

Parkside Montessori, School Council

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 6, 2024

6pm

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

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

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

3.0 * Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting –4/08/2024 *(motion to accept) Motion DM, 2nd AJ*

4.0 Introduction of attendees and guests

4.1 Feature Teachers- Miss Desiree & Miss Jackie

Jackie's first year, came from Roy Bickell, taught gr 3 for many years, changed grades, now teaching 4,5,6

5.0 Executive Reports-

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

ASCA AGM attended by Danielle P. Was a lengthy meeting, all resolutions passed.

Staff appreciation week happening now, bringing in kindness cart, organizing a potluck lunch for Thursday, bulletin board out front for staff shout outs.

6.0 Principal's Report and Advising Opportunities

6.1 Superintendent's Report

Just reviewed ASCA resolutions, found they had good subject matter and were well thought out this year. Has heard our parent group's passionate wish for extending Parkside to grade 8. Is of the opinion that the fewer transition a student has from school to school, the better. Thank you to the group that presented to the board, was a reasonable ask and well delivered presentation. AB gov has brought in outside consultation for capital projects. In early fall they looked at Crystal Park School which has not been modernized in 40 years, heating/cooling/infrastructure etc. very aged and although safe, is critically in need of attention. The outside consultants and capital planning group elected CPS should become a new school as opposed to being modernized.

#1 priority for capital plan – more space at COMP high school, in 3rd year it will be at 100% capacity.

#2 priority is space at Charles Spencer – currently at 100%

AB in general has a high need for new schools, metropolitan areas are bringing in 30-50 new students daily. Comparatively it's harder to receive funding for GP.

Best chance to extend Parkside Montessori could rely on creative solutions as opposed to new builds or expansion due to existing priorities throughout GP.

Board also needs to do research to establish a substantial interest for the extension of grades to justify the associated costs.

Will try to come back in the fall with update – ideally could have a more concrete plan by mid next year or will have a more concrete idea of challenges by that time.



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6.2 Miss Corrine and Miss Terra's monthly report

Wacky hair day, school spirit, hot lunch, earth day, beach day, admin day, fire evac drills, 2 talent shows, MALT afternoon and smile cookie day. May events, Montessori parent evening received good feedback from those in attendance, Star Wars Day, hot lunch, staff appreciation week, casa flower shops, spring concerts, school spirit day, gr 5&6 track and field, soccer & ball hockey tri-charity tournament, western day, school patroller swim and playground opening ceremony. St. Gerard's would like to do another collaborative popsicle picnic. Booked for Fri June 21. Council could attend as they have parents there. Planning for next year is underway, staffing is underway and will update once it's completed. Board was fast out of the gate with applicants so they have a nice pool of applications to review. Looking to add another 4,5,6 next year according to current enrolment #s. June meeting will review 3 year ed plan.

Division assurance survey is complete, reviewing data and will send out a "what we heard" document and review at June meeting.

7.0 Trustee's Report- Chris Johnston, Trustee Liaison

Not present. Report received after the meeting. See appendix 1.

8.0 Old Business:

8.1 Rotary Excellence in Education, Service Above Self Recipient

Desiree M & Mr. Josh nominated and will attend luncheon.

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

Growing Smiles passed \$6000 in sales. \$1475 in profit.

Art Cards have been sent, waiting for their team to confirm when it's active, Terra will update.

9.0 New Business:

9.1 Round Table

None at this time

10.0 Next Regular Meeting of the School Council of Parkside Montessori: Monday, June 3, 2024 @ 6pm

11.0 Adjourn 6:48pm



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Appendix 1- Trustee Liaison Notes for May 2024

Notes prepared by Sandy Fredland & Chris Johnston

The board met for regular meetings on –

- March 26
- April 23

Elementary Report Cards – The division is preparing a new format for elementary report cards, especially to align with the new curriculum and to support communication for parents. Our working group has met three times to review the outcomes for the new format. The goal is to have a full draft framework which covers each area of the new curriculum, for use by teachers next year.

Friends of Education Nominee - “The Board is proud to nominate The United Way Alberta Northwest for the Division’s 2023 – 2024 ASBA Zone 1 Friends of Education nominee. The United Way Alberta Northwest has supported the Grande Prairie Public School Division and the community for many years. Each year, the United Way steps in and provides backpacks filled with school supplies to students in need through their Tools for Schools initiative. In 2023, the United Way filled over 1200 backpacks for 96 schools across 30 communities. [...]The Board is very appreciative of the work that the United Way does to ensure Division students succeed at school and in life.”

2025/2026 Capital Plan - Each year, the board submits a ranked list of requests (asks) to the provincial government for capital investments in the communitis for public education. This year we submitted a list with four items, highlighting especially the urgent and clear need for more space in our high schools to meet enrolment trends in the coming years. The list was ranked using evidence of enrolments and based on capital planning guidelines, as well as using the work of a special group which met this year to perform a value scoping exercise on a modernization for Crystal Park school. The list is as follows:

1. Grande Prairie Composite High School permanent addition
2. Charles Spencer High School permanent addition
3. New Kensington area K – 8 school
4. Crystal Park School Modernization

Honouring Spirit Indigenous Student Award – “Division Leadership are thrilled to share that Paige Aubichon, grade 9, from the Grande Prairie Composite High School, was recently recognized as one of the Honouring Spirit award recipients by the Alberta School Boards Association. These awards recognize First Nations, Métis and Inuit students who model strength and commitment in the pursuit of their personal education path and embrace their own gifts, strengths and potential while celebrating the ways of their people.”

ASBA Edwin Parr Nominee – “The Board is pleased to nominate first year teacher Rayanne Beby, who teaches grade 5/6 at Riverstone Public School, as the Division’s ASBA Edwin Parr Award nominee.



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The Board heard that as a first-year teacher, Rayanne is a collaborative member of her school team and contributes to the school community morale in a variety of ways.”

2024-2025 Planning – Enrollments are currently on track for next year as planning continues for the 2024/2025 school year. For the last two years we have undershot our enrolment estimates substantially (5% per year, but projected at about 2%) which has caused problems with needing additional hiring in the fall. This year our administration has expanded the estimate, but it is better for our funding model to be underestimating rather than overestimating, to avoid clawbacks.

“The hiring of teachers for the 2024-2025 school year is nearing completion, and the process has been a highly successful one. An additional 18.8 Full Time Equivalent teachers, over and above the number of teachers who began the current school year, are being hired to begin next year.”

