

Parkside Montessori, School Council

MEETING AGENDA

Monday, February 5, 2024

6pm

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

In attendance: Danielle Pellerin (Chair), Desiree Miguel (Secretary), Terri M (Parent), Chris Johnston (Trustee), Danielle O (Parent), Crystal G (Parent), Amanda K (Parent), Danielle H (Parent), Julianne S (Teacher), Blythe M (Parent), Corrine Shmyruk (Principal), Terra Shewchuk (Vice Principal)

Student Representatives: Ezra R. & Farrah V.

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

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

3.0 * Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting –1/08/2024 **Danielle P. motion to accept 2nd by Desiree M. as no other members from previous meeting in attendance**

4.0 Introduction of attendees and guests

4.1 Feature Teacher-Julianne Seaton

Miss Julianne teaches ELMO 123 and is in her third year at Parkside on a continuous contract.

5.0 Executive Reports5.1Monthly Executive updates and/or advisory from Council Executive- Danielle P.
Not a lot to report from January, meeting with trustees was cancelled due to lack of participation

6.0 Principal's Report and Advising Opportunities

6.1 Miss Corrine and Miss Terra's monthly report

Events in January included: Silly sock day; Literacy week included dress as your favourite book character day, family reading and guest readers. The students hosted classes at "Starbooks" café which was very enjoyed. Starbucks generously donated cups for use in the café. As a part of literacy week the school also hosted an Indigenous Storyteller who awed students with her ability to recite stories without referencing any materials.

The student advisory committee has been active surveying their peers in order to choose some new library books with a budget allotted to them by Admin. They are working on priorities within an IT budget as well.

In February we are looking forward to: school spirit day, lockdown drills, kindness week, "Have a heart" day, and Pink shirt day. The school is looking for 2 parent volunteers to participate in a "surprise" for students & staff on February 28th. Miss Mei Lei from Casa 1 will be speaking to students about Lunar New Year and her family has generously donated red envelopes (hóngbāo) for students as well.

After enthusiastic feedback from staff, the school will be planning to host another Montessori Material Parent Night, more details to come in March.

Parents of students in grades 4,5,6 should have received their assurance survey access codes in the mail. These annual surveys gathers feedback on behalf of schools and school authorities to understand what



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works well and what needs improvement. So far only 7 have been filled out for Parkside Montessori. School Admin requests that parents please fill out these surveys as they're used by school staff as feedback for their operations. The survey and information on how to replace a lost access code can be found [HERE](#).

Parents can expect to receive an "intent to return" form to be filled out as an intent to register again at Parkside Montessori next year before registration formally opens in March.

Admin has decided not to host an open house for new families this year as they found that families were attending but were unable to secure spots for registration which led to disappointment. New families can contact the school to book tours if they wish to. Social media marketing for the registration and the Parkside Montessori student experience will be starting soon. Parents are encouraged to contact the office if they'd like to lend their voice.

Feb. 22nd school admin will be doing their assurance presentation to the board.

7.0 Trustee's Report- Chris Johnston, Trustee Liaison

Participated in meetings on Jan. 9 and 23. They reviewed the annual class size report which has shown 4.8% growth in the division with grades 4-12 increasing the most. They are focusing on supports for increased class sizes.

Transportation released an updated that 99.3% of busses are operating on time.

The board has recently updated board policy 7 pertaining to petitions and presentations to the board and parents are recommended to review them. Revised policy can be found [HERE](#).

Recommendation for parents to attend upcoming AHS presentations on ADHD (March 20, April 24, May 8) and anxiety (April 10, May 1 & 22) at I.V. Macklin & Alexander Forbes the Academy schools.

The board is currently hosting school administrative teams for assurance meetings and will wrap up with Parkside Montessori on Feb. 22.

Council chair asked if there were any updates regarding the request for Parkside Montessori to be extended to grade 8. Corrine advised that the superintendent has been in communication with her and advised he will touch base in spring with an update.

8.0 Old Business:

8.1 Planning for Upcoming Events

8.1.1 Parkside Montessori March Family Dance

The composite high school has been booked for Thursday March 14th from 6:30-8pm (no school March 15). Budget has been set with Fundraising Guild as follows:

Proposed budget: DJ costs - \$300-\$450; Concession - \$250; Decorations - \$50-\$100. (\$800 total approved).

