta Education or other provincial organizations on broader educational issues;

## **5. GOVERNANCE, MEMBERSHIP and DECISION MAKING**

St. Michael's School Council uses a Town Hall Operating Style

- A. The membership of the School Council shall consist of:
  - i. All parents, as defined in 1D above
  - ii. The Principal of the School
  - iii. One or more teachers and staff of the School, elected or appointed by the teachers
  - iv. One or more high school students elected or appointed by the students
  - v. Others as decided by the School Council
- B. The voting Members of the School Council shall consist of: Parents as defined in 1D
- C. The non-voting Members of the School Council shall consist of: Others as defined in 1F
- D. The parent/other ratio may vary at times, but the number of parent Members must always exceed the number of administration, staff, students and/or community representatives.

## **6. DECISION MAKING**

Decisions at School Council meetings will be made by consensus as much as possible.

- A. A decision made by consensus must be stated clearly and recorded as such in the minutes of the meeting.
- B. If a decision is made by a vote, the motion must be moved, seconded and passed by the majority of School Council voting Members present at the meeting at which the vote was taken.
- C. There will be no voting by proxy.

## **7. QUORUM**

A. Quorum will be attained when the majority of voting Members present at any meeting are parents of students enrolled in the School, and the Principal or designate is present.

- B. In the absence of a quorum:
  - i. If the parents and School Council Members present agree to proceed in the absence of a quorum, the School Council may continue for the purposes of discussion of issues.
  - ii. No motions shall be considered or approved.
  - iii. No decisions by consensus shall be reached.

## **8. EXECUTIVE and TERMS of OFFICE**

The positions of the Executive shall consist of: Chair, Vice-Chair (or Co-Chair), Secretary and Treasurer. All Executive positions must be filled by parents as defined in 1D above.

- A. Every parent is eligible to be elected to an Executive position on the School Council. Employees who are parents are permitted to sit on the executive of a School Council with School Board approval
- B. The terms of office are from the close of the Annual General Meeting to the close of the following Annual General Meeting.
- C. The Executive of the School Council will be elected by parents attending the Annual General Meeting or in the event of vacancies after the Annual General Meeting, elected by the voting Members present at a subsequent School Council meeting;
- D. Any Executive Member may resign his/her position by providing written notice to the Executive and the Principal.

- E. Any Executive Member may be removed from the Executive at any time with cause by a majority vote of the Executive whenever, in its judgment, the best interest of the School Council will be served.
- F. Unless authorized at any meeting and after notice for same shall have been given, no Member of School Council shall receive any remuneration for his/her services.
- G. The Executive will carry out the day-to-day operation of the School Council.
- H. The Executive with approval of the majority of the Executive Members will be able to spend money out of the Discretionary Fund as needed & will benefit the School
- I. The Executive will have an organizational mtg with the Principal and/or Associate Principal after the AGM and before the next School Council mtg

## **9. DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

### **A. Chair**

It is expected that the School Council Chair will be a parent of a student enrolled in the School. Unless otherwise delegated, the Chair of the School Council will:

- i. Chair all meetings of the School Council;
- ii. Coordinate with the Principal and/or Associate Principal and Secretary to establish meeting agendas;
- iii. Communicate with the Principal on a regular basis;
- iv. Decide all matters relating to rules of order at the meetings;
- v. Ensure that the School Council Operating Procedures are current and followed;
- vi. Be the official spokesperson of the School Council;
- vii. Ensure that there is regular communication with the whole School community;
- viii. Be an ex-officio member of all committees but does not need to attend meetings of the committees;
- ix. Review any communication to the School community prior to distribution and include the Principal in same;
- x. Stay informed about School Board policy that impacts School Council;
- xi. Have signing authority, if required, on any financial accounts together with the Members of the Executive.
- xii. Comply with the School Councils Regulation by providing the School Board with an annual report that summarizes the School Council's activities for the previous School year, including a financial statement

relating to money, if any, handled by the School Council, no later than September 30<sup>th</sup>;

