



Meadow Ridge School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, Sep 16, 2021

In attendance: Bryce Godenir, Anthony Ryder, Connie Drake, Sarah Larsen, Kristi Lundquist

Administration: Sharon Nichols, Brad Skeet, Rebecca Forchuk

Meeting called to order: 6:05.

Welcome and Introductions

Still looking for parents to fill the roles of Vice Chair and Secretary

Updates - Sharon Nichols, Board Trustee for the Foothills School Division

- Engagement, Support, Success
 - o Thank you to the FSD school communities, students, staff and families for all the efforts made to ensure a successful start to the 2021-2022 school year. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to shape the ways we organize our schools to provide the safe, caring and welcoming spaces that are vital to the well-being of students and staff each day. Information about the ALBERTA PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY measures that went into effect Thursday, September 16 are available on the FSD School Renewal Plan Update and on the FSD website for you.
 - o New Measures:
 - o Updated school mask measures and exemption process
 - o Cohorting of students in Kindergarten to Grade 6
 - o Capacity limits and physical distancing requirements for events and activities
- Board Highlights
 - o Advocacy Item:
 - The Board of Trustees communicated in writing with the Minister of Education expressing its concerns and frustrations with the decision-making process imposed on school divisions and the lack of leadership by the Government of Alberta related to COVID health restrictions including mask use within schools, resulting in greater uncertainty and division within our communities. The letter was copied to MLA Sigurdson, MLA Reid and MLA Rosin.



- September 30 – National Truth and Reconciliation Day
 - The Board adjusted the 2021-2022 school calendar to recognize and honor September 30, 2021 as The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and, that September 30, 2021 be adjusted as a non-attendance day for students and staff. The Board will also review upcoming school calendars and include September 30 as a non-attendance day moving forward.
 - August 2021, the Minister of Education announced that School Councils in Alberta will be receiving an Alberta School Council Grant of \$500.00 to enhance collaboration between parents and schools on education priorities.
 - Report from Charity Tegler, Indigenous Learning Facilitator
 - Formation of FSD Indigenous Advisory Council
 - Truth and Reconciliation Learning Success Toolkit developed and being used in schools
 - The Board submitted the Toolkit for an ASBA School Board Innovation and Excellence award.
 - Report from Cynthia Glaicar, Director of Staff and Wellness Learning
 - Update of professional learning opportunities for staff to support learning for transfer and staff wellness.
 - Advancing our commitment to curriculum development with work commencing for a Curriculum working group to prepare for the Fall of 2022
 - Innovative learning tools like access to Streamable Learning platforms for every classroom. These are hundreds of K-12 interactive livestreams sourced from educational institutions from around the world and delivered by subject matter experts.
 - Planning update of Capital and Supportive Projects
 - New High School – Okotoks: FSD received approval for a \$100,000 planning budget to meet with the Town of Okotoks to begin the planning process.
 - Completion of the Cameron Crossing portion of the Okotoks Arts and Learning Campus with a November/December date set for the opening.
 - Grant of \$50,000 from the Public Health Agency of Canada – Royal Bank of Canada Grant to advance the work of Foothills Cares initiative.
 - We have partnered with Alberta Health Services (AHS) Addiction & Mental Health, Calgary Zone, the Calgary Rural Primary Care Network, and the Foothills Children’s Wellness Network to ensure we support our community effectively as we transition out of the pandemic.
 - The Board continues to work on updating the Policies of FSD. A committee will be struck to review celebration of days of significance to align with Policy 16 – Welcoming, Safe, Caring , Inclusive and Respectful Learning Environments.
- Celebrations



- Congratulations on the opening of three new learning opportunities for FSD students: the Nature Based Learning Alternative School for grade K – 6 students; Full-day Kindergarten at three FSD sites; and Hub@Home for grade 1 – 12 students.
- Congratulations to England Metcalfe (FCHS) on her appointment to the Minister's Youth Council. The Minister's Youth Council gives students opportunities to share input and perspectives on provincial programs and initiatives.
- Questions
 - Connie D. Question about overcrowding in the school and the size of the Grade 8 classes.
 - Sharon had not heard the numbers yet, but Foothills School Division has a focus on class size. Sharon will follow up on options available.

