

École Montrose School Council

Meeting Minutes

16 FEBRUARY 2022 / 7:00 PM / Zoom

ATTENDEES

Corry Harper(Chair), Heidi George(Vice-Chair), Allison Hill(Secretary), Maxine Herbert, Andrea Couture(Principal), Lynne Goosney(Vice-Principal), Joanne Peters, Johanne Kemp, Kristie Caldwell, Andrea Willman

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** - 7:03 PM by Corry
2. **Welcome & Introductions**; Quorum verified
3. **Review & Approval of Agenda**
 - a. MOTION to approve agenda - Joanne, seconded - Andrea W
4. **Review & Approval of Minutes**
 - a. MOTION to approve - Andrea W; seconded - Joanne
5. **Standing Items**
 - a. Chair Report
 - i. Nothing to report
 - ii. Heidi - ASCA update
 1. Variety of upcoming workshops available on the website covering a wide range of topics (i.e.school council plans, raising resilient children)
 - b. Trustee's Report
 - i. N/A - Chris unable to attend
 - c. Principal's Report
 - i. LEFI virtual open house - approx 100 viewers
 - ii. Registration for all programs opens March 2nd - please share about École Montrose with friends and family that may be interested in French Immersion
 - iii. COVID changes - masks not required for students however still required for parents/visitors; spectators now allowed at events
 - iv. Rapid tests - parents will receive one more test kit; masks available on request (form sent out to parents)
 - v. Alberta Education survey mailed out to parents of Grade 4 & 7 students

- vi. Kindness Week: Happening this week & next - leadership club putting on a variety of activities, including handing out acts of kindness cards at the mall Friday evening
- vii. Grades 5 to 8 - skiing at Nitehawk next week

6. School Results Report

- a. Continued review from last month. Overall, parents and teachers have a positive view that the teaching & learning that's happening sets students up for success in high school & beyond.
- b. GB+: reading assessment test that measures reading & comprehension. Testing occurs 1 - 2 times per year, scores saw a drastic drop in 2020-21 (61% to 31%). Is evidence that students are still struggling to get reading & comprehension back to pre-pandemic levels. School has received funding from the government for early intervention; school has also invested in 1.5 EA's to help grade 4 to 6 students get back on track

Question: As a parent, how or when do you decide that FI isn't appropriate or is creating additional struggles for a child's learning?

Answer: There are multiple factors to consider. What do you want for your children when they graduate? Is the goal for them to be bilingual or simply to have been exposed to second language learning opportunities. Are the struggles causing an increased lack of interest in school? Also need to determine whether the struggles are due to FI or if they would also experience the same struggles in a non-immersion school.

Question: Are schools/teachers adjusting their approach to account for these learning gaps?

Answer: Yes ~ additional work happening to close learning gaps that occurred from the school closure in 2020. Grade 3 & 3 supports just ended - students participated in intensive learning around sounds & language. Positive outcome as students identified as 'at risk' have moved up to 'average' levels

7. New Business

- a. Walk-A-Thon
 - i. Date - TBD. Andrea and Corry to discuss.
 - ii. Prizes - would like to see benchmark prizes where everybody wins something for reaching a certain level (gift cards, activity based, local businesses) as well as some theme-like prizes for fundraising (top class, top family, etc)
 - iii. Anyone who is interested in helping, please reach out to Corry
- b. School Calendar
 - i. Two options to review - Andrea to provide our school's feedback to the district for their decision making purposes
 - ii. Bussing and diploma exams both considered in discussing new calendar

DRAFT A:

- Sept 30th: instructional day
- December 2nd: day in lieu of PTIs
- December 22nd: last day of school before Christmas break
- January 9th: return to school after the break
- June 28th: last day of the school year

DRAFT B:

- Sept 30th: non-instructional day for all
- December 23rd: last day of school before Christmas break
- Everything else the same as Draft A

- iii. Truth and Reconciliation Day learning will occur regardless of what choice is made for Sept 30th; whether it happens on the 30th or a different day, depends on the calendar chosen
- iv. Support for both options ~ some felt TRD should be a day off for parents and families to reflect, others felt better for students to be in school with the day focused on TRD learning
- v. Suggestion that school year be extended in June to avoid having to go to school right near the holiday again

8. Old Business

- a. Parking Lot - getting to the sidewalk from the lot can be a challenge in winter, could janitors clear a path when it snows?
- b. Overall, having volunteers guiding parents seems to have helped. Will plan to do this at the start of next year as well

9. Round Table

- a. Masks - are all students being supported in their choices? Yes, no matter which option students choose (mask or no mask), they will be supported by school and admin

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

11. Meeting Adjourned - 8:13 pm