

Annual School Council Report Parkside Montessori 2023/2024

September 2023-June 2024

Completed by: Danielle Pellerin

September 5th was a beautiful day full of excitement as students returned to school.

The school council Annual General Meeting was held on Monday September 25, 2023. Elections were held for school council Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. Danielle Pellerin was re-elected for council Chair; Amy Johann was elected for Vice-Chair and Desiree Miguel was elected as Secretary.

During the October meeting, admin presented the School Education Plans via Slideshow and Optimum Learning Framework.

Council along with several parents provided a potluck dinner for staff during Celebration of Learning in November. Council organized a Parent Information Night about the Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) that students were doing about Slumberkins and Little Spot which took place during Celebration of Learning.

The first event Council participated in, was organizing, and cooking 'Brunch for Lunch'- a pancake breakfast for all students and staff. This took place right before Christmas break and was a highly successful event. Having everyone together for a communal meal was a beautiful sight.

PAT results were reviewed at the January meeting.

In February School Council hosted a Blanket Exercise that was open to parents and other school councils in the area. This event was facilitated by the GPPSD Indigenous Coordinator and her team of Liaisons. We were honoured to have Elder and Knowledge Keeper join us as well. This event was a first for Parkside and was well received. Participants were engaged and went away with a better understanding of the history of Indigenous people in Canada.

Students of Parkside approached council with a proposal for a Valentine's Day dance; council instead offered a dance to be held in March. The students worked with council to provide an 'Over the Rainbow' Family Dance that was held close to St. Patrick's Day. The Fundraising Guild also used the dance as a fundraiser, hosting a raffle during the event.

During the March meeting attendees discussed the Division's dress code policy and the input was shared with Central Office.

In April council discussed the proposed resolutions for the ASCA Annual General Meeting. I attended the meeting virtually and voted accordingly based on the decisions made by council during those discussions.

With the arrival of warmer weather and the promise of Spring we entered Staff Appreciation Week. We gathered donations from Parkside families, with those funds members of council organized a Kindness Cart which contained several treats and small gifts that we delivered to all the staff members. Council also reached out to parents and were able to provide a potluck lunch for all the staff.

Superintendent Sandy McDonald attended our May meeting and discussed the possibility of expanding Parkside to include grades 7 and 8. He gave us some insight into what the spending priorities are for the Division and let us know he will be coming back with more information early next school year.

During our regular June meeting we reviewed the Alberta Education 3-year plan results, and we also made the decision to use the money remaining from the \$500 Alberta School Council Engagement Grant to provide book sets for our families on the topic of Indigenous Peoples and Truth & Reconciliation.

Throughout the year council worked with the Fundraising Guild to offer several fundraising options in our efforts to purchase new mats for the gym.