- xiii. Have general responsibility for all activities of the School Council.
- xiv. Assume responsibility, in consultation with the School Council, for communicating with the Fundraising Committee or other parent groups within the School;

#### **B. Vice-Chair**

Unless otherwise delegated, the Vice-Chair of the School Council will:

- i. In the event of resignation, incapacity or leave of absence of the Chair, fulfill the Chair's responsibilities;
- ii. In the absence of the Chair, supervise the affairs and preside at any meetings of the School Council;
- iii. Promote teamwork and assist the Chair in the smooth running of the meetings;
- iv. Keep informed of relevant School and School Board policies;
- v. Prepare to assume the position of Chair in the future;
- vi. Have signing authority with Executive members.
- vii. Assist the Chair and undertake tasks assigned by the Chair.

#### **C. Secretary**

Unless otherwise delegated, the Secretary of the School Council will:

- i. Act as a recorder at each meeting and ensure that the minutes are prepared accurately to reflect the directions agreed to at the meeting;
- ii. Keep minutes, correspondence, records and other School Council documents, and ensure that all relevant documents (as per legislation) are given to the school to be available to the public in an accessible location in the School, for a period of 7 years;
- iii. Maintain a dated record of all the Members of the School Council who have knowingly provided their contact information, in compliance with PIPA;
- iv. Distribute, as determined by the School Council, agendas, minutes, notices of meetings and notices of other events;
- v. Ensure the appropriate management, in compliance with the Personal Information Protection Act of any personal information collected on behalf of the School Council;
- vi. Keep informed of relevant School and School Board policies;
- vii. Have signing authority with Executive members.
- viii. Assist the Chair and undertake tasks assigned by the Chair.

In the absence of the Secretary, the School Council shall choose a recording Secretary for the meeting.

#### **D. Treasurer**

Unless otherwise delegated, the Treasurer of the School Council will:

- i. Keep accurate records of all financial transactions for 7 years;
- ii. Ensure that records are available upon request of the School Board, public or School community;
- iii. Be responsible for the deposits of all monies paid to the School Council in whatever bank, trust company, credit union or treasury branch the School Council may order. Deposits from the Fundraising Committee will be made in conjunction with a member of the Fundraising Committee.
- iv. Have signing authority on any financial accounts together with the Executive.
- v. Present a balance sheet & profit & loss budget vs actual report to the School Council & prepare a general ledger for the Chair for School Council meetings, and prepare the financial statements for the annual report;
- vi. Supervise the affairs and preside at any meetings of the financial committee.
- vii. Keep informed of relevant School and School Board policies
- viii. Assist the Chair and undertake tasks assigned by the Chair
- ix. Pay all accounts receivable using the rules of signing authority. Two Executive Member signatures are required for cheques and two Executive Members must give verbal approval for an e-transfer

#### **E. Fundraising Committee Chair, Hot Lunch Chair, Others as decided by the School Council**

These Members will:

- i. Share their professional knowledge, expertise and life experience;
- ii. Encourage feedback and participation from community groups and individuals;
- iii. Communicate information of interest to the School Council and the School community;
- iv. Share information from School Council meetings with the community;
- v. Have a clear understanding of the School Council's objectives;
- vi. Attend School Council meetings;
- vii. Identify possible topics for agendas;

- viii. Serve as a liaison between the School Council and their organization or area of responsibility.
- ix. Keep informed of relevant School and School Board policies

## **10.VACANCIES**

With the exception of the School Council positions filled by the Principal and teacher representative, any vacancy of the School Council will be advertised to the parent community. Elections for a vacant position will be held at subsequent meetings of the School Council until the vacancy is filled.

## **11.MEETINGS**

School Council meetings may be held in-person or using a virtual or online platform suitable for conducting School Council business, or a combination of the two. The executive, in collaboration with the principal, will determine the format of the meetings. Virtual meetings may include electronic voting which will be determined by the executive (ie. Raise Hand feature, chat window, mic, ballots via private messaging).

