

# Meadow Ridge School Council Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2026

**In attendance:** Kristi Lundquist (Chair), Lucy Critchley, Jen Pierce-Ager, Shannon Gosse, Isabelle

*Please note that other parents joined the meeting, but their names are not captured on the minutes as the attendance sheet was not provided and/or they joined after the attendance sheet had been passed around.*

**Administration:** Debbie Payne (Principal), Allison Stewart (VP), Danielle Buschman (VP)

**Board of Trustees:** Sharon Nichols

Meeting called to order at 6:34PM by Kristi Lundquist

1. Welcome and Introductions
  - Those in attendance introduced themselves
2. Agenda
  - Kristi reviewed the agenda
    - *Lucy motioned to adopt the agenda, Isabelle seconded*
3. Minutes from previous meeting
  - *Kristi motioned to accept the minutes, Shannon seconded*
4. School Council Engagement Grant
  - \$500 grant for parent engagement. Plan is to have Dare to Care: Bully Prevention and Life Skills Night
  - The presenter prefers to offer the program to adults. There is a reduced cost of \$325/ 2 hours for parents or access to the entire program for a whole year for \$1100. Allison noted that \$1100 fee would be better suited if from the beginning of the school year.
  - The event would be free for parents to attend.
  - Discussion regarding how to promote and incentivise the program to encourage participants: food, prizes, child minding as well as stipulations on what the grant funds can/ can not be used towards

- Discussion on potential dates of April 27-30. Debbie will look at dates and let Kristi know about gym availability.
- Allison will reach out to Lisa Dixon Wells
- Kristi will look into prizes and childcare

#### 5. Trustee Update- Sharon Nichols

- Sharon notes that MRS made a remarkable presentation to the board about the programs offered at the school and they also shared the Education Plan with supporting data.
- The board has toured division schools recently, with an MRS school tour coming up on March 11<sup>th</sup> and seeing the Cameron Crossing Jr High program (an expanded program)
- On February 25<sup>th</sup> the board visited 7 schools: 2 Hutterite Colony Schools as well as schools in Cayley, Blackie and High River
- Sharon shared of the upcoming Pow Wow in Okotoks on May 30 and 31<sup>st</sup> (possibly also May 29<sup>th</sup>) and how the event will be held at the Viking Rental Centre this year and also using the field of Foothills Comp for tipi set-up.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Indigenous Grad ceremony this year- this is a partnership with FSD and there will be an hour set aside for the grad ceremonies during the Pow Wow in May
- Paul Davis is coming to Westmount School on March 20<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30PM, and will be working with Westmount students during the day. MRS families can attend, but need to RSVP. It was noted that this day is also the day of the Family Dance at MRS.
- Okotoks Jr High ran a bookclub on “The Anxious Generation” which was highly impactful, there was a recent article in the Western Wheel on the “Let Us Grow” Program. Creating a positive culture at OJ, which has been a follow up from the book study.
- Sharon mentioned “Footnotes- Steps towards a Flourishing Community”, there is further information on the website, but is small groups in a world café style of learning. Topics centre around: belonging and culture, student support & equity, schools as community hubs, technology & ai and advocacy for public education.

- Friends of Foothills Foundation hosting event on April 17<sup>th</sup>, tickets are \$150 and being held at the Saskatoon Berry Farm, early registration is open. Friends of Foothills Foundation also hosts the golf tournament and does grant writing which schools can request funds from.
- Rural councils need support; Sharon invited us to reach out to those councils and invite them/ partner with them. Sharon further encouraged us to share our events with Ashley from Friends of Foothills

#### 6. Principal's Update- Debbie Payne

- Next month Debbie will review the orientation survey from students
- Debbie spoke about data and how she needs to share data every month from AERR, which also includes parent survey data
- On February 18<sup>th</sup> MRS teachers engaged in an excellent PD session led by the Vice Principals. The focus was on the layers of reading development for K-9, with focus on vocabulary being key for success in literacy. The PD focused on data as their starting point. Teachers also examined the data from the Elk Island Math Assessment (completed in September) and focused on the importance of Math games.
- Grade 9 teachers looked at previous years PATs and trends and then were building Math games to address that gap
- English Writing Consortium and exemplars were looked at as well as the RCAT (Reading Comprehension Assessment Tool). FSD has now received licenses and will receive training on this with a focus on the 5 pillars of literacy. The assessment will provide them with data and will be administered in May
- The third grade 7 class will be operational as of Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The school took 5 sets of friends from 7F and 7M, and they will move together into 7B. Al and Chris had looked at funds and were able to move some things around to make this third class work. Angelika's leave has been extended until mid April

and the new teacher, Courtney Bardock will teach all subjects to 7B. Courtney has been at MRS since February 9<sup>th</sup>.

- With the change/ separation before the third class was established, the staff had already made some behavioural observations, where some students had shown improved focus and success by having smaller classroom environment since February 2<sup>nd</sup>. This has been documented anecdotally.
- The other 2 classes will now have 27 students each. They have looked at student learning needs and have aimed to place students where their academic and social needs can best be supported.
- Alisha McRae will be with 7M and Fridays until end of the year. Debbie will teach Monday-Thursday afternoons until Angelika returns.
- At times, 7B can also the learning commons as a space.
- Grade 9 Farewell is scheduled for June 24, 2026, this is the last Wednesday of the last week of school. Last year there was a small group that helped plan it. A parent email will be sent out soon.

Meeting adjourned: 7:36 PM

Next Meeting: March 19, 2026 at 6:30PM