

Prairie Sky School

201 Skyview Ranch Rd NE Calgary, AB, T3N 2E7

School Council Meeting – May 23, 2023, 5:45 pm,

School Council Meeting

Minutes – May 23 2023

5:45 PM @ Prairie Sky School

* indicates written report/attachment provided

1. Call to order meeting – 5:42pm – Britney calls meeting to order

Attendance

Executive:

Brittany - Chair

Laura – Vice Chair

Melody – Vice Chair

Leslie – Treasurer

Nina – Treasurer

Don – Secretary

Parents:

Jenna Gutierrez

Natasha Ishani

Azhar Ishani

Staff:

Mona – Principal

Mike - Assistant Principal

Grade 1 & 6 Teams

2. 5:43pm - Review of the Agenda – Copies of agenda made available for attendees to review

3. 5:44pm - Approval of the Minutes, as presented (OR as amended)
 - a. Motion to approve minutes made by Leslie, 2nd by Melody

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4. 5:44pm – Teacher Share

- Staff have prepared presentations of classroom activities, this month we heard from the Grade 1 & 6 teams

- Grade 1 learning highlights include

- a) In line with the School Development Plan, Grade 1 learners are focusing on improving reading skills through use of decoding, encoding and phonemic awareness, based on the idea that reading is not an inherent skill and must be practiced repeatedly to allow new Nuro pathways a chance to develop in students' brains with the intent of improving reading skills
- b) Extensive research has been done in the areas of classroom learning and how the brain responds to various techniques, this knowledge has been used to guide teachers lesson building and overall student success
- c) Teachers lead meeting attendees in a example of a classroom exercise, highlighting the use of identifying sounds that letters make, blending those sounds together to decode what letters combine to make that word
- d) Levels of complexity added by exploring short sounds vs long sounds, silent letters, use of vowels and identifying irregular words that don't follow the same phonemic rules most words do

- Grade 6 learning highlights include

- a) Staff have been working to implement new Alberta curriculum in Math and English Language Arts
- b) New curriculum builds on students oral language skills, text forms and structures as well as vocabulary building and language comprehension
- c) Math concepts like shape and space, volume and displacement introduced
- d) More advanced concepts delivered with the intent to better prepare students for future grades
- e) Word gradients, recognizing nuance between different words, identifying differences in descriptive words and skills in choosing what words are appropriate for specific context and situations
- f) In advance of upcoming provincial election, students have been taking part in various social and political exercises, including representing parties, advocating for their platforms and debating pros and cons of different political agendas
- g) Students have participated in community recycling and cleanup programs, using real world practice to highlight local examples of Social Studies benefits, and allowing learning examples of organizing workloads and resource management
- h) Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT) are upcoming, subjects this year will be focused on Science and Social Studies as the new curriculum of Math and English was only introduced this year
- i) PAT's purpose is to determine if students are learning what's expected and enable public transparency of education resources
- j) Photo share, teachers share photos of various classroom and field trip activities, including building and using sundials, and participating in the Be Brave program attending a Calgary Hitmen hockey game

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5. Principals Report / Playground Discussion – 6:06pm start

- a) Ken Schamp, a representative from Canadian Recreation Solutions is in attendance and presents a more detailed design of the planned playground build, including specific information about the various playground apparatuses and equipment that will be purchased
- b) Our order for materials has been submitted to supplier to hold current market pricing. Our chosen materials are thicker build and higher quality than some less expensive options, this expense on quality materials will provide the playground with longer lifetime and less future maintenance / repair costs
- c) Ken was able to provide more insight in how the cost allocation breaks down for different equipment pieces, as well as stressing the factor that much of the costs are allocated to the preparing of surfaces and foundation that the structures are built on
- d) Our proposed design has seen several changes so far, including removing some peripheral structures and visual signage
- e) A informative presentation, including how design encourages socialization and allows students to play and thrive in a shared play space
- f) Mona talks about upcoming CBE Facility Operations team visit to site, hope to get more information from them regarding timeline of when grant allocation money needs to be spent, and questions for them about if our late occupancy of PSS will impact this timeline
- g) Playground design is rated for capacity of 98 students, Ken notes that this is based on what each apparatus is rated for, but reality is they don't all get pushed to capacity constantly, and playground traffic tends to flow over the entire area
- h) Registration issues, student population – Mona discusses situation, and her efforts to work with CBE to find the best solution for increasing student population
- i) It takes extensive balance and considerations for how higher grade students will age out and move into high school, and how those spaces can be allocated to incoming students
- j) Advocate concerns to local MLA government representatives, make them aware of your worries and the current situation
- k) PSS capacity is 900 students, current estimates for next year have 950 registered students, the allocated land use for PSS has been utilized, making the possibility to expand space with portables not likely option

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6. Fundraising – 6:55pm start

- Snack Shack – has been active and successful, next event is scheduled for June 23 and will be final one for school year
- 1st event raised \$266 profit, 2nd event \$549
- How many volunteers with clearance do we have? Based on past events, at least 3-4 parents managing event is required, it can get very busy and fast paced, looking at alternative traffic management options, where to line up and how many groups at same time?
- Leslie makes motion to allocate \$3000 for snack shack spending, Laura seconded, average spend has been \$500 per week
- Texas Donut fundraiser, plan to hold in June, email sent and order collection in first 2 weeks, goal to hand out donuts on June 23 and final Snack Shack of year (pending availability from Glamorgan Bakery)
- Healthy Hunger
 - a) June 8 will be next event, provider will be McDonalds, Britney will be at school that day to facilitate and organize event
 - b) May 31, due date for orders
- Other Ideas
 - a) Spellathon / Walkathon – pledge gathering activities where students take a lead role in fundraising and put in the effort of reaching their pledge, can be a rewarding experience for students
 - b) Outside summer play events, utilizing warm weather while we have it
 - c) Welcome back to school events in September?

7. Next Meeting Schedule

- a) June 12, 2023 @ 5:45pm (Monday) - Final meeting of year, council will present a summary of activities and accomplishments.

8. Meeting adjourns – 7:10 pm – Britney adjourns meeting