



George McDougall High School School Council Minutes

April 10, 2024
6:30pm

In attendance: Sherry M, Lori Ann De Bokx, Kelli E, Scott B Darcy M, Erin Q, Jennifer P, Todd Brand, Maryke S., Vicki P, Kelsie B.

Via Zoom: Jonah, Sherry

I. Call Meeting to order - Kelli called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

II. Land Acknowledgement - Kelli read the RVS Land Acknowledgement statement.

III. Approval of agenda - Darcy motioned to approve agenda and Lori Ann seconded. Motion passed.

IV. Approval of March 13th meeting minutes - Erin Q motioned to approve minutes; Sherry seconded. Motion passed.

V. Student Leadership Presentation

- Delivered via email from Suzie Beckett (attached)

VI. Administration Report- Scott Bloxham

- a) Scott introduced guest Kelsie Bagnall who is the RVS Positive Behaviour Supports. She had a short exercise for the group.
- b) GMHS is receiving it's new modular classroom towards the end of the month, however it won't be used until fall 2024.
- c) Grad lists to be going out in May.
- d) School pep rally upcoming .
- e) Jen's computer experienced some technical difficulties at this point, thus the remainder of the items typed for this part of the minutes is incomplete. Please reference school newsletters for further information.

VII. Trustee Report - Todd Brand

- a) Todd highlighted information from the Rocky View Schools report "The Brief". See attached.
 - Focuses included provincial budget, student spaces, new schools.

VIII. New Business:

a) Valedictorian Selection Process:

- Recently an email was sent from council to GMHS admin and staff that hi-lighted concerns that have been brought forward by students regarding the current valedictorian process (see attached).

- Scott spoke to this question advising that historically valedictorians have been the highest academic achiever, however the present GMHS selection process involves a committee of 5 people comprised of staff and community members that act as a panel to choose the valedictorian. Students who wish to apply do so online. They require a letter of recommendation from a teacher sponsor and must present to the committee and a vote is essentially how they are chosen. Academics play an important role, however they are not the only determining factor. Students also need to be engaged in the community or at school as a volunteer. In the future, the process may involve selecting 2 students to represent their grad classes - 1 may act as the class historian, speaking to the grads about their past memories and the other as the valedictorian speaking to the grads about their futures.
- The committee is currently accepting applications due Friday, April 12th. Presentations will be held the following week with a decision to be made in the coming weeks.
- Scott encourages conversation from students regarding this topic or any other concerns students may have about the school and its processes.

b) Food services at school:

- Council discussion involved brainstorming some potential ideas to bring additional food services to our students for lunch. The pizza days have been very successful. Is it possible we could use another food service provider? Ideas were: Healthy Hunger, buying bulk food items that students assemble and sell to students as a "course". Tabled until following meeting.

c) FI Department

IX. Open floor questions:

a) Re: Prerequisites for classes like leadership- According to Scott, you can join leadership at any grade, however you still need to go through the leadership levels of 10, 11, 12.

b) No course fee increases for 2024/2025.

c) School trips- is this something GMHS staff and students can do? Scott advised that this is a RVS decision. Todd Brand says the Superintendent makes this decision and it has been because of insurance he feels, however will look into this further and provide additional information on how this decision is made and if it can be changed.

X. Adjournment:

a) The meeting adjourned at 7:59pm.

Next meeting: **May 8, 2024 @ 6:30pm in the Learning Commons**