

Prairie Sky School

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

School Council Meeting – April 4, 2023, 5:45 pm,

School Council Meeting

Minutes – April 3, 2023

5:45 PM @ Prairie Sky School

* indicates written report/attachment provided

1. Call to order meeting – 5:45pm – Britney opens meeting, taking a moment to express thanks to all the amazing effort from staff to set up and get classes moved in to Prairie Sky School
2. Mona speaks on thanking and recognizing all involved as a team and grateful for everyone's efforts

Attendance

Executive:

Brittany - Chair

Laura – Vice Chair

Melody – Vice Chair

Leslie – Treasurer

Nina – Treasurer

Don – Secretary

Parents:

Many new attendees, a lot of excitement for this opportunity to see new building

Staff:

Mona – Principal

Mike - Assistant Principal

Grade 2 Team

Grade 4 Team

Jasmyn Kennedy from Physical Education Team

3. 5:46pm - Review of the Agenda – Copies of agenda made available for attendees to review

4. 5:47pm - Approval of the Minutes, as presented (OR as amended)
 - a. Motion to approve minutes made by Laura, 2nd by Leslie



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b. February minutes approved with amended clarification of who made motion to amend January minutes

5. 5:49pm – Teacher Share

- Staff have prepared presentations of classroom activities, this month we heard from the Grade 2 and 4 teams.

- Grade 2 highlights include

Literacy

- a) Focus on developing spelling, students are evaluated at regular intervals over the year and steady improvement has been identified, great growth and progress shown from students.
- b) Utilizing Heggerty model of phonemic teaching with consistent and repeated instruction of concepts like blending, rhyming, segmenting and syllables
- c) Using Lively Letters program in classroom, a unique way to add personality and character to letters, and then using that familiarity to transfer into writing skills
- d) Writing Skills - sentence structure rules, finger space between words, period at the end, read it back and ask yourself “does it make sense”
- e) Applying sentence structure skills to story writing, Sentence a Day exercise, teachers provide students
- f) Summarization skills, after reading a basic story class then breaks down the aspects of it like characters and their goals, setting and events, recognizing story structure of beginning, middle and end

Math

- a) Technique of applying character and personality to arithmetic functions – Meet Gus the Plus and Linus the Minus
- b) This technique resulted in a noticeable increase in attention from students and since their introduction they have continued to expand their personalities and backstories
- c) Implementing graphical aids to assist in problem solving and providing a visual workflow for math functions
- d) Strong focus on the strategy involved in solving math problems, building that foundation now is the goal, this comes before arriving at the correct answer, which will be a target later on, for now establishing a solid foundation of understanding the process is key
- e) This is done by showing students various addition and subtraction strategies like finger counting, quick doubles and using objects in place of #'s to provide a more practical example of mathematical application
- f) Increased use of math vocabulary, leading students to using those new terms to describe their work



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Science

- a) Water play – unit on boats and buoyance, testing different shapes and designs to see how they move and interact with the water differently
- b) Tinfoil boat challenge – a exercise where students design a boat out of tinfoil, then add weight load to it and see how much it can take, then modifying their design and testing again, lead to some wonderful classroom moments

- Grade 4 learning highlights include

Literacy

- a) Dedicated staff member assigned to the Response to Intervention (RTI) role
- b) This teacher provides extra literacy support as well as accommodating other support needs
- c) Noted improvement in area of long vowel sounds, a often challenging area of English language, using engaging activities that involve the whole class such as Jeopardy type games, RTI has noticed a significant increase in student literacy success
- d) Teaching comprehension skills, explaining connections between prior experiences and new information/ texts
- e) Identifying and explaining in their own words the main ideas, supporting details and how they relate

Math

- a) Introduction to fractions and recognizing them in various representations
- b) Use of number lines, parts of a whole and eventually moving into decimals, making use of dominos in a engaging class exercise
- c) Continued building on mathematic vocabulary with terms like numerator and denominator, tenths and hundredths, as well as visual aids like pie charts and graphs

Social Studies

- a) Students are learning about Alberta's environment and biomes such as boreal forests and rocky mountains including the wildlife that make their homes there.
- b) Taking those environmental observations and using them as a communication exercise where students go through a through writing process, from first draft, to review, and implementing changes to final report.
- c) Using those environmental observations as a artistic exercise, having students paint trees and landscapes
- d) Grade 4 has 4 class groups, now that we are in new building and class sizes have been adjusted to utilize available space

Physical Education Team – Jasmyn Kennedy – Re – Fit Set Ninja Proposal

- a) Jasmyn leads a presentation to Council regarding a proposal to allocate funds towards brining in a Fit Set Ninja obstacle course, this will be set up in the main gym and a schedule will be made to accommodate all students with a chance to partake in this unique activity.
- b) Cost is estimated to be around \$1750 per day, and schedule for 3 days of course being set up at School, dates currently being looked at would be May 15 - 17



