

Parkside Montessori, School Council

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 4, 2024

6pm

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

Attendees: Danielle P. (Chair), Amy J. (Vice Chair), Desiree M. (Secretary), Sheri G. (Parent), Crystal G. (Parent), Blythe N. (Parent), Stefanie Van Wyngaard (Feature Teacher), Corrine Shmyruk (Principal), Terra Shewchuk (Vice Principal)

1.0 Call to Order at **6:13pm**- Chair, Danielle P.

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

3.0 * Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting –2/05/2024 (*motion to accept*) **2nd Sheri G.**

4.0 Introduction of attendees and guests

4.1 Feature Teacher-Stefanie Van Wyngaard

Miss Stefanie teaches Grades 4,5,6 and is in her 3rd year at Parkside and has finished the first “loop” of students completing all 3 grades of her class. She loves working at Parkside and utilizing Montessori Methods. She also enjoys incorporating technology in her teachings and exploring how technology can be utilized within Montessori programs. She’s watched technology bridge a gap for students who prefer to learn digitally vs. the typical hands-on Montessori approach.

5.0 Executive Reports-

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

Our Chair attended the trustee meeting on Feb. 29. Provincial budget was discussed briefly but they’re waiting on more info. Reminded attendees about upcoming ADHD & Anxiety sessions in the area.

Council Chair acknowledged our school is pursuing expansion to grade 8. Superintendent updated that he has upcoming meeting re: this with students at Parkside.

Admin acknowledged they’d received feedback she’d made a good impression. Division advised if we have parents interested in attending the Alberta School Council Association conference in April that council could address some expenses being reimbursed. The resolutions for this year’s ASCA AGM (which can be attended remotely and in person) are available. Danielle will send them out to parents to review so they can be discussed at April’s meeting before the AGM where she will vote accordingly.

Riverstone advised they have also been looking into a school garage and have found that the quotes they received back were above \$100k. Another school discussed doing a Game Night to tie in Numeracy, parents in attendance thought this sounds like a great idea.

6.0 Principal’s Report and Advising Opportunities

6.1 Miss Corrine and Miss Terra’s monthly report

Admin has been in regular contact with Aquatera re: the water main break north of the school disrupting bus pickup/traffic. They’ve been told it should be resolved within 2 weeks. 3D Children’s Charity sponsored a Parkside family and had an event at the school.

February events included hot lunches, school spirit day, lock down drills, have a heart day, community kindness week, Division Wellness Day, & pink shirt day. Ended February by hosting poet Miranda



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Krogstad who worked with Grades 1-6. Hosted some new family tours led by Students. Started March with Twin day & the Gr. 5/6 Basketball tournament

March events coming up include hot lunches, Plaid Day, the End of the Rainbow Family Dance, Shelter in place drills, MALT, Report Cards, Celebration of Learning, & the Egg Hunt (will be looking for volunteers). Spring break starts March 30 and goes until April 7.

Intent to return forms have gone out to families and registration for new families will open soon. Leadership role interviews have started for positions like office helpers/library assistants, & there will be an executive assistant role coming available later this spring. School facilitated 4,5,6 assurance surveys with students and have done their Assurance presentation with the board. Admin has been working on a new process to monitor students with frequent absences. Meeting between Student Representatives and Division Superintendent to discuss school grade extension/expansion is upcoming. Central office team meeting and staff discussions regarding Ed Plan are coming up as well.

6.2 Dress Code

Parents discussed questions given from Division re: school/division wide dress code. Admin will relay thoughts back to division.

6.3 Report Cards & Parent/Teacher Interviews (Celebration of Learning)

Admin inquired with parents if we'd prefer to see report cards before or after meeting with teachers. Thoughts for report cards first were based mainly on report cards providing content for discussion at meetings. Thoughts for report cards after acknowledged that discussion student progress before report cards could provide time for students (especially 4,5,6) to improve before report cards were finalized. However with that thought it was also discussed that parents at Parkside specifically seem to have good ongoing communication with teachers and aren't generally surprised by report card content.

7.0 Trustee's Report- Chris Johnston, Trustee Liaison

Chris not in attendance.

8.0 Old Business:

8.1 Planning for Upcoming Events

8.1.1 Parkside Montessori March Family Dance Update- Danielle & Terra (reporting for the student dance committee)

Students have surveyed for song choices, and things are well underway with them organizing the photo booth. They will be creating a decorative banner. DJ has been booked, a parent was able to secure a price at half of what had been previously quoted because of a personal connection so we're very thankful for that. We have parents donating candy bags, glow sticks, temporary tattoos, cake pops and chocolate coins (some for sale, some to be given out for free) and raffle donations are well underway as well. Dani P. organizing balloon décor with Admin/students, rest of décor will be done by students.

Danielle P. will be creating a sign-up for parent volunteers shortly to help with concession and raffle. Parents advised students didn't have to help with concession, Admin advised they would like to.

8.2 Alberta School Council Engagement Grant (\$500)

8.2.1 Blanket Exercise Debrief, February 27th- Danielle & Terra



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School hosted Blanket Exercise on Feb. 27th and it was well received by those in attendance. Members in attendance who attended valued the experience and look forward to participating in more in the future. We will market any we see other schools hosting.

8.3 Parent Learning Sessions

8.3.1 Montessori Materials Night Update- Terra

Literacy focused evening planned for Thursday May 2, more information to come.

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

Nothing beyond upcoming dance.

9.0 New Business:

9.1 Round Table

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

11.0 Adjourn 7:11pm

