

Parkside Montessori, School Council

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 4, 2023

6pm

** indicates items for which a written document/report will be attached/provided*

In attendance: Danielle Pellerin (Chair), Desiree Miguel (Secretary) Danielle H. (Parent), Chris Johnston (Trustee Liaison), Monty Simo (Teacher), Terra Shewchuk (Vice Principal), Corrine Shmyruk (Principal)

1.0 Call to Order at 6:00pm- Chair, Danielle P. 6:03PM

2.0 Review of Agenda*- Chair, Danielle P. *(motion to accept) 2nd DM*

3.0 * Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting –[11/06/2023](#) *(motion to accept) 2nd by DH with minor correction*

4.0 Introduction of attendees and guests

4.1 Feature Teacher-Monty Simo

Been in the district for close to 20 years, first 12 years as a substitute, enjoying third year at Parkside Montessori.

Perfecting his classroom management while subbing for Junior High students. He had multiple offers when he was returning to a full-time position and he was happy to choose Parkside, he loves the environment here.

Initially found subbing at Parkside to be difficult as the students were so independent in their learning he didn't know where he fit, once he acclimated to the style of education here, he wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

Council/Admin discussed how much students LOVE Mr. Monty in Phys. Ed.

**After his introduction Mr. Monty exited meeting to keep parent #s above faculty for council quorum*

5.0 Executive Reports-

5.1 Monthly Executive updates and/or advisory from Council Executive- Danielle P.

Attended council/trustee meeting, a long meeting with a lot discussed. Went over calendar which is anticipated to be coming to council in January. Enrolment was above projections (2% expected, reality 4.8%-ish) so they're working on shuffling budget numbers). Briefly discussed annual results report which is accessible to parents online. A large portion of the meeting was about networking and advice between chairs of different school councils. Slumberkins parent night went over well, we had a pretty good turnout given the illnesses and absences prevalent the last couple of weeks. Jancey spoke on how GPPSD addresses Social Emotional Learning to our various grade levels. More Slumberkins info was added to Dec. newsletter with discount code for parents.

Potluck for CoL: we had many parents contribute; we've received thank-yous from staff – well received again this year.

6.0 Principal's Report and Advising Opportunities

6.1 Miss Corrine and Miss Terra's monthly report

November events included R Day, Jersey Day, Report Cards, CoL, MALT, Movie Afternoon, Triple Ball. Coming up in Dec. Hold & Secure Drills, 2nd set of classes starting Slumberkins and Little Spot. The Yes Dears will be performing for the kids Dec. 18. Will be doing a lunch to recognize patrollers, Red & Green Day, Crafternoon. Recognition lunch for office helpers, PJ/Donut Day.



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Grandbuddies that was postponed from earlier this fall, should be able to start this week. Will be going to GP Care Centre once or twice a month, going to carol for Christmas.

Made a change to the way we do our assurance newsletter. Used to send several additions throughout the year in newsletters. This year we're going to do bi-weekly focusing on a specific priority each time. School based student advisory council, Parkside has had a student chosen to participate in the student advisory council with board/trustees as well, the student and admin is very excited. Meeting with Corrine and Miss Desiree every other Wednesday. Each class will be deciding on 3 priorities as a part of school assurance.

Feedback from students re: what sets Parkside apart as a school: Inclusive, more materials, work at your own place and level, class pets, large classrooms, teachers good at their jobs, events, reading buddies, milk cards, clubs, we help people, students care about their learning, lots of leadership opportunities.

Student suggestions for improvement:

More silence, add more materials, get more work done and be more productive, add gr. 7,8,9; bigger library, counsellors you could see any time, more geometry materials, more clubs, continue U-fly literacy program and printing instruction. Study hall and more rules.

Spoke at Guild meeting re: Pax's Den. Framework like Dragon's Den. Guild and Parent/caregivers will act as dragons.

Laura Noel is up for Prime Minister's award for teaching excellence. Working on package to present in January.

Results report in its final revisions to be presented to staff at Dec. PL day will be presented to council in January. Will email ahead of meeting for members to review.

7.0 Trustee's Report- Chris Johnston, Trustee Liaison

Enrolment Update: 8000+ students, higher than projections. They try to lowball projections as a strategic approach to budgeting as there are penalties if enrolment does not meet projections.

Capital planning – we submit a list of projects we want funding for from AB Ed. Four on list, haven't prioritized yet.

1. Crystal Park Modernization

2. Permanent additions to Comp, by 2027/28 we'll be at 100% high school capacity for division. High school was built with potential for expansion in mind.

3. Permanent additions to Charles Spencer

4. New school for Kensington neighbourhood

Was asked if all GP school boards are experiencing the same growth, was asked at Trustee meeting as well, they're not sure

Results report has been approved; Attendance has declined. Parkside doesn't seem to be feeling that issue as strongly, which is nice to see.

Calendar will be up for review soon, not too much that can be adapted but there are a few areas council will be able to have input on.

Survey on local elections the Gov of AB is holding, if you have strong opinions about municipal governance having influence from political parties take a moment to fill it out. Chris had emailed link to council in previous notes.



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8.0 Old Business:

8.1 Alberta School Council Engagement Grant (\$500)

8.1.1 Blanket Exercise information (Terra)

Response from Liaison was that they're willing and able to do a presentation with us, Feb. 27 -6:30pm start suggested as time, cost should be minimal. 20 people minimum to hold event. Danielle P will reach out to a few other schools to see if anyone wants to partner. Adults only. Asking Liaison to do a write up in order to explain to parents.

8.2 Planning for Upcoming Events

8.2.1 Brunch for Lunch (December 20th)

Des to lead kitchen. Danielle will shop. Already set up sign up and have volunteers signed up. Des to send to daytime volunteers from volunteer list. Food safe completed last year good until 2025. Admin suggested inviting maintenance to attend as a thank you for all their work with playground, council in favour.

Last year someone suggested to cook some of the meat ahead of time to reduce cooking time on the day of – admin advs. this would create more food safety barriers, council advs. will not prep in advance.

8.2.2 Parkside Montessori Community Events for the new year

8.3 Fundraising Initiatives &/or consultation for Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori
Tabled due to few attendees today.

9.0 New Business:

9.1 Round Table

Would like to offer appies & desserts at January meeting to express thanks.

10.0 Next Regular Meeting of the School Council of Parkside Montessori: Monday, Jan. 8, 2024 @ 6pm

11.0 Adjourn 7:01pm

