

Parkside Montessori, School Council

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 4, 2024

6pm

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

In Attendance: Superintendent Sandy M., Trustee Joan N., Principal Corrine S., Vice-Principal Terra S., Teacher Jen A., Interim Chair Danielle P., Secretary Desiree M., Andrea J., Crystal G., Danielle H., Blythe M.

1.0 Call to Order at 6:00pm

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

3.0 * Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting –10/07/2024 (*motion to accept*) Danielle P. 2nd Crystal G.

4.0 Introduction of attendees and guests

4.1 Feature Teacher-Jen Arsenie, Learning Support Teacher

This is her 6th year at Parkside, 12th year teaching, loves Parkside for herself and her children, favourite activity recently has been the light up wall, admin attached sticky notes of each student and puts them up in the school, this year it was in her classroom. Purpose of activity is to pull names off the wall that staff “light up” for or they “light up” for staff. It was beautiful to see that last PL day the staff stampeded to “claim” students and it was a sentiment to how much staff cares for the children at Parkside.

5.0 Executive Reports-

5.1 Monthly Executive updates and/or advisory from Council Executive- nothing to report at this time.

5.2

6.0 Principal’s Report and Advising Opportunities

6.1 Superintendent’s Update

HIGHLIGHT: Superintendent advised that surveys will be going out to parents of students currently and previously enrolled in Parkside Montessori to gather information for capital planning discussions regarding the potential for expansion of Montessori programing to grade 8 and what it could look like.

Thanked those in attendance for having him. Recap on why he’s here. Previously in 2022/2023 Parkside Montessori school council came to meet with board of trustees with desire to see Montessori programming expanded to Gr. 8 so students could stay in Montessori until high school starts in Gr. 9. Came to Council last year to discuss and advised would revisit this fall. Has had communication with students as well. Central office is planning on rolling out a parent survey – still being finalized. Going to reach out to parents with children enrolled at Parkside Montessori and those who have students in 5,6,7, or 8 elsewhere to gather information for capital planning discussions.

In AB, individual school divisions don’t have authority to make decisions. Those decisions are made by a Capital Planning team serving at the provincial level with Alberta Education. 3-year capital plans are created to outline priorities.

GPPSD current 3-year plan prioritizes:

- permanent additions at Charles Spencer and Composite High School, finishing designs/phases that had originally been a part of the project.
- A request for a new school in Kensington (west side of GP), expecting 650 public school students in that area by the time development is complete.



Meeting Agenda

November 6, 2023

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- New Crystal Park School is a priority as well. Last year capital planning funded research on what a reno/modernization might look like. Result of that research was it would be less expensive to build new school as opposed to modernizing existing school.

Top priorities for capital budgets are safety issues and utilization rate. If schools are full that's when you're expecting that you'll be on a list for a new school. However, the list of schools that qualify for expansion/new infrastructure in terms of utilization rates is long. Since 2000 we've added 9 schools in Grande Prairie.

Parkside Montessori does not face any safety or major utilization issues so expansion in this school is not realistically going to be addressed with the competing needs at this time. However, there may be creative solutions that we could look at.

In September, the premier announced the capital accelerator program which is a dramatic increase in spending over the next 3 years, however a bulk of that is going towards Edmonton and Calgary. Going to poll parents to find out if there's interest in expansion to grade 8 and what parents are wanting for their children in terms of education and how Montessori education ties into that. We want to explore if there are deal-breakers for parents, what would you not want to see? IE. higher fees/location.

If Parkside Montessori could not extend to gr. 8, would parents transition from upper ELMO to do Montessori programming at another facility? Started capital planning process for this year, hoping to have the results of these surveys and discuss what avenues could be available in 2025. We know the fewer transitions a student has from school to school the more likely they are to be successful.

Parents in attendance discussed the culture at Parkside Montessori and why a possible extension of programming appeals to them.

