

Prairie Sky School

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

School Council Meeting – February 27, 2023, 5:45 pm, at Hugh A. Bennett School

School Council Meeting

Minutes – Feb 27 2023

5:45 PM @ Hugh A. Bennett School

* indicates written report/attachment provided

1. Call to order meeting – Feb 27 2023 5:44pm – Britney opens meeting

Attendance

Executive:

Brittany - Chair

Laura – Vice Chair

Melody – Vice Chair

Leslie – Treasurer

Nina – Treasurer

Don – Secretary

Parents:

Many new attendees, encouraging turnout, Teacher Share seems a success!

Staff:

Mona – Principal

Mike - Assistant Principal

Ms. Sanghera

Grade 3 Team

Music Team

Physical Education Team

2. 5:45pm - Review of the Agenda – Copies of agenda made available for attendees to review

3. 5:47pm - Approval of the Minutes, as presented (OR as amended)

- a. January minutes require the following amendments



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- b. Corrected spelling of “Treasurer”
- c. State Leslie as member who put forth motion to open bank account at connectFirst
- d. Minutes approved with stated amendments.

4. 5:49pm – Teacher Share

- Staff have prepared presentations of classroom activities, this month we heard from the Physical Education, Music and Grade 3 teams.

-Physical Education learning highlights include

- a) Developing a meaningful focus for all age groups K-9
- b) Delight – Fostering a enjoyment of physical activities
- c) Motor Competence – Skill development, balance, coordination and improving individual ability, goal setting and accomplishing.
- d) Social Skills – Creating fun social environments for peer interaction and making friends
- e) Personally Relevant – Designing curriculum that considers students cultural backgrounds and personal experiences.

General Information Re: Physical Education Program

-Competitive athletic programs for Cross Country and Badminton are in place

-Athletic jerseys design and colors have been selected and shown to attendees

- Mental Health focus, teaching emotional awareness, regulation techniques like breathing exercises and lessons of sympathy / empathy for peers

- A focus on Emotional Awareness, understanding the spectrum of emotions and how they can flow from one to another, awareness of this shifting and transforming process will benefit student well-being.

-Teachers have exceptionally adapted to the challenges of limited gym access, making great use of available spaces to teach physical education in

– Music learning highlights include

- a) A early enjoyment of music
- b) Awareness and appreciation of a variety of sounds and insights into music gained through activities
- c) Encouraging student self-expression and creativity
- d) Music skills and knowledge, concepts such as rhythm, harmony, melody, form and expression. Skills such as singing, instruments, movement and listening.

– Music Class by grades

Grade 1 – Building foundations of music to develop further understanding in later grades. Utilizing the voice for both speaking and singing, an early introduction to music notes and vocal changes.

Importance of audience manners and showing respect for performers. Lessons in keeping beat and the interaction between beat and rhythm.



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Grade 2 - Continue to build and develop foundational skills. Introduction of new music notes, a focus on contrasts of vocal ranges high, medium and low, recognition of different types of voices. More complex rhythms introduced as well as theory concepts like pauses, rests and whole rests.

Grade 3 – Students working with wind instruments, goals to avoid squeaking, proper hand placements and motions for fluidic note playing. Added elements of social studies such as world music and rare / unique sounds

Grade 4 – Adding new musical vocabulary to grow students ability to express their love of music and enhance communication skills. Continued practice on the recorder as well as opportunities to pick up new instruments for first time. More notes introduced and a clear display of further air control while playing, year over year improvement.

Grade 5 – Learning to combine skills from previous years to improve performance, more notes learned and chances to play as a group provided. Expanded on musical vocabulary and at the end of the year concepts of melody and harmony will be taught.

– Grade 3 learning highlights include

- a) Social Studies primarily focused on culture, getting students to explore the idea of what it is, where it comes from and why different cultures exist. Challenge students with world building exercises including map making, placing cities and creating their own environments with unique plants and features.
- b) Merging literacy with folktales, oral history and perspective on how these tales are shared, their relevance to tradition.
- c) Currently a strong focus on Ukrainian culture in classroom, teachers are using story time to expose students to Ukrainian holidays and ways of celebrating important days.
- d) Research skills, lessons on how to find and understand new information, as well as presentation skills, using technology to enhance presentations and engage audiences' attention.
- e) Welcoming members of community to come into class as guest speakers and give personal perspectives sharing their experiences with culture.

5. Principal Report – 6:25pm start

- School Development Plan – official public presentation happens tonight, print copies made available to attendees
 - a) Survey's main source of data collection, a survey was sent recently, Mona encourages attendees to complete it
 - b) Three core components are Math, Literacy, Wellbeing
 - c) SDP is a 3 year plan to record and identify changes over time, each year plan is reviewed and data assessed, changes can then be made based on findings.
 - d) How is the plan used? It guides ongoing assessment and review of actions, it's the driver for closing learning gaps.
 - e) Where is SDP information shared? School website and school council meetings, most recent survey



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results will be posted in April

- School Construction Update – Mona leads discussion on current construction status, most recent email announced a anticipated opening date of April 3, after March Break. Interior spaces are taking shape and very close to being done, plans being made for open house to allow everyone to experience the space. Playground will receive intense focus over Summer in the hopes of having it ready for next year. Traffic safety council will be established to observe the morning and afternoon traffic situation at school and make suggestions for improvements. Administration may also evaluate bell times schedule to mitigate pedestrian traffic safety concerns.

6. Financial Update – Fundraising – 6:48pm start

- No fundraising activities planned for March, will explore idea of doing Healthy Hunger promotion in April once established in new building
- Valentines fundraiser total profit -\$1025 , current bank account total \$1976.30
- Brief discussion on how to best utilize funds, Britney suggests showcasing early classroom benefits by spending on unique classroom activities such as Mad Science and Stone Carving can increase future success of fundraising activities. When families hear first-hand about the exciting experiences children have they are motivated to support council activities.

7. Next Meeting - March 20, 2023 (Monday) - 5:45pm start

8. Meeting Adjourned – 6:55pm - Britney makes motion to adjourn meeting, Laura seconded.



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