

Muriel Martin School Council Meeting

May 6, 2024

7:03 pm

School Council Purpose Statement: *As we work to support and enhance student learning at Muriel Martin, School Council provides an open forum for parents, administration and community members to participate, discuss and reflect on topics that pertain to the school. School Council's advisory role is intended to engage all voices within the school community, and advise the principal and school board, through its trustee representative, on all matters relating to the school.*

Attendees

In Person: Robyn Meara, Nathan Riske, Erin Pickard, Joseline Leroux, Nikky McLean, Tara Smith, Cath Burkell, Marteen Lindstrom, Shipra Seth, Stephanie Faulkner, Tamie Whitecotton, Suzanne Sparling, Patricia Smith, Chris Smith, Trina Goruk, Jeff Birdsell, Laura Shillington, Jason Moor

Virtual: Corey Laird, Dave Tolson, Amanda Walter, Monique Waters

1. Approval of minutes from last meeting – Cath Burkell motioned, Joseline Leroux 2nd Update Ski day to reflect later in the season spring skiing would be more expensive. Pricing was honored this year due to weather delays

2. School Council Business

a. Approval of 2024/2025 School Council meeting dates

- i. Suggested to keep meetings on Monday at 7 pm
- ii. Suggested to keep hybrid meetings - online/in-person. Consider offering childcare for in-person meetings next year on an as-needed basis

Marteen – feedback on our tech set up currently makes it difficult to have online access. Address this in the fall with the executive

Question regarding elections – Oct 7 is AGM

September 16 - Informal meet & greet with school council

October 7 – Annual General Meeting (AGM) elections

November 4

December 9 - Christmas social

January 20

March 3

April 7

May 5

June 9 - Year end social

Jose motioned, 2nd

b. Update - mud issues around the school

Facilities came out to assess, adding asphalt to areas that grass will not grow during summer – areas in the back of the school and a few entrances that nothing will grow. Landon Galesloot's company donated mulch for under the trees, we will have a day for parents/families to help spread mulch. Date TBD

3. Trustee update – Mr. John Allen (absent, Shipra shared a summary of the previous month's Trustee information)

4. Administration update

- a. Staff Appreciation Thank yous
 - Thank you notes are posted. Leadership students will take down and organize to get back to each teacher and staff. Sunterra Market to cater out at wilderness school for PD day for staff (donated by parents)
- b. Division Art Show – open May 7 – 15th
 - Runs until May 15. 20 pieces from MM are posted as well as the other school in the division.
- c. Trex Art Exhibit – Alberta Gallery of Art “What’s Held”
 - On display at the school. Lesson plans associated with the exhibit to help students connect with art. Pilot program that Jeff brought in
- d. Staffing Announcements
 - Monique Waters accepted a transfer at Leo Nickerson
 - New Assistant Principal: Ronnie Pirot – from Parkland School Division
- e. April highlights
 - Autism awareness week – students had artwork selected to be put on a t-shirt. MMTV featured educating about neurodivergent children. Stripes the Zebra Artwork displayed in the library.
 - Education week – admin for the day (3) grade 6 students. Numerous community members came in to the school to read to classrooms, including Gene Principe. TrexArt
 - Parent appreciation for cookies and coffee
 - April 21 – mental agility with Dr. Lisa Belanger
 - ATA induction for new teachers: Tatianna Goulart-Siladji, Cassie Fehr, and Claudia De Crescentis
 - Saturday long service awards for 3 staff members: Selesta Beauchamp, Bruce Fawcett and Monique Waters
- f. Upcoming events:
 - May 1 Early dismissal/ No kinder
 - May 1st Jr. Choir / Glee Concert
 - May 2nd Choir Tour
 - May 17 PD Day
 - May 21 Grade 6 immunization
 - Added
 - June 20 Year End BBQ
 - June 26 Last day of school assembly and grade 6 clap-out farewell. Parents are welcome June calendar is full of upcoming field trips for all grades

5. Parent Questions/concerns/kudos: We welcome parents to add agenda items in advance. You may do so by emailing sc-vicechair.mm@spschools.org or marteen.lindstrom@spschools.org by no later than May 2, 2024

a. Update on SOGI: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity work by guests Les Kirchner & Janelle Hobbs from St. Albert Public School Division (15 minute presentation) Jeff Birdsell and Laura Shillington are the teachers on-site responsible for in school SOGI and pride events

Please see attached slideshow and parent handout

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There were quite a few parent questions and concerns regarding the role of SOGI. Further conversations regarding SOGI can be directed to Les Kirchner, Director Leadership and Human Resources: les.kircher@spschools.org and Janelle Hobbs, Division Coordinator Inclusive Education: janelle.hobbs@spschools.org

School level SOGI (Jeff and Laura): what is discussed at an elementary level. The books in the school have come recommended to the school from a variety of sources, staff read and ensure that it is age appropriate for the population. School needs to be a mirror and a window for students, be reflective of a diverse population and expose students to that diverse population.

Sexual orientation is not addressed at the elementary level, individual students are supported and directed back to parents

June 10-14 Pride Week:

All classes will be participating in the following activities over the course of Pride

Week: - Positive sidewalk chalk messages of uniqueness and inclusion

- Mentor text readings / literacy (viewing/listening)

- Letter of self acceptance to self – literacy activity (writing)

- Art Mandalas

- Kindness wall of positive messages on sticky notes reflecting inclusion and love around the school. Students are free to take a note that speaks to them and leave a note or two. Safe spaces club (Div 2 grade 4-6) focuses on uniqueness, everyone is welcomed. When ever you want to show up you are welcomed.

Future safe space club: every Monday lunch period

- Lots of cooperative games

- Poster to advertise their next event: friendship bracelet trading

- Helping organize positive sticky note message board

- Several age appropriate books are shared. Messages focus on all kinds of families, accepting all people, the diversity of people.

Upcoming Safe Spaces Activities:

- Lunchtime picnic

- Cooperative games

- Poster making to promote friendship bracelets

- Making of friendship bracelets

- Making post-it notes for kindness wall (Pride Week activity)

Marteen – it is important to support and create safe spaces for at-risk populations whether that is Aboriginal populations or LGBT population. We will continue to support inclusive spaces until legislation changes. Marteen encourages all parents to connect with classroom teachers regarding what is being shared at the classroom level during Pride Week.

June 3 - School Council & Fundraising social

8:07 pm adjournment

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