

Parkside Montessori, School Council

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 3, 2025

6pm

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

Attendance: Joan Nellis (Trustee), Corrine Shmyruk (Principal), Terra Shewchuk (Vice-Principal), Miss Melissa (Feature Teacher), Keedra W (Chair), Desiree M (Secretary), Dani O (Parent), Dani H (Parent), Yana-lee K (Parent), Blythe M (Parent), Brenda Y (Parent)

1.0 Call to Order at 6:01pm

2.0 Review of Agenda\*- Keedra (motion to accept) , 2nd Dani O.

3.0 \* Approval of Minutes from Dec. 2, 2024 Meeting – Keedra (motion to accept)
January meeting had been cancelled, YanaLee 2nd

4.0 Introduction of attendees and guests

4.1 Feature Teacher – Miss Melissa

3rd year at Parkside, in ELMO 123. Has had some students for all three years now, well established relationships. Bittersweet feelings re: sending grade 3s on but also excited to continue working with the grade 2s and welcoming new grade 1s. Has a daughter in Mr. Josh’s and a pre-k daughter in Miss Laura’s. She has been with GPPSD for quite some time now. Finds that she learns more every day. Loves working in a Montessori Environment & that the Montessori approach allows for new interpretations of lessons & materials depending on the students. Especially enjoys watching her students present their learning to their parents at Celebration of Learning.

5.0 Executive Reports-

5.1 Monthly Executive updates and/or advisory from Council Executive- Keedra
Attended Chair Basics workshop through Division. Facilitator focused primarily on formal rules of order. Purpose of school council is another workshop that could be hosted with numerous schools. Interested in attending more council-related workshops.

5.1.1 Celebration of Learning Potluck

Was very well received again this year. Admin advs. we could probably cut the quantity by 1/3. Next year Des will show Admin the 2024 sign up layout and draft a new one that’s cut down a bit. Staff expressed their gratitude for everything provided.

5.1.2 Brunch for Lunch Debrief

Again, very well received, admin was told, best year yet! Next year will put emphasis on that all roasters can be filled to the very top as quickly as possible. Bacon was full but not packed full & we ran out. Ran out of sprinkles but otherwise quantities were perfect. Cost was about \$708 and we received \$690 in donations from parents.

List:

Costco

- Pancake Mix x 4
- Bacon 5 sets of 4 packs (20 total)
- 7 lg. packages of sausages
- Syrup – 1 extra large container (2L?)
- Whipped Cream – 10 canisters

- Chocolate Chips – one large yellow chipits bag
- Strawberries – 12 large packages
- Frozen mixed berries – 2 large bags
- 7 bags of navel oranges as no watermelons available

Superstore:

- Halal breakfast “bacon”/meat x 2 packages
- Canola Oil – small container
- Apple Sauce – 1 package
- Tin Foil & Parchment Paper
- Non-dairy whipped cream x 2 (Safeway as well if out at Superstore)

Homesteader Health:



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- Namaste Pancake Mix x 3 boxes (only need 2)
- 400g of sprinkles (could double)

**Bulk Barn**

6.0 Principal's Report and Advising Opportunities

6.1 Miss Corrine and Miss Terra's monthly report

Dec update: Education Foundation's Striving for Excellence award ceremony at NWP. Families in attendance had a great time and awards were well received.

In Dec.: Hold & secure drills, school spirit day and assembly, report cards, hot lunch, Celebration of Learning, book fair, 2 Christmas concerts, PJ & Decem-Bear debuted – well received.

January: Science in Motion with mobile planetarium – HUGE hit (admin even inspired to explore cost of getting our own "dome"), onesie/PJ day, school spirit day, Literacy Week with Starbooks café which was very well received again, Book Character Day, results report work with staff for feedback, PL Day focused on individual classroom data. When teachers make instructional and planning decisions, they're shifting to focus more on what's happening in their specific class as opposed to a blanket approach.

Miss Melissa added it was nice to have focused time to review the data as opposed to just collecting the data.

Coming up in Feb. MALT, lock down drills, some 456 students headed to central office to build kinder bags for newly enrolled kindergarten students, Community Kindness Week, kindness outreach: GPPSD schools & Central Office, GP Palliative Care Society, Centre for Newcomers, STARS, Bandaged Paws, Odyssey House, Phoenix Youth Group, local neighbourhood & school, GP Care Centre, GP Friendship Centre, are some of the local organizations that have been selected this year, Have a Heart/pink & red day, hot lunch, Family Day, Miss Jen training to do level B assessments, school spirit day & assembly, talent shows, pink shirt day, staff appreciation week.

