

## Attendance

X=present at this meeting

x	Kirsten Cronlund (Director)	x	Dr. Reid Prichett (Headmaster)		Rev. Phil Schnarr (School Pastor)
x	Chris DeMaria (primary unit rep)	x	Cara Dibb (intermediate rep)	x	Carol Nash (upper rep)
x	Sharon Neiger (special rep)		Justin Allen	x	Jenn Asplundh
x	Kym Brock	x	Sean Connelly		David Cooper
x	Jenny dePadua	x	Melinda Friesen		Naomi Haus-Roth
	Christina Irwin	x	Tor Pitcairn	x	Landon Synnestvedt
x	Kelley Hale		Guests		

## Opening

School Pastor Phil Schnarr passed along some read-ahead materials regarding the faculty study on preparing students to be “useful citizens.” This type of study highlights the unique mission of BACS, and sets the tone for the school theme of moral virtues.

## Director’s Chair

Director Kirsten Cronlund commented on the general atmosphere of kindness and goodwill that she has witnessed at the school. One of the highlights is seeing the teachers and students interacting in a friendly and happy manner during lunch and other in-between times. This positive outlook was also noticed by teachers during unit meetings. Headmaster Reid Prichett added that the tone of the school is evident to John Suddes, the strategic planning consultant from *Suddes Partners*. It has been satisfying to be able to show him how BACS is committed to the Church, and to connecting students and families with the Lord.

Kirsten introduced the idea of refining the focus of the Director’s Council. In addition to being a forum for communication, the Council could take on the mission of reaching out to improve the connection of BACS to the community. This will be addressed further at the end of the meeting.

## Q&A | Sound-offs

**Around the Table**

Wherein key issues are raised by the representatives on behalf of the constituency. Today’s items:

Issue	Action/Resolution/Comment
Revisit consideration of foreign language in primary grades	Suggested future topic.
Requesting status of where the school is in the ongoing conversation about dress code. What is working, what needs to be changed?	Dress code is an appropriate topic.
Question was raised about timing of busses to accommodate multiple release times (12:15 and 2:30).	Bus service must be negotiated with various districts. This will be a future agenda item.
Consider the possibility of raising the after-school P.E. program to focus more on competition with other schools. If it is defined as non-competitive, maybe we shouldn’t expect the children to play any games with other schools. Alternatively a stronger focus on developing competitive skills could create a situation in which the children are able to take pride in their performance and get our name out there among the church school community.	

<p>Parents have requested clarification of the school’s policy on taking children out of school for unscheduled vacation or family time deemed important by the parent. Should the parent ask for permission from the teacher, the Director, or both?</p>	<p>The Director must be notified first and then the teacher. Also the school does not wish to encourage this type of absence. It works better for the children to attend school during the regular school calendar. Absences not only affect the absent student but the teacher and other students also. The teacher has to pre-prepare materials needed for catch up as well as meeting with the family. In addition any partnered activities the child may have been involved in are at risk. The hope would be that the parents and therefore the students would keep school as a top priority and plan vacation and family time during the many regularly scheduled vacation times.</p> <p>Absences of this nature also encourage discontent amongst the other students.</p>
<p>Parents observed that the transition from Ivan Asplundh to Emily Adams in sixth grade was going very smoothly.</p>	
<p>Parents requested a clarification of the job description for Gail Simons.</p>	<p>Gail’s title is “Director of Teaching and Learning.” Her work is directed toward both the students and the teachers. Gail provides safe and professional feedback for teachers and a place to raise academic concerns. Gail coordinates the curriculum of BACS grades K- 8 as well as that of the Bryn Athyn Church Preschool, and facilitates communication between the General Church Office of Education and BACS.</p>

## Posting of Director’s Council Minutes

Minutes are now posted on BACS Website.

## Pertussis Update

Headmaster Prichett has formed a Health Crisis Response Team. The school administration and medical staff believe it is important to follow the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as it seeks to create a safe and healthy school community.

Symptoms for pertussis are characterized by a severe cough that continues for weeks. It is not generally dangerous for older children, but can compromise the health of infants (as witnessed in the death of a baby recently in the news). BACS is in no way unique in having diagnosed cases within our school.

## Dress Code Feedback

Parents were asked to provide feedback on the dress code. The following points were raised:

- Parents have raised the desire to have the BACS tartan and the ANC tartan match, as there is significant expense involved in purchasing these clothes. It was noted that this year the ANC policy also allows the girls to choose khaki skirts, which does fit the dress code requirements for BACS.
- We discussed the reasons for boots not being allowed in the current dress code. The primary reason is for the sake of being straight forward and simplifying the dress code. Also the committee decided that boots in the classroom provide some practical problems during regular activities, and that they lend themselves to fashion comparisons and interpretations more than regular shoes.

## **Increasing Our Connection to BACS Community**

Charge for this Council: Explore the question of increasing connectedness and belonging to the BACS community. Define the question and discuss process for gathering data. Discussion:

- Kirsten broached the idea of interviewing the BACS community in ways that would enhance a sense of belonging and foster connections between all the members. The council was charged with being liaisons in expanding our community connections. The interviews would be in an effort to collect ideas. Change can happen through mere conversations.
- A small group was formed to brainstorm possible questions for the interviews. Members: Chris deMaria, Landon Synnestvedt, Jenn Asplundh, Kirsten Cronlund.

## **Next Meeting**

The next Directors Council meeting is scheduled for 17 Nov 2010. Please contact members listed in the Communicator newsletter if you have any issues to bring to our attention.

Respectfully,

The Directors Council Members