

École Montrose School Council

Meeting Minute

18 October 2023 / 7:00 pm École Montrose

1. Call to Order- 7:00 Dustin (Chair)
2. Welcome & Introductions- Dustin Archibald (Chair), Andrea Couture (principal), Chris Johnston (trustee), Stephanie Murphy (vice principal), Valerie Johnson (Secretary), Mme Johanne, Corbin Miller, Allison Hill, Julian Camsell, Salene Cooke, Jill Langdon, Maxine Herbert
 - a. Land Acknowledgements: The Chair encourages us to look at the Truth and Reconciliations call to action, information can be found here: <https://www.reconciliationeducation.ca/what-are-truth-and-reconciliation-commission-94-calls-to-action>
3. Review & Approval of Agenda- strike round table.
 - a. Motion to approve Allison, 2nd Julian
4. Review & Approval of May 2023 Minutes- change in ix. of principal report to June 27th from May 27th.
 - a. Motion to approve Allison, 2nd Corbin
5. Review & Approval of September 2023 Minutes- Jill, 2nd Julian
6. Standing Reports
 - a. Chair Report
 - i. No current new to report; has been keeping in contact with other chairs and will attend the school council meeting with the board of trustees the 30th of November
 - b. Trustee Report
 - i. Our new Trustee is Chris Johnston, switched from Donna Koch due to scheduling conflicts. Chris is excited to be here with us as a former french immersion student.
 - ii. This year Joan Nellis was acclaimed as Board Chair and Andre Ouellette was acclaimed as Vice-Chair
 - iii. At the superintendent's welcome back address Aug 30 the 5 student volunteers did an excellent job of presenting to over 1000 staff members
 - iv. All students grade 1-12 are eligible for a free city transit pass. There will be postcard mailers sent to families with how to register
 - v. The minister of education will be in Grande Prairie October 23 and will tour the Composite High school and after will be meeting with local boards.
 - vi. The annual student Christmas Card contest theme is Happy Holidays. This is an opportunity for high school students to display their artwork and there is a cash prize for placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. More information on the district website.

- vii. Enrolment growth is nearly 5%; projected was 2%. This is generally to our advantage with the way funding works but there are some challenges for staffing. This is the 2nd year that we have overshot our prediction and we can start to form a trendline based on that data.
- viii. There will not be an election for the vacancy caused by Trustee Kuryllo's passing. Instead, by motion of the board, the honorarium funds will be put into the PUF program for the remainder of the term.
- ix. The 54th Annual Board Social was held on Saturday October 14, 2023 at the Tara Centre, an event held to recognize the excellent work of our division staff, retirees, long service recipients and exemplary award winners.
- x. 183 senior and junior high students applied to join the Minister's Youth Council. Daisy Nellis, and Composite High student has been named to the council, 1 of only 40 across the province

c. Principal Report

- i. Ecole Montrose has 6 students in the district student council, the most of any school. We hope that they can attend one of our meetings
- ii. Alberta Education released its new K-6 curriculum in Science and French Immersion Language Arts and Literature in spring 2023, for implementation this school year. French Immersion Language Arts and Literature (K-3), Science (K-3), English Language Arts and Literature (4-6) and Mathematics (4-6) are now being used.
 - 1. Implementation has been going well for the most part; teachers are noticing some gaps for the kids who are entering into the new curriculum part way through (e.g. grade 4) and teachers are identifying ways to address those gaps. Teachers are also adjusting to an online resource based curriculum vs traditional textbooks. We are receiving government money to help with the transition and we are using that money in different ways to help with the transition. For example, giving grade 1 teachers half days with students.
 - 2. There will be changes to the report cards regarding the new curriculum and communication of the changes will go out before the report cards are available.
 - 3. Parent can find information on the district website here:
<https://www.gppsd.ab.ca/parents/Pages/Curriculum.aspx#/=>
- iii. We are celebrating our grade 6 student who took the DELF exams in grade 5. The DELF and DALF diplomas issued by the French Ministry for National Education to certify the French language skills. These diplomas are valid for life and are internationally recognized. Student take a different version depending if they are late enrollment or not. Students who have earned a DELF level B2 will be exempted from the language test requirements for registration in French universities.
- iv. There has been a decline in motivation to speak French in the past few years. As a plan to support students we are introducing "Montrose Money". This can be rewarded by any adult in the building to students for speaking French appropriately to their grade level. The Montrose Money can be used for a variety of things, for example the class can build up to parties or students can purchase individual based motivators. K-6 is more based on each class and 7 and 8 have stores and there are Friday fun activities to buy into. The store is in process of being set up.
- v. At the end of September was the social media presentations for grades 4-6 and 7-8 in school and co-hosted with Derek Taylor and Riverstone for parents. The focus of the presentations

were teaching students how to use responsibility; handouts shared. Turnout for the parent presentation was only 11 parents, all from Montrose.

- vi. The \$500 Alberta School Council Engagement (ASCE) grant is available again and can be used for the school council to engage in professional development and learning opportunities. There are a variety of learning opportunities/topics on the ASCA website. To be revisited at the next meeting.

7. Old Business

- a. Vice Chair- still vacant

8. New Business

- a. School parking lot- educate families to help arrive safely.
 - i. Map included in school communication: Blue spots visitor parking- families are walking through parking lot instead of using sidewalk and crosswalk
 - ii. Last year we used parent volunteers for a week to guide as to parking and crossing needs, teachers talked to kids, we sent out communication on facebook and newsletters, and had patrollers. Asking for other ideas.
 - iii. Suggestions:
 - 1. Make it more visible as all are visitors in that row; phone city about windrows over crosswalks and covering sidewalks.
 - 2. Change signage for green zone/ change colors of zone
 - 3. The visitor parking have to walk in grass/snow to get to side walk- maybe get plugins for that row to be able to move staff parking
 - 4. Use volunteers to guide people
 - 5. Get staff to model the right behavior
 - 6. More signage
 - iv. Andrea to take ideas and work with admin team and safety person and to update
- b. round table- dress code was to be revisited and bylaws to be revisited to be reviewed every two years. The dress code is on the website (<https://www.gppsd.ab.ca/District/Admin%20Procedures/300%20Students/AP%20350.1%20-%20Student%20Dress%20Code.pdf>) please have a quick read though and email any thoughts. The school does review it every year..
- c. Motion to approve new business Jill and 2nd Julian

9. Next meeting date November 15

10. Adjournment 8:00pm