

Muriel Martin School Council Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2024

7:00 pm

Attendees

In person: Marteen Lindstrom, Jeff Birdsell, Roni Pirot, Erin Pickard, Chris Smith, Faheem Khan, Brenne Batchelor, Trina Goruk, Lauren Parker, Joseline Leroux, Tamie Whitecotton, Amanda Walter, Tara Smith, Stephaine Faulkner, Cory Laird, Dave Tolson, Nikky McLean, Taylo Schappert, Shipra Seth, Annette Klassen, Robyn Meara, Katey Stuparyk, Ashley Malin, Jessica Griffeth, Jamie McBryan, Sheena Atamanchuk

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.*

Approval of Previous Minutes – (Josline motioned, Erin 2nd)

Passed without dissent

School Council Business

- a. AGM Elections – Co - Chair: Tamie Whitecotton/Faheem; Vice-Chair: Amanda (volunteer); Secretary: Nikky McLean (incumbent)
 - Passed without dissent
 - I. Confirmation of Mme. Lindstrom as Principal; Mr. Birdsell/Mme. Pirot to act as teacher representatives
- b. Revisions to MM School/Parent Community Facebook group
 - I. Purpose/Rules
 - A grey area for Parent Council, not overseen by the school but is affiliated with the school.
 - Admin is not members of the Facebook page. Sometime info is presented like it is coming from the school but it is not an official communication avenue for the school/admin however there are some teachers who post or correct information. Facebook is not the means that admin would like staff to communicate with families.
 - Admin would like families to go to the website / parent planner or have teachers connect with families.
 - School website is managed by school but not modified or customizable for a discussion board.
 - Put the parent planner on the website with fundraising
 - II. Discussion regarding permitted posts
 - Advertising on the site is usually removed due to possible conflict/profit.
 - Have the Facebook admin's redirect questions to the school website/parent planner.
 - It allows for a broader reach for parents to be involved with a school community.
 - Suggestion to make a post from Facebook admin to clarify what the role is.

- Change the setting to admin approved. Blocking commenting/engagement won't allow for the community aspect of the page.
- Renaming to remove "School" call it Parent Community
- A variety of admins (council and parent community) – to update the rules/regs to the page.
- Facebook survey: 132 votes (people could vote for more than 1 option)
 - Info on school events – 52
 - Info on upcoming council topics – 13
 - Info on kid friendly community events (Family Resource Center) – 21
 - Info on upcoming parent presentations/events – 18
 - Info on community groups & presentations/events related to parenting & elementary aged kids – 16
 - Updates about students participating in the community - 8
- c. Meetings: hybrid/in-person only/alternating hybrid & in-person
 - Admin feedback that hybrid technology is causing problems with virtual meetings – hearing/no mics/limited view. School funds will not be used to upgrade technology to facilitate virtual meetings. Passing the laptop around helped with hearing.
 - Google Meets
 - Online Survey 25 people voted for hybrid meetings.
 - Hybrid meetings are tougher to interact with the discussion.
 - Guidelines for hybrid meetings and etiquette showing screen, especially with difficult discussions. There needs to be a level of trust between in person/virtual.
 - Fundraising cannot contribute to technology as this aspect doesn't impact students.
 - Donated technology – concerns would be network security.
 - Vote to keep hybrid meetings – **passed without dissent.**

Review of Stakeholder Policy Updates: D-620 Staff Development; G-130 Campaigning at Division Sites; G-610-AR Advertising by External Organizations:

October 31, 2024 deadline for feedback.

If there is any feedback/edits send to school council. All Policy updates are scheduled for review on the div office website.

