

École Montrose School Council

Meeting Minutes

16 MARCH 2022 / 7:00 PM / Zoom

ATTENDEES

Corry Harper(Chair), Allison Hill(Secretary), Maxine Herbert, Andrea Couture(Principal), Joanne Peters, Johanne Kemp, Andrea Willman, Chris Johnston (trustee), Katie Scully

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** - 7:04 PM by Corry
2. **Welcome & Introductions**; Quorum verified
3. **Review & Approval of Agenda**
 - a. MOTION to approve agenda - Joanne, seconded - Maxine
4. **Review & Approval of Minutes**
 - a. MOTION to approve - Joanne; seconded - Andrea W
5. **Standing Items**
 - a. Chair Report
 - i. Attended ASCA workshop -> focus was on ways of increasing engagement with school council
 - b. Trustee's Report
 - i. COVID Admin policy rescinded due to changes in provincial guidance
 - ii. 2022-23 School calendar approved
 1. September 30th will be a non-operational day; motion approved by Board that this will be a non-operational day going forward
 2. December 2nd day off in lieu of fall PTI's moved to December 23rd
 - iii. Board met with Minister Toews and Allard on Feb 4th; Min Allard not in favor of new curriculum as developed
 - iv. Government is moving ahead with K to 3 curriculum, starting in September 2022; Board/schools are required by legislation to implement
 - v. Provincial budget released Feb 24th - additional info forthcoming regarding funding details however it does include

more than \$700 million increase to learning support funding

- vi. Presentation to the board regarding energy management initiatives implemented across the Division ~ have realized 3.5 million in savings so far and anticipate another 2 million in savings over the next 3 years

Question: Is there a reason why spring break can't be at a set time every year instead of being attached to Easter as it is in some years? Not everyone celebrates the same holidays therefore would like to see a standard March break instead of attaching it to a religious holiday.

-> Andrea to share document that outlines different reasoning on how school breaks are determined, some of which is based on parent feedback

c. Principal's Report

- i. Monday (March 21st) is ski day for Gr 7 & 8's
- ii. Winter Carnival was a success and enjoyed by the students
- iii. Current social/emotional learning topic is honesty
- iv. Registration is ongoing - looking at hosting open houses now that restrictions have lifted
- v. Report cards available through School Engage tomorrow with PTI's next week (in person and phone call options available)
- vi. Logistics to be determined however hoping to offer hybrid option of in-person and virtual for future school council meetings

6. School Results Report (continued from previous meetings_

- a. How are we doing in educating students in FI language & ways we can improve: French language and culture committee (comprised of 4 teachers & 1 administrator) created to support strategies and instructional practices moving forward
- b. Outcome: Developing, and applying First Nation, Métis and Inuit foundational knowledge with staff and students.
 - i. Results are high but still have a way to go
 - ii. Elder Theresa Gladue is at the school every Tuesday to provide authentic learning experiences and knowledge related to the Seven Sacred Teachings and the Cree culture with students
 - iii. School also exploring ways to improve parent awareness of this learning

7. New Business

- a. Cell phone policy review
 - i. Policy has been sent home to junior high students and is also posted on website
 - ii. Phones are to be stored in lockers during school hours (including lunch & recess)
 - iii. Only exception is when teacher's have explicitly stated personal devices can be used in class, for example, for a class project or a fun day when devices are permitted to be used

- iv. If students are found to be in violation of policy:
 - 1. 1st offense: verbal warning & phone goes in locker
 - 2. 2nd offense: verbal warning, phone confiscated til the end of the school day, and parent/guardian is called
 - 3. 3rd offense: verbal warning, phone confiscated, and will only be released to parent/guardian and Corry to discuss.

Question: What about situations where a student requires their phone at the end of the day but parent/guardian can't get to the school before then to pickup? For example, students walks home alone and phone is for safety purposes/does not have a landline at home

-> Policy designed such that progressive steps in dealing with violations will minimize how often step 3 is reached. However situations where step 3 will create an undue hardship will be discussed on a case by case basis with the parent/guardian

8. Round Table

- a. Andrea W shared info on the Ditch the Draft event happening at City Hall on April 2nd

9. Next meeting - Wednesday, April 20th at 7 pm at the school (potentially also a virtual option_

10. Meeting Adjourned - 8:11 pm