Updates, admin procedure – GPPSD is increasing some fees, not going to affect Parkside Montessori specifically but they are looking for at a fee increase in academy programming.

Hockey Gr. 4-10 fee currently \$2800, and proposed increase to \$3000

Athletics 4-10 \$1400 to \$1550

Golf 9-12 \$1600 to \$1750

Athletics 10-12 \$300 staying the same

Parents in attendance found these increases to be reasonable.

Calendar for next year has been approved by board. Calendar has to accommodate diploma 2026 exams which are early (dates set by AB Ed), which in turn makes the start of the 2025 year earlier. Superintendent McDonald wanted to express appreciation for the parent response and effort that went into the surveys regarding the extension of Montessori Programming to grade 8. He will provide feedback/observations in the near future. Student advisory committee is writing a letter to Superintendent McDonald regarding the extension as well.

Admin is looking forward to their annual Assurance Meeting with Trustees and Central Office Ed. Exec. tomorrow (Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025).

Coming up in March – going to discuss potentially doing some more traditional parent teacher interviews in Upper ELMO456, looking for feedback.

Reviewed Annual Results Report for the 2023-24 school year and played a Blooket game to develop understanding, big hit with those in attendance.



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**7.0 Trustee's Report- Joan Nellis, Trustee Liaison**

January updates, last month we ratified an agreement with non-instructional staff (maintenance, custodial, etc.) achieved 4-year deal 2024-2028 which is wonderful. The deal sets the stage to collaborate & work with non-instructional staff.

Many ongoing meetings, a highlight was a recent transportation meeting which advised 99% of buses are arriving and departing from school on time.

Superintendent McDonald has handed in notice of resignation & will be retiring at the end of December. Ample notice gives lots of time to find a new superintendent & orientate a new board. In North Zone, there are 9 school divisions that meet on a regular basis, of the 9 – 6 are currently looking for superintendents. Hiring a new superintendent is one of the most significant task trustees will have on the table this year. Student registration starts March 10<sup>th</sup>. Last meeting had a big report on intervention supports. Intervention really started post-covid when provincial funding began in 2021. Results of intervention programs have been significantly & obviously beneficial, not just in a post-pandemic environment but as general practice. Funding from the province has been dramatically reduced to basically nothing. This could have negative effects in the future as to keep up with funding the division will have to pull funds from elsewhere to continue to finance the program themselves.

Members were given pamphlet on Board advocacy priorities (link [HERE](#))

**8.0 Old Business:**

**8.1 Alberta School Council Engagement Grant (\$500)**

Link to ASCA for information re: ASCE grant [HERE](#)

- Admin to email other schools to see if there is interest in combining a workshop

**8.2 Planning for Upcoming Events**

**8.2.1 Staff Appreciation Week**

8.2.1.1 Desiree motion to ask for \$300 budget from Fundraising Guild, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dani O.

8.2.1.2 Adhoc committee will discuss on social media and those less active on social media will be emailed for feedback/participation

**8.3 Summary of Current Guild Business**

Bottle Drive extremely successful raised approximately \$1850, 3-4x previous bottle drive earnings, Purdys raised over \$3000 again, 5050 earnings after fees around \$1275

**9.0 Election for Vice Chair**

9.1 Dani O. nominated by Desiree M., 1<sup>st</sup> call, 2<sup>nd</sup> call, 3<sup>rd</sup> call, passed by acclamation.

**10.0 New Business:**

**10.1 Movie Night**

Admin will send link of approved movies

- Could get a new release
- Discussed Dogman, Moana 2, Sonic 3, Wild Robot

Adhoc – Keedra, Des, Dani O., Dani H. Yana L.

Thinking March – Admin will email dates that could work

Ask for \$500 budget from Guild – want to throw a movie night at no cost to parents

**10.2 2025 Dance**

Tentatively in April led by Dani O. & Brenda

- Students may come to council in March to request
- Adhoc to be determined later

**10.3 Round Table**

**11.0 Next Regular Meeting of the School Council of Parkside Montessori: March. 3, 2025 @ 6pm**



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12.0 Adjourn – 7:22pm