Updates - Principal / Vice-Principal Report

Education Plan Parent Feedback presentation

- Empowering the hearts, heads and hands to make a difference.
 - Engaging Others
 - Engaging in Thinking
 - Engaging in Action

Engagement

- **Strategy 1: Student Engagement**
 - recess patrols
 - students offering and leading clubs related to interests/passions
 - Jr High feedback lunches with admin
 - Grizzly Suggestion box (school); Anything that Matters box (studios)
 - Utilizing CTF classes as leadership opportunities for students to take ownership over school (announcements, advertisements, leadership)
- **Strategy 2: Faculty Engagement**
 - Continue to build leadership teams who develop relevant professional development and ensure responsive support to all staff members and who take ownership and lead school-wide structures and supports such as PBS, traditions, learning celebrations, and mentorship.
 - Continue to use strategies to collect and respond to teacher voice and choice during faculty meetings and professional learning
- **Strategy 3: Parent Engagement**
 - Continually seek out parent feedback with regards to our school's direction through:
 - Bang the Table



- AERR survey to all parents
- Celebrating school council achievements and initiatives.
- Increase collaboration with the School Council and Fundraising Society to recruit more parents.
- **Strategy 4:** Community Engagement - Collaborate with and stay in tune with current and future community support systems to provide accurate information to families and staff including:
 - Town of Okotoks
 - Minds Matter
- **Strategy 5:** Communications
 - Communicate new opportunities via school council, volunteering, and school initiatives through our Instagram and school website
 - Bi-weekly Community Connects that are shorter for parents to read with consistent dates to send out
 - Complete the staff handbook and parent handbook; get feedback and respond accordingly; share with faculty as well as post on website
 - Continue with minimum of monthly curriculum newsletters

Support

- **Strategy 1:** Collaborate with Minds Matter to design effective and responsive universal supports for staff and student SEL wellness
 - Collaboratively create a design plan and enact it with Wellness Coach and Minds Matter manager that aligns social emotional competencies and Minds Matter schedule of events to 'what it means to be a Grizzly' which incorporates voice of students and faculty
 - Internal Resiliency strategies explicitly taught within curricular activities
 - Monitor if these strategies increase internal resiliency and confidence in students as well
- **Strategy 2:** Evidence-Based Practices
 - Continue to build capacity around Positive Behaviour Supports, Restorative Practice and Trauma-Informed practice with faculty and parents.

Success

- **Strategy 1:** Offer work summary program for Grade 9 students who require more hands-on experiential learning.
- **Strategy 2:** Collaborate with Junior High teachers to re-vision CTF courses. Use the design thinking process to generate ideas and opportunities where students are using CTF courses to make a difference in our school and community. For example, digital arts learn how to create advertisements and then make posters to advertise events and fundraisers at the school; use tech design to create engaging announcements for the school and commercials; construction creates wood art and sell at a market.



- **Strategy 3:** Have a K-6 leadership team to explore the idea of Micro Society and how we could adapt it at our school so students learn financial literacy, marketing, creating products and how to be a contributing member of our community.
- **Strategy 4:** Focusing Professional Learning on Conceptual Understanding in relation to:
 - Designing learning around a concepts-based approach building off our understanding of UbD and UDL. Starting with concepts, enduring understandings and essential questions.
 - Using thinking routines to allow students the opportunity to show their thinking rather than just knowledge and skills.
 - Using project-based learning, problem-based learning, design thinking, place-based learning tasks to engage students in learning tasks that empower their hearts, heads, and hands. Rather than choosing one, we provide voice and choice. We understand that teachers may use any combination of these throughout the year based on the purpose of learning and learners in their class.
 - Using disciplinary literacy in all subjects through reading, writing, listening, speaking and viewing. For example, we want students to think like mathematicians in math; journalists in LA; authors in LA; geologists in Science; environmental scientists in science; historians in Social, etc.
 - Ensuring that learning extends beyond the walls of our learning studios. How do we learn in the community around us and how might we bring experts into our learning spaces?

Parent Questions

- How do we get more parents participation
 - Should we switch to every other month?
 - Kristi proposed moving the meeting from 6pm to 7pm to accommodate more parents schedules
 - Parents in attendance agreed to the time change and the October meeting would be the first meeting that will adhere to the new start time of 7pm.
 - Meetings to remain monthly
 - Better communication needed to inform parents of the benefits of the Parent council meetings
 - Information provided
 - Direct access to ask questions to the the school / school division leadership teams

Meeting Adjourned at 7:10 PM