



**TCHS School Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 26, 2022 @ 7pm**

A. Devotions / Welcome:

Jay led devotions on John 14:6:

“⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

“A man who has lived in many places is not likely to be deceived by the local errors of his native village. The one who studies history has lived in many times and is therefore in some degree immune from the nonsense that pours forth every age. While there is no guarantee that knowledge of the past should allow us to see things a bit more clearly and to ignore some of the more pressing and sensational messages that bombard us every day.” -C.S. Lewis

-value in studying history as a means of keeping things in context and learning from people who went before us. Studying history doesn't mean we are confined to things of the past.

-History leads to a deeper appreciation of the sacrifice of believers who went before us.

B. Orientation to TCHS

- Introduction of TCHS staff.
- Discussion of strategic priorities
 - Strong instruction
 - Utilization of CREW
 - Teaching for Transformation - differentiation and experiential learning
 - Service learning
 - Other trips/experiences
 - Mentorship program
 - Helping students at TCS
 - Christ centered learning environment
- Course Load Policy – grade 10 are expected to take a full course load
 - grade 9 will be in a semester system

- - Work Experience – students can earn credits while working part time jobs
 - Must first take HSC 3000 (done early in 2nd semester of grade 10 year)
 - Registered Apprenticeship Program
 - Green Certificate Program (farm work)

- Value of High School Education
 - Job preparation
 - Developing attitudes and interests
 - Understanding our role in God's story
 - Image Bearers
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- Brief overview of Graduation Requirements
100 credits and the following courses required
 - Grade 10 - 12 English
 - Grade 10 - 12 Social Studies
 - Grade 10 - 11 Math
 - a Grade 10 Science and one Grade 11 science (Biology, Physics, Chemistry or general science)
 - Career and Life Management 10
 - Physical Education 10
 - Grade 10 – 12 Christian Studies courses are also required for a TCHS diploma
 - A mixture of options courses / additional courses and work experience will be needed to get to 100 credits.

Welcome Dr. Wilco Tymensen

- Dr. Wilco Tymensen discussed the process of determining a weekly schedule at TCHS for the 2022-2023 school year and beyond.
 - Introduced the discussion of 4.5 vs. 5 day week
 - Discussed differences between required hours in elementary (950) vs. high school (1000).
 - Discussed when adjustments are made it doesn't mean that the hours that students are in school have changed. The hours are just reallocated.
 - Examples: Lomond decided years ago to go to a four day week. They have an additional hour of school Mon – Thurs to get their required hours

- Any proposed change to a weekly schedule starts and is passed at a School Council Meeting. Need to have 67% of families vote in favor. This happened on Dec 6, 2021.
- Then the proposal is brought forward to the Superintendent. The Superintendent leads a discussion at a broader level (tonight's meeting) where everyone who is impacted by this change (Grade 8 & 9 parents at TCS and Grade 10 – 11 parents at TCHS) have a chance to voice comments and ask questions and vote.
 - need to have 67% of families vote in favor in order for this proposal to go to the Horizon Board of Trustees.
- The Horizon board will have the final say. Among other things, they will consider the percentage of votes for and the percentage of how many people voted.
- All responses from TCS / TCHS parents need to come back by February 14.
- Horizon school division policy is that this vote / decision cannot be challenged or revisited for the next three years. After that time, a new vote could take place should the school community desire it.

Background:

Mr. Visser- gave background about how this topic / discussion came about at TCHS.

- High School calendars have to go the end of June (different than TCS) due to the amount of hours required (1000) and the fact that diploma exams are scheduled by the government at that time and cannot be moved.
- Educators at the school are always looking for ways to improve our programming.
 - Have noticed that by Friday afternoons students are often mentally tired (due to an academically challenging environment)
 - Wanting to give them a break given that high school is a slightly longer school year.
 - Many extracurricular activities (such as sports) are scheduled on Friday afternoons, requiring these students to miss school.
 - In addition to this, staff often accompany students on these activities which means we need to bring in subs and also teach with half a class gone. When this happens many other students question why they are there when others are not and either leave or mentally check out.
- For these reasons TCHS staff thought this was a question worth posing to parents. Staff also acknowledge there are reasons why parents would not be in favor of this.

Reasons could include:

- Friday afternoon pick up / travel for students who live outside Horizon bussing zones.
- Keeping a consistent schedule with TCS

Whatever the result, TCHS staff are committed to continuing to provide quality instruction and programming to students.

Questions:

- **Is Taber Christian going to be operation on the same schedule as the high school?**
 - Changes are made based on each specific school. If Taber Christian would like to go change their schedule to a 4.5 day week, they would have to go through a similar process as Taber Christian High School is doing.
- **Are we limited to just going to a 4.5 day week?**
 - Many options are possible. However, the proposal that was brought forward from School Council was for a 4.5 day week. Therefore this is the proposal we are voting on at this time.
- **Are diploma exams absolutely stuck in place? Or can they be moved?**
 - The government regulates these exams. These dates can't be moved.
- **How does a school like Immanuel manage to have full day Fridays and yet still go until the end of June?**
 - This would mean their days are shorter. Immanuel runs their own bussing and therefore is able to follow and created their own schedule as long as they reach 1000 hours.
- **Are grade 8 parents voting on this as well?**
 - All families who would be impacted by the change have the ability to vote. This includes TCS Grade 8 & 9 parents who are planning to send their kids to TCHS as well as current TCHS parents.
- **If my kids are travelling from Vauxhall, would they still be able to receive bussing on a 4.5 day week?**
 - Yes.
- **Can we pick up voting ballots at the school.**
 - Answer is yes. They will be available at both TCS and TCHS starting on Friday, Jan 28. A google poll is also being created and will be shared on Friday as well. Families can vote in a way that is most convenient to them. There is one vote per family. All votes must be in by Monday, February 14.