Concession suggestions: chip bags, water, juice boxes. Parents in attendance voiced that the bleachers being unavailable would be a good thing. Discussed using full or half of gym and consensus seemed to be to stay with full. Danielle P. will look into donuts.

Student representatives presented on behalf of their committee:

They value events like dances as it helps to bring families and the school community together. Although they'd initially inquired about a Valentine's Day dance they understand how moving the dance to March will give us time to make it better. Students have suggested we title the dance an "End of the Rainbow"



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dance as opposed to St. Patrick's Day dance to be more inclusive. The students have plans to survey students to create playlist requests that council can submit to DJ. Chicken dance has already been brought up as a fan favourite. Students requested that a couple different Just Dance presentations be created for the littles. The student committee discussed pros and cons of glowsticks and would like to request they be available again. The students will be creating posters to advertise for the dance within the school. They suggested the dance colors be green & gold and the students will create a welcome banner.

Student responsibilities:

- Survey students for playlist suggestions
- Create decorative banner
- Work with council to organize concession
- Create advertisement posters
- Get ready to have fun! 😊

8.2 Alberta School Council Engagement Grant (\$500)

8.2.1 Blanket Exercise, February 27th- Danielle & Terra

6:30pm-8:30pm, need 25 attendees (adults only). Sign up link has been shared with other schools. Council to keep spreading word to try to achieve a good turn out.

8.3 Parent Learning Sessions

8.3.1 Montessori Materials Night

Information coming in March

8.4 Fundraising Initiatives &/or consultation for Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori

9.0 New Business:

The Guild has been approached by GPPSD maintenance regarding the creation of an outdoor structure to house maintenance and school sports equipment. Maintenance would also supply a tractor that Mr. FM would be able to utilize for snow removal. If we fundraise towards this goal, maintenance will cover half of the cost. Parents in attendance approved the idea. Being able to utilize a structure like this for outdoor equipment as opposed to having it stored away in bins within the school would be much more practical for staff. Parents in attendance voiced the idea that it could potentially be utilized for "options" if the school expansion to grade 8 goes through. Council/Guild are requesting that Maintenance provides a more definite idea of cost (based on current market) as that is asked in most grant applications. Council and Guild fully understand that this project could take years before it is complete and that any pricing we receive will be subject to change. Corrine will reach out to Geoff.

Danielle P. advs. we may be able to get an exemption/allowance from AGLC to be able to use gaming proceeds towards the structure, which would be beneficial as we potentially have a casino coming up in 2025. Gaming proceeds can be used towards any new sports equipment to go into the structure as well.

9.1 Roots of Empathy

Parkside Montessori is wondering if there are any families that would like to participate in the "Roots of Empathy" program. Roots of Empathy is an organization that invites community families into classrooms



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to demonstrate the power of a secure attachment relationship between infant and parent – the first and most powerful model of empathy.

How it works

Your baby is 2 – 4 months old at the start of the school year

Your family is matched with a local school in your neighbourhood

You are paired with a Roots of Empathy Instructor

The program follows the course of the school year

You and your baby visit the same classroom of children 9 times over the year

The Roots of Empathy instructor guides the children using an age appropriate curriculum

Interested families can apply by reaching out to the Grande Prairie Family Education Society

cayprograms@gpfes.com

9.2 Round Table

Desiree has been mulling over the idea of doing a school-wide Cookbook fundraiser and asked parents present if that might be something of interest. Thoughts so far include asking each family to supply 2-3 recipes of different categories and Parkside adjacent businesses could purchase advertisement space. Definite yes from those in attendance, even student representatives in favor. There is a mock-up waiting at the Print Shop for her to pick up, and she's also going to pursue a quote from the Docucentre. Corrine has a cookbook she made with a class of hers that she made through the Docucentre. Docucentre should be significantly more economical than anywhere else, Desiree just trying to navigate their rate sheets to make sure we're aware of any practical finishes that might be available.

10.0 Next Regular Meeting of the School Council of Parkside Montessori: Monday, March 4, 2024 @ 6pm

11.0 Adjourn

