

## **Muriel Martin School Council Meeting Minutes**

January 8, 2024 - 7:00 pm

**Attendees: Nicole Burke, Joseline Leroux, Chris Smith, Nathan Riske, Shipra Seth, Taylor Schappert, John Allen (Trustee), Erin Pickard, Marteen Lindstrom, Catherine Burkell, Jeff Birdsell, Emma Lafreniere, Amanda Walters, Tamie Whitecotton, Jonathan Martin, Beth Frigo,**

**Approval of previous minutes – (Joseline/Erin)**

### **Trustee update – Mr. John Allen**

- John had the opportunity to attend several board meetings over the past few months.
- Regular Board Meeting in November 2023: A request for 9 modular classrooms for Muriel Martin was considered as the school population is increasing annually.
- Board Trustees attended meetings for Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) and Public School Boards Association of Alberta.
- ASBA: one primary initiative presented was the community poll for special needs education. This mandate was set in 2003 and has not been updated since. A report will be issued in January 2024.
- Council of School Councils (COSC) Meeting: In November 2023, a board meeting regarding an audit of the state of division reserves was held. This audit indicated a decrease in funding reserves, due to concerns in one school.
- An editorial board meeting with the St. Albert Gazette was held to discuss school based reporting. This meeting intended to determine what content to report and how to report school based events and activities.
- **Upcoming events:** St. Albert Public Schools Kindergarten Fair on January 13, 2024.
- January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 – Parent Information Session: Internet Safety – at Paul Kane High School

### **Discussion of proposed updates to Board Policies: Feedback**

- Policy C-130: Student Transportation: No Comments
- Policy D-150: Support Staff Growth, Supervision and Evaluation: No Comments
- Policy D-160: Support Staff Transfers: No Comments
- Policy D-180: Resolution of Complaints/Concerns Regarding Division Staff: No Comments.

### **Administration update: Mme. Lindstrom & Mr. Jeff Birdsell**

- Ski Club: January 11<sup>th</sup> 2024 ski trip: Postponed (due to weather conditions). An email has been sent to notify parents of this change. The ski trip has been tentatively rescheduled to April 4, 2024.
- Several clubs are recommencing or initially starting-up in January 2024:
  - Division 1 Junior Choir
  - Glee Club and Band Club (Div. 2): Concert - January 25 at 7:00pm
  - Indoor Running Club: Competitive running club – Harriers Race (January 27<sup>th</sup>) and Running Room Games (March 6 & 7, 2024)

- Climbing Club starting in February 2024
  - MM Hockey League has commenced.
  - MM Games Club: Different games are played weekly during lunch break
  - Leadership Club
  - Safe Spaces Club → a new club intended to provide students with a safe place to celebrate their unique characteristics. This is a student-initiated club where student's questions and suggestions will be considered to help guide content discussed.
- **Education Plan:** Muriel Martin Administration Team presents on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024: The key focus areas of the plan include: 1) Academic Equity through assessment and instructional practice (Small group instructional practice) – and 2) Belonging and Feeling Connected – through the development of school clubs that represent the student population and their interests.
  - Polar Bear Recess: A discussion around this club was initiated. The Polar Bear Recess will encourage students to go out in all temperatures, in particular cold winter conditions.
  - St. Albert Public Schools Kindergarten Fair on January 13, 2024.
  - Muriel Martin Kindergarten Information Evening on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – 6:30 pm.
  - Report cards: Issued twice yearly. Report cards will be issued on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Parents/Guardians will need their PowerSchool login ID and Password to access the report cards. The report cards are outcomes/progress based and identify the curricular objectives the student is exceeding, meeting, or working towards. The report cards will indicate student progress by identifying their strengths and areas that require improvement.
  - Pancake Breakfast: Questions regarding pancake breakfast catering were discussed. The conversation will be re-initiated in Fall 2024. Tamie Whitecotton has volunteered to help plan this event for the 2024/2025 School Year. Pancake Breakfast/Revellion: Food Packaging Waste was discussed to determine how to make it more environmentally friendly.

**Update re: proposed 2024/2025 calendar feedback**

- Division provided with feedback on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- 45 responses were attained with variable feedback. However, the majority of feedback was positive regarding the prospect of removing early dismissal days on Wednesdays, in favour of a full day off on a Friday or Monday.
- Action Item: Provide approved calendar to SIGIS as soon as possible. Coordinate with other grade levels.
- Staff Member feedback: More collaborative time to work with colleagues.

**Parent Questions/Concerns (10 minutes):**

- A parent requested more information on club dates and times. **Action item:** Add new club dates and times on parent planner. The parent was informed that the website calendar and parent planner typically state club information → Additionally, some club announcements are made by the administration team visiting classrooms.
- Screen Time during Lunch Break Discussion: A parent raised a concern regarding screen time use during lunch. Some children may not be able to attend to eating and watching the screen simultaneously. In response, some parents expressed that students may need a break from conversing with peers during meals, may not have practice eating and conversing simultaneously, and expressed that they support teachers to reasonably use screen time during lunch. Presently, screen time use is up to the teacher's discretion.
- **Action item:** Information/data will be collected from staff.
- Teacher Perspective: The teacher noted that some students benefit from a break during lunch from interpersonal interaction, which is facilitated by screen time. Additionally, due to changes in supervision schedules and allotted prep times, screen time can be beneficial by alleviating the time constraints of lesson planning during lunch.

REMINDER: Feb 29<sup>th</sup>: 7pm (Free) Behaviour Wayfinding Basics with Aynsley Graham at 7 pm. Join Aynsley as she provides assessment tools, strategies, and positive behavior supports for parents and caregivers. This program provides insights into why children often struggle, and gives concrete strategies related to bedtime, academic work at home, morning routines, sibling conflict, aggression, and listening skills. Parents are encouraged to ask all their questions! Free to attend, but we ask that arrangements be made to leave children at home.

- No pre-register
- In the Gym

Adjourn: 8:15pm.

**Next meeting – February 5 at 7 pm**