6.2 Miss Corrine and Miss Terra's monthly report

In October: Fire evac drill and inspection, read a thon raised over 10k, school spirit day, MALT, photo retakes, Al Crawford indigenous drummer, Rooted connections art exhibit, Halloween costume day and parades x4, student clubs, yoyo club, nature club, card game club, continuation of Cree club, mini sticks club, established and had first meeting of student advisory who have identified 3 priorities – shared spaces for eating, more hot lunches, school extended to gr. 7&8. Presented plan "Building of Trust" Plan that emphasized having inter-classroom lunches. After school 4,5,6 destination imagination club – it's about developing creative solutions and critical thinking.

In Nov. we've already had the Triple Ball Tournament, kids had a lot of fun, Parkside accounted for a significant portion of those in attendance. Remembrance Day assembly will be hosted by Miss Desiree's & Mr. Josh's classes with a choir performance as well, Assessments ongoing for report cards and COL, another MALT, hoping in Dec. to do a movie afternoon with parents doing concession, team of engineers coming from Calgary to visit 4,5,6. Students sent some get well wishes to a valued school community member who is facing some health challenges. There will be an understanding your child's report card document coming home. Celebration of Learning will be done the same way as in the past but this year there will be parent mini-sessions incorporated as well.

Last year we had a decline in parent satisfaction with learning supports. We became curious about the disconnect between how school staff feels intervention is going and how we're building that understanding with our parent community. Addressing it a couple of ways: intentional parent



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communication, prioritizing parents coming in for plan review & educating parents about School Based Teams & Learning Support

6.3 Learning Support at Parkside Montessori

Miss Jen presented on Learning Support Teachers

Learning Support at Parkside Montessori

Teachers. LSTs play a key role in helping all students succeed. LST collaborates with teachers to create effective learning plans and provide additional support.

LSTs:

- Identify and assess students who might need additional support
- Coordinate services to meet goals
- Help students transition grades
- Assist teachers with strategies

What supports does Parkside Provide

Three tiers of support

1. Universal Instruction
2. Targeted Intervention
3. Individualized intensive supports

7.0 Trustee's Report- Joan Nellis, Trustee Liaison

Admin/operations was giving information on an administrative policy coming out regarding mobile devices - it's likely to come to a meeting soon for feedback. Holiday Card contest open to high school students. Bill 20 from the Gov of AB raised some questions from the board.

1. Should we ask for deposits if someone wants to run in the trustee election.
2. Criminal Record Checks – should they be required?

Group discussion. Parents can e-mail Joan with feedback.

Was going to remind Keedra, (Chair) that we have a meeting coming up on Thursday, Nov. 28 at 7pm at central office.

Joan will not be able to make the Dec. 2 meeting.

8.0 Old Business:

- 8.1 Call for nominations for current Executive position- discuss roles/terms of Vice Chair prior to the call-out for the position.

No present interest. Tabled to Dec.

- 8.2 Alberta School Council Engagement Grant (\$500)

Tabled to Dec.

- 8.3 Planning for Upcoming Events

- 8.3.1 Celebration of Learning, Potluck for Staff

Dec. 11 & 12 Potluck Lunch, Danielle P., Des & Keedra will work together

- 8.3.2 Brunch for Lunch

Dec. 18 – Wednesday – Des can captain kitchen again

Danielle P. can do shopping if she can do it on the Monday



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9.0 New Business:

9.1 Upcoming Fundraising Initiatives- discussion of proposed items

4 short term wish list items, in no particular order

- Whole school learning experiences (ie. Yoga instruction, hip hop dance instructor, AB musical theatre, science in motion, professor WOW) (\$5k)
- Robotics and coding/programming technology (lots for 4,5,6, lots for CASA, could use some for Gr. 1,2,3 (\$5k)
- Homereaders (any amount is useful \$500-\$1000)
- Maker's Space materials (loose parts carts until maker's space room becomes)
 - o Terra & Corrine to come back with estimated costs associated for loose parts carts

Council will revisit in coming months re: choice

9.2 Round Table

Suggestion: Can we make how learning tools support 4,5,6 student learning a parent mini session at Celebration of Learning|?

**10.0 Next Regular Meeting of the School Council of Parkside Montessori: [Monday, Dec. 2, 2024](#)
[@ 6pm](#)**

11.0 Adjourn 7:17pm