### **A. Annual General Meetings**

Where the School Council has not been operational the year prior, an Establishment Meeting will be held in accordance with legislation; otherwise, an Annual General Meeting of the School Council will take place once each School year.

The School Council will hold an Annual General Meeting within 30 days following the first instructional day of each School year. Notice of the Annual General Meeting will be given to parents and the School community not less than 7 days before the date of the meeting via email, newsletter, and other media as decided. The notice will be given in the manner determined by the Chair. The notice will describe the matters to be dealt with at the Annual General Meeting.

- i. All parents as defined in 1D above are eligible for election.
- ii. All parents as defined in 1D above are eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting.
- iii. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall include:
  - a. the election of Executive Members
  - b. presentation of the financial statement of the previous year, if any.
- iv. And may also include:
  - a. plans and budget for the upcoming year;

- b. discussion of any major issue in which all parents should have input such as changes to the Vision or Mission of the School or School Board, School policy, or other major changes in the School program or focus;
- c. Report from the School Council.

### **B. Special General Meetings**

- i. The School Council Executive may at any time give notice of a Special General Meeting of the School Council. Notice will be given at least 5 days before the meeting. The notice will state the time, date and place of the meeting, and describe the matters to be dealt with.
- ii. At any Special General Meeting, all parents in attendance shall have the right to vote.

### **C. Regular Meetings**

A minimum of five (5) regular School Council meetings will be held per School year or as called by the Executive. It will be decided when these meetings will take place at the Annual General Meeting. The meetings will take place at the School, unless otherwise advertised.

Any School Council Member may be suspended or expelled for the duration of the School year from attendance at any Regular School Council meetings, if, upon a majority vote of voting Members present at Special General Meeting called for that purpose, it is determined to be in the best interests of the School Council to do so.

## **12. MEETING AGENDAS**

The Chair and/or Secretary will work in partnership with the Principal and/or Associate Principal to establish the agendas for all meetings. Agenda item requests must be made through the Chair, who will, if necessary, consult with the Secretary and Principal/Associate Principal as to the appropriateness of the item requested.

## **13. COMMITTEES**

The School Council may develop committees in coordination with Parents and the Executive that consists of School Council members and/or school community members. Employees can be members of Committees. Committees will meet outside of School Council meetings to complete their



assigned tasks as per the direction of the School Council and report on their activities at School Council meetings.

#### **14.POLICIES**

**Subject to any provincially or School Board-mandated policies and/or regulations**, the School Council may make and implement its own policies that it considers necessary to carry out its functions.

- A. The policies of the School Council will be reviewed at the beginning of every new School Council term to decide if each policy will be implemented for the new School Council and its term.
- B. Topics on which School Council may wish to develop guiding policies include, but are not limited to: Elections, Communication (Internal and External), Record Keeping, Fundraising, Privacy, Location of Meetings, Official Correspondence Address, New Member Orientation, School Council Evaluation, and Social Media.

#### **15.SCHOOL COUNCIL FUNDRAISING**

**Subject to any provincially or School Board-mandated policies and/or regulations**, the School Council may raise funds that do not require incorporation to obtain (e.g., not casinos, bingos).

- A. The School Council will, where possible, encourage the Fundraising Committee to do the non-charitable fundraising for the School and the School community. Any non-charitable fundraising done outside of the Fundraising Committee will need to be approved by School Council.
- B. School Council will deposit in a bank account operated by School Council any funds raised by the Fundraising Committee
- C. School Council funds given to the School will be subject to the School Board's policy on School Council fundraising and/or School-generated funds.
- D. In the absence of mutually agreed terms, School Council funds given to the Fundraising Committee will be subject to the policies of the Fundraising Committee.
- E. Alcohol may be served at fundraising events upon approval of the Principal. Employees may attend such events at their own discretion

#### **16.FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE and OTHER GROUPS OF PARENTS**

The School Council recognizes and appreciates the efforts of other groups of parents striving to support and enhance the educational opportunities in the School.