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- c) What are the benefits? – A whole school approach to activity, developing physical literacy and well-being, concept of “Risky Play” allowing students to foster self-relationships and overcome challenges for personal growth, these challenges build mental strength and provide rewarding feelings of accomplishment when reaching goals and conquering obstacles
- d) PSS Administration has committed to moving forward with this plan, but would welcome any contribution to costs the PSSC can provide
- e) Can be seen as a end of year send-off activity, a chance to involve entire student population and staff with a fun, memorable experience

6. Principal Report – 6:24pm start

- We’re in the new building! *Applause*
- a) Agenda now moves to the playground and outdoor natural space development, CBE Requires a minimum of 3 vendor bids to move forward with a design and construction
- b) 3 vendors have been approached so far and are working on proposals, vendors are Park and Play, Habitat and Canadian Rec Systems
- c) Britney suggests we dedicate majority of next meeting to review playground discussion and fund raising options, room agrees
- d) A grant of \$250,000 has been approved for funding, once proposals are reviewed we can get a better idea of how far this amount of money can go in terms of playground design options
- e) Will also pursue City of Calgary grant money through Parks department, primarily used for the rubber matting that makes up the floor of playground
- f) Ideally we are ready to start construction this summer with hope of having it ready to go for next school year
- g) Discussion on the creation of outdoor natural space, trees, boulders, a outdoor gathering place for students, can this be done at the same time as playground? Or make it the next goal after playground complete?
- h) Playground area will be in front of school, there will be a fence separating the sidewalk from school grounds
- i) PSS has a K-9 student body, meaning large are range, should be considered when selecting design, we want something all students can enjoy
- j) Will be accessible by public after school hours, making it a benefit for whole community, and as such we may be able to request donations from local community groups like HOA



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7. Financial Update – Fundraising – 6:40pm start

- Healthy Hunger
 - a) Now that we're in new space, we can better execute this program, once established this can be a recurring event, keys to success would be through education for parents about the value in program, as well as early and frequent advertising leading up to event so families are aware the day it is happening
 - b) Portion size options for younger kids, snack size for Kinder, larger portion for older kids
- Kernels
 - a) Current active fundraiser, order forms have been prepared and being given to students tomorrow (April 5)
 - b) Money and order forms will be collected April 14, order forms will then be sent to Cross Iron Mills location Kernels store
 - c) April 27th will be order pickup day, School Council volunteer members will then deliver to school and assist with distribution of bags, estimate likely over 1000 bags will be purchased, do we have available space to store these in PSS? Mona informs us we should have no problem finding a safe place to keep them before handing out
- Fundscrip
 - a) A new proposal to use this gift card purchase program, a portion of gift cards sold is allocated to a school fund that can be withdrawn
 - b) Fundscrip is a online gift card purchase portal, making it ideal to advertise around gift giving holidays as parents will have the option to purchase cards through this website and support PSS, as always lots of advertising and making parents aware of it will contribute to the overall success of program
- SnackShack
 - a) Mike shares his experiences with other schools and their success with a "Snack Shack idea, a area in the school that sells small treats, cookies, granola bars ect. things that can be stocked from Costco for large quantities that can then be sold in smaller sizes
 - b) With our larger student population, this can be a hit, key points to keep it on consistent days to establish routine and students know when to expect days Snack Shack operates
 - c) Can involve getting older kids involved with responsibilities running the operation, a great learning opportunity and a way to give kids ownership of the program
 - d) Be mindful of dietary restrictions, can be incorporated in CTF Class format, allowing students to learn food handling equipment operation



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- Family Matters

- a) Still in early stages of planning, will require information prepared and distributed to staff and students detailing what the program is and when we intend to run program
- b) Estimates of \$300 cost, various options for times including evenings, primary focus of the content of program is to assist parents with strategies to approach and assist their children and families with having open discussions regarding health and well-being

8. Treasury - 7:00 pm Start

- a) Leslie makes motion to allocate \$200 to purchase of cheques, this will facilitate paying back of overhead costs to fundraiser coordinators - 2nd by Laura, motion passed
- b) Current bank totals are \$1976, plan to see what results are for Kernals fundraiser to then make decision about Fit Ninja and how much council can sponsor for event
- c) Group discussion regarding Casino related fundraisers, past experiences and success stories shared, point made that volunteer coordination is important as this kind of thing requires a lot of people to pull off
- d) Part of approval for Casino operator licence is establishing our group as a "Society" this would involve a separate Meeting time and is a different group than PSSC, however in most situations the Society would run meetings right after council meetings, and many of the same members make up both groups
- e) Mike informs meeting of the CBE approved fee list, a list made at start of year that lists different fees that the School can collect from parents, it's a extensive list but must be made prior to start of school year and once approved we can only request parents to fund activities listed on it
- f) Next year's fee list is required to be submitted by April 14, Mona is heading this task, this list is meant to add transparency of what schools are charging parents fees for

9. Next Meeting Schedule

- a) April 24, 2023 (Monday)
- b) May 23, 2023 (Tuesday)
- c) June 12, 2023 (Monday) - Final meeting of year, council will present a summary of activities and accomplishments.

10. Meeting adjourns – 7:15 pm – Brintey adjourns meeting



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