Trustee – Kim Armstrong, joining next meeting

Administration Update –Mme. Lindstrom

Sept highlights

- MM meet the Teacher (Aug.) – staff and parents positive feedback, great way to start the year.
- Dropping off school supplies prior to first day, settled a lot of back to school anxiety
- Staggered Entry
- Walk/Run Club
- XC Fun Run
- Terry Fox Assembly and Run – school community raised over \$8,000
- Orange Shirt Day – classroom activities, cross aged pairing activity

Looking forward to Oct

- Glee Club starting

- Grade 6 Volleyball
- Student Leadership – grade 6 students invited to join
- Other Clubs- Recess Club, Safe Spaces, Games Club
- Gr. 5 Patrollers – training new patrollers
- Oct. 10 Thanksgiving Assembly- Period 7
- Oct. 10 Turkey Trot- Periods 4&5 – parents welcome to attend
- Oct. 11 Staff Meeting & PD with Cadmus Delorme keynote Reconciliation, held at Demko
- Oct. 14 No School- Thanksgiving
- Oct. 21 Retakes and Class Photos
- Oct. 25 Family Dance – Halloween Theme
- Oct. 31 Halloween Activities- costumes all day- festivities in the PM – no school the day after Halloween (PD Day)
- Nov. 1 Staff Meeting and PD- Curriculum in the morning
- Nov. 4 Dino Spirit Day- wear your MM colours Blue and Green
- Nov. 4 School Council/ MMFS

Changes to note

- Staffing
- 11 new staff members
 - Roni Pirot, Assistant Principal
 - Kristie Simons Brahim, Counselor
 - Kinder: Rita Johner, Cheryl Williams
 - 1: Kelsie Moore, Isabelle Rioux
 - 3: Tatianna Goulart-Siladji
 - 4: Sydney Hansen
 - 6: Allison Watson, Emily Grumpelt
 - Support: Joyce Pastor

- Enrollment

678 students (decrease in Kinder numbers)

- Gov't Assessments

Subs or literacy teachers in to facilitate. Sept/Jan/May. Provide one to one meeting with children. Parent feedback: the assessment requirements for the age of children and the demand. Expensive for the school, takes away resources. Encouraged to email your MLA if you have a concerns regarding these assessments.

Last year, School got data at the end of the year to identify students who are at risk.

As a school, it helps identify kids who need more risk/support/targeted instruction. How is the information used, little to no return to school or parents.

K-gr. 3 current. Gr 4 & 5 will be included next year.

- New timetable / calendar/ daily DPA

Feedback from staff with morning wellness break (part of instructional time) and connected to DPA, gives mental health break. Students are enjoying “3” recesses. Flipped outside and eating time: kids are hungry for lunch.

Teachers would like to take students off school property – during Wellness - (community walk) parents will be getting an excursion permission forms – expanding the community.

- Regulation Room / Gross Motor space

Currently being set up, Rm 118. Added a wall to create a sensory space, under construction, to be completed by November. Other side will have gross motor equipment like stationary bike.

Not having a traditional concert this year, MM Showcase in May 15. This will include art walk, highlighting different things throughout the school in a variety of subjects/activities. There will be grade level performances, to be cycled through.

Parent Council –for parent engagement – typically Thursday

-Healthy Eating presentation, Little Warriors presentation, Family Fun nights, Workshops regarding anxiety.

-suggested: EPS presentation regarding internet safety (free), running a family on a budget (financial literacy), Regulation/emotions and feelings (hosted by new school counsellor)

- Reid Maxwell Paralympian, former MM student, won an Olympic silver medal

Parent Questions/concerns/kudos: We welcome parents to add agenda items in advance. You may do so by emailing sc-chair.mm@spschools.org or marteen.lindstrom@spschools.org by no later than October 3 2024.

Door buzzer in context of lock and secure incident

- Policies in place/emergency protocols are practiced (fire drills, lock downs, and had hold and secure, shelter in place)
- Hold and secure (threat is outside of the school): outside doors are always locked, controlled dismissal from school. Kids can travel within the school but not outside.
- Parent contacted RCMP and RCMP told to talk to the school.
- Buzzer system: familiar adults are buzzed in, there is a two-way communication to ask reason for visit or who person is there to see.
- Police presence has been increased in the past, unfortunately we cannot do anything about our neighbors other than being aware
- Feedback: Staff managed the situation really well, students felt safe.
- **Addition to the minutes:** <https://www.alberta.ca/report-suspicious-property>

Kudos: parent email about the meet the teacher and staggered entry, really helped start the year positively
Parent email positive feedback regarding wellness break

Next meeting – November 4, 2024 7:00pm Hybrid

Meeting Adjourned: 8:26 pm