- A. The School Council will communicate regularly with the Fundraising Committee and/or other groups of parents to support their activities and to solicit support for School Council activities.
- B. The School Council may develop policies to promote a productive, open and transparent relationship with the Fundraising Committee and/or other groups of parents.

## **17.CODE OF ETHICS**

All School Council Members shall:

- A. Abide by the legislation that governs them;
- B. Be guided by the mission statement of the School and School Council;
- C. Endeavour to be familiar with School policies and operating practices and act in accordance with them;
- D. Practice the highest standards of honesty, accuracy, integrity and truth;
- E. Recognize and respect the personal integrity of each member of the School community;
- F. Declare any conflict of interest;
- G. Encourage a positive atmosphere in which individual contributions are encouraged and valued;
- H. Apply democratic principles;
- I. Consider the best interests of all students;
- J. Respect the confidential nature of some School business and respect limitations this may place on the operation of the School Council;
- K. Not disclose confidential information;
- L. Limit discussions at School Council meetings to matters of concern to the School community as a whole;
- M. Use the appropriate communication channels when questions or concerns arise;
- N. Promote high standards of ethical practice within the School community;
- O. Accept accountability for decisions;
- P. Not accept payment for School Council activities.

## **18.DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

- A. The School Council shall abide by the Dispute Resolution process outlined in the School Board's policies and regulations to address disputes between the principal and the school council with respect to policies proposed or adopted for a school.
- B. The School Council shall apply every effort to resolve internal disputes using the steps outlined in these Operating Procedures. If at any time, 5

parents and 50% of the Executive Members of the School Council believe a dispute causing significant impairment of School Council operations is occurring, they may deliver a signed written letter to all Executive Members and the Principal requesting a Special General Meeting, and the following will apply:

- i. The Chair will call a Special General Meeting of the School Council;
- ii. The Secretary will provide a minimum of 5 days written notice to all parents and School Council Members of the date, time, place and purpose of the Special General Meeting;
- iii. At the Special General Meeting, all parents and School Council Members present will have an opportunity to hear and discuss the issues causing the dispute;
- iv. On motion, a vote shall be taken respecting a proposed resolution to the dispute;
- v. If a majority of voting Members present vote in favour of the resolution proposed, the School Council will immediately act upon it.

## **19.PRIVACY**

The School Council shall adhere to the Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA) and shall not use or share personal information for purposes other than those of School Council business.

## **20.DISSOLUTION**

As per Alberta Provincial Legislation, only the Minister of Education has the authority to dissolve a School Council. If the School Council is dissolved, the Principal may establish a Principal's Advisory Committee to perform some or all of the duties of the School Council until the next school year. The Principal will perform the duties as outlined in Alberta Provincial Legislation with respect to the re-establishment of the School Council within forty (40) School days after the start of the next School year.

## **21. REVIEWS and AMENDMENTS**

**Subject to any provincially or School Board-mandated policies and/or regulations**, the School Council may make any changes to these Operating Procedures deemed necessary to carry out its functions.

- A. The Operating Procedures must be reviewed by the School Council by October 30<sup>th</sup> of each School year or within 60 days of the start of the School Council term.

- B. Notice of proposed changes to the Operating Procedures will be provided to the School community no less than the day of the meeting.
- C. The Operating Procedures of the School Council may be amended by a majority vote of the voting Members present at any scheduled Regular, Special or Annual General meeting of the School Council.


These Operating Procedures have been accepted by a majority of the Members entitled to vote at a Regular, Special or Annual General meeting of the School Council.

Date: Feb 16/23


Stephanie Hlady  
Chair's Name

  
Chair's Signature

Sara Weatherhead  
Secretary's Name

  
Secretary's Signature

Mark DeJong  
Principal's Name

  
Principal's Signature