

École Montrose School Council

Meeting Minutes

19 JANUARY 2022 / 6:30 PM / Zoom

ATTENDEES

Corry Harper(Chair), Heidi George(Vice-Chair), Allison Hill(Secretary), Maxine Herbert, Andrea Couture(Principal), Joanne Peters, Chris Johnston(Trustee), Johanne Kemp, Kristie Caldwell, Kim Pinnock

MINUTES

1. Call to Order - 6:38 PM by Corry
2. Welcome & Introductions; Quorum verified
3. Review & Approval of Agenda
 - a. MOTION to approve agenda - Kristie
4. Review & Approval of Minutes
 - a. MOTION to approve - Joanne; seconded - Kristie
5. Standing Items
 - a. Chair Report
 - i. Dec 9 Chair Liaison meeting
 1. Discussed ways of increasing school council engagement within schools/parent community. Some schools are finding increased involvement with virtual meetings whereas others are experiencing a decrease
 2. Upcoming ASCA workshops held virtually on Jan 27th, FEB 17th, & Mar 17th. Encourage all to attend
 3. Boundary change discussion - new boundaries come into effect for 2022/23 school year
 - ii. Heidi - ASCA update
 1. Attended workshop - discussed School Council Purpose (what we do & don't do), Assurance Framework
 2. \$500 grants - some schools are working together to combine grants as a way to offer more sessions
 - b. Trustee's Report
 - i. Financial Statement & Budget approved, board governance planning at most recent meeting
 - ii. Curriculum: Social studies, science, fine arts, french first language and french immersion delayed to address issues around

excessive amount of content as well as lack of focus on developing critical thinking skills

- iii. COVID: goal is to maintain some level of normality for students (ie. sports permitted in school however no interschool sports); will be reviewed January 25th
 - iv. Implementation of Administrative Policy for vaccines: any exemptions must have a valid reason, so far not a huge concern; rapid tests paid for by provincial government vaccination rates among staff have increased since policy introduced
 - 1. Question: Are rapid tests really all that helpful with a high chance of receiving a false negative result?
 - a. Policy not intended to be punitive, goal is to work together to keep everyone safe; Omicron variant causes additional challenges with breakthrough infections & high transmissibility
 - v. Will be meeting with MLA/Ministers before return to legislature; will be advocating for increased mental & physical health supports
 - vi. Transportation: First Student once again chosen as transportation provider for the district
- c. Principal's Report
- i. Social & Emotional Learning continues, courage is the theme for January
 - ii. Registration Info sessions in February - asking parents to share these sessions with friends & family who may be interested in FI. Approximately 60 students have left Montrose since the pandemic due to concerns around students being able to maintain FI learning and parents being able to help.
 - iii. Still working on closing the learning gaps that occurred when students went online in Spring 2020. Initially, gaps seen across the board however this year, occurred primarily in Grades 2 & 3
 - 1. Question: What is the expectation of parents in terms of helping children & how can parents gauge where students should be at?
 - a. Explore the idea of learning updates that help parents understand what students should be doing versus simply what they are doing in class
 - iv. Covid update: Alberta Health does not require disclosure of cases however GPPSD/schools will be providing as best as they are able based on voluntary disclosure by parents; any decision to move classes online is made by the division; Admin Policy re vaccines is effective the end of January
 - v. Literacy Week: Happening next week - once again, community members will be reading virtually with students. Facebook contest happening - post pictures of students reading to the

school Facebook page to win prizes (can also be emailed to the school if parents don't want to share photos publicly)

6. School Results Report

- a. Reviewed overall summary results. Access to services & supports scored lower due to reduction in availability. Parental involvement scores are also lower, presumably due to limited opportunity for parents to be in the school at this time. Curious to see if this score increases when school fully reopens.
- b. Education Quality scores reflect parent perception of the education being received at École Montrose.
- c. Review of school results report to continue at future school council meetings.

7. New Business

- a. Discussed ideas to increase parent engagement in school council - put something together as to what school council is all about that can be shared at the start of every school year (build on document that has gone out in previous years). Perhaps a different night/time would work better for meetings.

8. Old Business

- a. Parking Lot - new guidelines went out and had parent volunteers out one day to help parents understand new rules. Will take time to educate - parents will go out again when weather improves. Also suggested that school council/parent volunteers could help at the start of the year with educating people on parking lot guidelines and safety.

9. Round Table

- a. Will next year's school calendar see holidays starting right before Christmas again? At this point, yes.
- b. Covid test kits & masks - should we be expecting another kit? Definitely receiving another kit but unsure on masks - Andrea to follow up and advise.

10. Next meeting - Wednesday, February 16/2022 at 7:00 PM on Zoom

11. Meeting Adjourned - 7:49 pm