



George McDougall High School School Council Minutes

Sept 11, 2024
6:30pm

In attendance: Sherry M, Vicki P, Jasleen G, Malia T, Terlyn G, Nissa D, Erin Q, Melyssa B, Darcy M, Scott B, Kelli E, Melanie G, Jennifer P., Corinne C.

Online: Matt T, Melinda F, Shanieka, Shera-Lee, Lindsey M, Monica M, Jocelyn C, Anita M, Tara A

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

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

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

IV. Approval of June meeting minutes - Darcy motioned to pass minutes; Mel seconded to approve minutes. Motion passed.

V. Student Leadership Presentation: delivered by leadership student Malia

- WOW Week - celebrating new school year.
- Each day is activity or theme day:
- Monday, September 16- Sweet Start- leadership students will be handing out suckers
- Tuesday, September 17 - Club Day
- Wednesday, September 18 - Where's Waldo? Students have to find teachers dressed as "Waldo"
- Thursday, September 19- FREE pancake breakfast & Motivational speaker Ian Tyson presenting to all grades.
- Friday, September 20- Just Dance at lunch in main gym
- September 26th - Orange Shirt Day
- September 27th- Terry Fox Run - There will be a presentation just prior to lunch in gym followed by the run/walk. Donations are being directed online through the Terry Fox website. School is also accepting Toonies for Terry on the day of the run. Hot dog bbq as well.
- September 16-27th- Terry Fox raffle. At lunch you can purchase tickets to be added to raffle, which will be drawn on the 27th.
- September 12th - Meet the teacher - leadership will be assisting with parents and teachers
- Sept 24th - first day of volunteering at Cedarwood Station.
- Mentoring will begin in October at either Middle or Elementary school.

VI. Administration Report- Scott Bloxham

- Start up going as planned. Number of school staff is same as June.
- Growth in student numbers, thus hiring to meet needs of our 1119 students to date.

- Time table being adjusted as necessary. Guidance counsellors have been working with G 12 students by appointment and are trying to accommodate all course changes. As of Tuesday, each student has had an opportunity to make changes for the first semester.
- Hires happening for additional roles - Scott will be doing interviews Thursday/Friday. Creating splits to classes to accommodate class numbers. Course changes will be complete by September 13th except in exceptional circumstances.
- Cell phone usage - GMHS is following provincial expectations and divisional procedures. In class, no cell phones or any mobile devices during class time unless there is an accommodation. There is a universal exemption for laptops only. Students are encouraged to bring laptops and they are being used based on needs of teachers. Have been positive experiences - lots of good feedback from teachers and students. An exemption that has come up is the ability to listen to music due to focusing and anxiety. Staff are seeing letters come from doctors for these exemptions so it is definitely something staff are working through.
- Cell phones are off limits during instructional time except if students are on a spare and are in the cafeteria. Cell phones are off limits in the rotunda and in the learning commons. Students have started to understand expectations and are mostly complying.
- School Education Plan continues to focus on literacy, numeracy, building future ready students and creating safe space for students. Presenting learning plan to Rocky View Learning Department on Oct 9th. The literacy and numeracy components are being updated slightly. Building Futures program to continue - Lunch and learns will continue, but are trying to accommodate larger numbers of students due to interest. They are encouraging students to engage and consider enrolling in the apprenticeship programs. Creating Safe Environment -continuing on.
- Career Day will happen again - date TBA.
- Question from public: Is there a staff member/supervisor in Learning Commons at all times? Yes- supervisors are in LC at all times, including lunch.

VII. Trustee Report - Melyssa Bowen

- Melyssa spoke to spacing challenges at our school. Ie. The cafeteria, which is very small. Hoping with balancing student spaces in the future it could mean some more space for students at GMHS down the road.
- Melyssa is once again trustee for NorthCott Prairie, Herons Crossing and the Tri-Schools.
- Only 1 board meeting has been held this year, which was last week. First meeting had Bow Valley HS share their literacy and numeracy plans. Working to create a "word wall" at the school, which displays words from all subjects and showed how to use them. "Exemplary Practice"
- Into year 2 of Strategic Plan, which is improving student learning. PBIS - how visible is this within the schools and showcasing different opportunities that are available for students.
- Spoke about cell phone procedures and how quickly the division had to act in order to execute the expectations.
- Update on infrastructure and renewal projects in summer - approval of some of these projects which have included things like: upgrading/updating washrooms, lighting, boiler room, air con units in portables, even adding basketball courts like the one at Meadowbrook school.
- Government has finally approved 12 modular moves plus approval of adding 12 more modulars in the future. Timeline to move is TBD.
- On track to grow by 750 new students which was what was projected for 24/25 year. Croxford has currently 1735 students. Further planning conversations to occur in the near future to determine how and when to move the modulars and planning for additional funding that has been received. Funding received because of growth and also because of inflation.
- Spoke to challenge of FI teachers while at Ecole Airdrie MS. Doing what we can to obtain French teachers and finding there is a shortage across the country. There is ongoing work to try to recruit and retain the FI teachers. When teacher do leave our division there is an exit
- Orientation and bylaws meeting to be held on Sept 23rd via zoom
- October 24th joint meeting.

VIII. New Business:

- a) First Pizza Friday is Friday, Sept 13th. Council is cancelling Sept 27th Pizza Day in lieu of the Terry Fox run and hot dog day.
- b) Keeping council meetings scheduled for every 2nd Wed at 6:30. The meeting dates are as follows:

Oct 9th, 2024

Nov 13th

****NO DECEMBER MEETING**

Jan 8

Feb 12

March 12

April 9

May 14

June 11

c) Transition times- Administration is aware transition times are tight! Students have 3 minutes, but they technically have 5 minutes. Late process has changed as compared to last year. Check in at office and record the late, but it will be up to the teacher to change this in Power School as opposed to being marked absent right away.

c) Elections: Currently the council positions of Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary are available.

Vice Chair: Kelli Ellingson motioned that Darcy McCurdy remain as Vice Chair, Sherry Miller seconded the motion. All in favour. Motion carried.

Treasurer: Kelli Ellingson nominated Sherry Miller as treasurer, Erin Quring seconded the motion. All in favour. Motion carried.

Secretary: Kelli Ellingson motioned that Jennifer Patterson remain as secretary. Erin Quring seconded. All in favour. Motion carried.

IX. Tabled agenda items:

- Travel outside of Canada update for RVS- Scott received an update at the end of June. Students may once again travel outside of Canada for school trips as long as the trip meets approval requirements. Before a trip can be approved a teacher needs to be supported by their administrator and the trip needs approval from the division board before planning can commence. Great update!

X. Open floor questions:

- a) Why are kids being taken out of classes they are in without parent notification? Scott says this can happen for classes that do not impact graduation (ie. options). OR possibly the student didn't have the prerequisite. Parents are encouraged to reach out to guidance counsellors or administrators if they have questions pertaining to this or any changes to a student's schedule.
- b) What is the fire code regulation for the building? There is no building code for our classrooms. Fire Inspectors do come through regularly to inspect the building and address concerns. Fire drills are frequent and mandated with respect to emergency procedures.
- c) Can we add athletic calendar to our website? Scott to look into this.
- d) Can we donate a couple of pizza punch cards from council?
Kelli motioned to donate 3 pizza punch cards (\$60) to student leadership for Terry Fox run raffle to come from past pizza sales. Erin Q seconded. All in favour. Motion carried.

XI. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:03pm

Next meeting: **Oct 9th, 2024 @ 6:30pm in the Learning Commons**