



George McDougall High School School Council Minutes

November 13th, 2024
6:30pm

In attendance: Erin Q, Kellie E, Darcy M, Marla P., Katie T, Danielle F, Sherry Miller, Melyssa Bowen, Jacalyn Vang, Ashley D, Devon B, Melanie G, Yuko T, Jennifer P, Scott Bloxham, Anna T(student rep)

Via Zoom: Jonah, Nissa, R Griffin, Tara A, Doug, Faith S, Corinne C, Sandy

- I. Call Meeting to order-The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm.
- II. Land Acknowledgement - Kelli read the RVS Land Acknowledgement statement.
- III. Approval of agenda - Darcy motioned to approve agenda and Erin seconded. Motion passed.
- IV. Approval of October 9th meeting minutes - Darcy motioned to approve minutes; Erin seconded. Motion passed.

V. Student Leadership Presentation- Anna T and Scott Bloxham

- Student leadership has been working on a new initiative at our school over past few months called Unified Sports, which is a partnership connected to the Special Olympics Org. to integrate students with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team within the school community. Approximately 5/6 student athletes are in the school that would be able to join this initiative and compete in the division. These students will be paired up with other students at George McDougall. The future hope is to be able to host a Unified Sports event for our students.
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters mentoring is commencing this week and next. Will be doing mentoring in classes at the elementary school.
- During the Scare Hunger initiative in December, students raised 560 lbs of food, which was distributed in November.
- Metis week - Rock your Mocks- Indigenous learning initiative.
- Christmas planning - leadership has various activities planned for December.
- Grade 10 leadership group is looking at "Winging It Wednesday" as another food option for students. Pre-order wings. More information will be coming.

VI. Teacher Presentation Learning Support staff

- 1) Jackie Vang :

- Looks after complex learners in the school.
 - Works with Airdrie food bank to prepare sandwiches and snacks twice a week for George McDougall and middle school.
 - Other activities include cooking and trying to keep her learners engaged.
- 2) Danielle Foley (supports students with surnames starting with A-L)
- Assists students with 1:1 tutoring or students who have accommodations
 - Meet with parents to set up IPP, diploma accommodations, indigenous learning support to provide support to indigenous students.
 - Drop in session for indigenous and non indigenous students
- 3) Katie Teague(supports students with surnames starting with M-Z)
- Focusing on creating a safe space free of stigma for ELL (English Language Learners)
 - 25% of students at GM have an IPP.

VII. Administration Report- Scott Bloxham

- Remembrance Day Service held on November 7th and was very well done. Special thank you to Mr. HARRIS who did the bulk of the organizing.
- Leadership 10 kids were in charge of seating everyone and there was actually a spot for all of our students to sit.
- Q 1/2 changeover, which means we are over half way through semester 1.
- Diploma exams have been ordered for January.
- Reassessment break will be Jan 17-27th. Students passing their courses are not required to attend, however those not passing will need to attend. This is also an opportunity to upgrade your marks. The reassessment has to have an impact on the overall grade.
- Parent/teacher interviews were well attended and thank you to council and volunteers for providing the dinner. It makes a big difference for our staff to have that meal.
- Athletics - Volleyball is coming to a close with a tournament being hosted for zones this coming weekend. Basketball commencing shortly and coaches are incoming working on selecting their teams. Teacher sponsors for teams - Scott will be the sponsor for 3 of our teams.
- Grad Fair occurring soon as well as checklist out coming.

VIII. Trustee Report - Melyssa Bowen

A thorough report was delivered by school trustee Melyssa Bowen that included various topics:

- Oct 17th - Hi-lighting an exemplary practice at Mitford School where quiet time and reading shifted to playing mini games.

- Board has approved the 2025/26 calendar with the first day of classes will be Sept 2nd and the last day of classes June 26th.
- Looking at shifting teacher learning days to accommodate other multi-cultural holidays where they are seeing a higher number of student absences.
- Enrolment is up 2.2% and has continued to grow during the school year.
- High School growth seems to be highest at the moment with all 3 schools over 100% growth, with W.H. Croxford reaching 127% capacity
- Looking at moving modulars to accommodate student growth.
- Question - when the high schools move to grade 10-12 models, will the grade 9 FI teachers stay as grade 9 teachers? Or do they remain with the schools? Scott indicates that it is less likely to lose a FI specialist at our school due to these reasons.
- Question - will French carry through into Math at the middle school now if grade 9s remain? Unknown answer at this time. This is mostly dependant on how many teacher specialists are available.
- Boundary changes - changes will mean there will be additional trustees in other areas and challenges to support the newly defined school wards.
- Notice of motion to receive a detailing of class size averages.
- Joint board/council meeting hosted.
- Exemplary practice shared at Oct 21st meeting came from the Indigenous support.
- Cochrane/Chestermere engagements are now out to public.
- 27 modular classrooms requests have been made for 25/26 school year.
- Question - Why don't we spend money on building a new school instead of spending so much money to move modulars? A: Trustees continue to advocate to have our government spend money on building schools.
- Melissa spoke about financial debate at recent meeting and how the board is trying to focus spending.

IX. New Business:

- a) Scott is on board for having more teachers present at council meetings and is advocating hard on our behalf. The next presenters are TBA.
- b) Technology use update : Cafeteria is the only place the students can have a cell phone out in our school.
- c) The Learning commons is available for students to work on their homework, and is intended to be a quiet space for students to study. There is usually a quiet space for students that is supervised.
- d) Pizza Financial Update-tabled until January
- e) Mascot update-will be here Friday Nov 15h could be worn as early as Saturday.

X) Old Business - tabled until January.

XI) Open floor questions:

- a) Why doesn't GMHS celebrate academic achievers like other RVS schools? A: Honour roll students are acknowledged for grades 10/11 in the fall for both honour roll and honourable mention, but there is no mention of honours with distinction.
- b) Why does GMHS hold awards nights only for athletics, but not academics? A: They do not run an awards ceremony as there has been no real push to do it, but it isn't something we couldn't do. Grade 12s awards are built in on graduation day.
- c) Why are there no school dances/social activities? A: Effort has been put in in past years, however there was minimal attendance or participation.

Further info: Career fair to be held in November - students will be called down and there is scheduled attendance.

Online question - If grade 9s make the honour roll for grade 9 when do they receive their award? They will receive it in their grade 10 year.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm

Next meeting to be held Friday, January 8th, 2025 time TBA.