

# Muriel Martin School Council Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2024

7:03 pm

## **Attendees:**

**In person:** Marteen Lindstrom, Roni Piro, Faheem Khan, Cory Laird, Chris Smith, Kim Armstrong, Robyn Meara, Stephanie Faulker, Erin Pickard, Joseline Leroux, Tamie Whitecotton.

**Online:** Amanda Walter, Ashley Malin, Jessica Griffeth, Taylor Schappert

**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.*

## **Land Acknowledgement**

*Acknowledgment of Treaty 6 Territory and the Metis Lands. The School Administration, Staff, School Council and attending caregivers acknowledge that we are meeting on Treaty 6 territory and on the homelands of the Metis Nation. We acknowledge all Indigenous peoples who have walked these lands for centuries. We acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past. We also recognize and are committed to learning more about how colonial acts and policies are still prevalent and continue to negatively impact Indigenous peoples. We dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration*

**Approve the addition of Land Acknowledgment to the agenda (ongoing) - Joseline motioned, Erin 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed without dissent**

**Approval of Previous Minutes October 7, 2024 – anyone opposed, No. Passed without dissent**

Addition to minutes: SCAN : <https://www.alberta.ca/report-suspicious-property>

**Correct Marteen's name**

**Review COSC Meeting (Partners in Education, Did you know? – found on division website)**

COSC: Council of School Councils – Next meeting January 30, 2025 email chair/vice chair with any feedback/questions

Meeting with the trustees and other school council members within the division. Opportunity to work together with other schools to put on information sessions/courses for parents. Councils can pool funds together to offer bigger events/speakers. There are grants School Council can apply to further reach the community.

High school grade 10 students: working on building a home (20 students) learning all the trades, given credit towards diploma. Building Futures and Encore Master Builders are partners in this project. The home has already sold. 143 Jennifer Cres.

The division adding Career Pathways for students. More opportunities for work experience, gaining certifications, pre-requisites for further programs (dual credit: high school credit and pre-reqs for post secondary)

Kim Armstrong:

Partners in Education: on the division website.

Finding ways to support parents/community in engaging with the school (teachers & administrators).

Rebuilding positive partnerships between parents and school staff.

Did you know? Board of trustee information sheet. In order to value publicly elected trustees, people need to know the role of a trustee. It is an election year (2025) for our trustees.

**Committee to review and reformat (if required) MM Facebook page – see attached guidelines below:**

Forming a sub-committee – send an email to chair/vice chair

### **Trustee Report – Kim Armstrong**

September Meeting Summary: budgeting process has begun, the board has approval points, update points for the allocation of funds. Services used by all schools: allocated from the whole funds. Technology is discussed, smaller schools allotment can be adjusted. Any initiatives that need to be met. Funds are set aside for staffing changes. There are 4-5 meetings between the board, division and principals to come to agreements on the budget. Schools submit projections of their population

Minister of Education to review how funds are issued to school divisions, currently a weighted moving average. The bridging funding that was in place the last 3 years has ended, this has impacted our division due to the growth that continues to occur yearly in our population.

Budget to be released tentatively in March 2025

October Meeting Summary: Kim wasn't present due to family emergency. The agenda and minutes are shared on the division website:

Camp Unity at Bellrose: inclusive/integrated activities, started with sport competitions: student athletes paired with students in the GOALS program. The shared a camp that was organized and attended by students

Community Policing Program RCMP: share trends/issues that RCMP see impact students within our division.

The Policy Review has started on the (3) policies (shared below) – some policies have been a mandate from Alberta Education. Over the years the Board has reviewed/written these policies to better fit our division. The Board has educated themselves over the years to fully understand these policies and make them meaningful policy, they have taken the feedback and information from the community and stakeholders in reviewing these.

Policy development/review is one of the most important roles of the board of trustees as it drives our division.

The Board has begun working on reviewing our foundational statements, looking for feedback from our school community stakeholders.

Roots of Empathy: grades 2-5. Facilitator is paired with a mother and child (ages 6-9 months) to build empathy within our schools

Infrastructure update: working with the provincial and municipal levels to have solid plans for new schools built.

A new amendment to the Education Act by the provincial government: this impacts all parents. The board is aware of the difficult position this places on schools/communities. Changes to how sexual/reproductive education is presented to students (opt-in, rather than opt-out).

### **Review of Stakeholder Policy Updates - submissions due Dec. 5, 2024**

- New, Use of Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media in Schools
- A-110, Welcoming, Caring, Respectful, Inclusive, and Safe Learning and Working Environments
- A-180, Anti-Racism
- B-160, Trustee Honoraria and Expense Reimbursement

Update on policy meeting: collected information from various community stakeholders, going through the feedback. In person meeting provided a lot of constructive feedback

### **Administration Update –Mme Lindstrom**

- Sacred Teachings - Miss Sissy October 25 presentation. Love and Belonging, the yellow brick road built by student bricks. The next Sacred Teaching is Wisdom – building a community beaver dam based on student logs with their ideas around wisdom
- Grade 6 Engagement - Manuel Desa (Desa School of Karate) Inner strength, kindness, self control. Focuses on leadership.
- Halloween Activities – Halloween parade. Cross-aged activities, trick or trivia event
- PTI / Book Fair
- Remembrance Day Ceremony – Friday Nov. 8
- Volleyball – grade 6s triple ball, play Ronald Harvey in two weekday games
- Métis Week – Nov 18-22: connected with St. Albert Public Library for information about Tea and Bannock, students will take part in our library. Metis trails set up. Amy Watson (division rep) dot art.
- December - holiday traditions. Pancake breakfast/Réveillon Dec 18. Skate day Dec 13. Days of fitness/giving

### **2025-26 Draft School Year Calendar**

- staggered entry days, with all students starting after the long weekend
- November full week fall break – the feedback from the survey (staff/parents last year) wanted a full week. 80% of staff, 72% of parents were in favor/or indifferent to fall break
- Keeping full day PD days
- feedback by November 15 to Paul McCloud email:

### **Ideas for Parent Engagement Sessions**

- Inclusion Corner
- Pancake Breakfast & Réveillon
- How to run a family on Budget
- Family Game night, math night or coding night?
- WhatsApp
- QR codes

- Table for engagement during the book fair and parent/teacher interviews
- EPS safety course for parents (Hillgrove hosted) and/or RCMP

Tammie & Faheem to connect with other school councils and see what they have in place, chat with admin to see what we can facilitate within our school. First sessions would not be until January

**Parent Questions/concerns/kudos:** We welcome parents to add agenda items in advance. You may do so by emailing [sc-chair.mm@spschools.org](mailto:sc-chair.mm@spschools.org) or [marteen.lindstrom@spschools.org](mailto:marteen.lindstrom@spschools.org) by no later than November 1, 2024

**Next meeting – December 9, 2024 7:00pm. Social Event at the school in person, option for agenda presented (if there is a set agenda, hybrid will be offered)**

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:23 pm**

