

**Meadow Ridge School
Council Meeting Minutes
17 October 2019**

Attendees

13 parents

5 FSD Staff (Principal, Teacher and 3 Board Reps)

1. Called to order by Connie Drake at 6:06 p.m.

The school council acknowledges the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta and the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3.

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Review of the Agenda and additions/deletions

- a. Sarah Lynch requested to speak for a few minutes during the meeting on behalf of a committee she is working on. Connie Drake accepted the request and it was added to the New Business section in the Agenda.

4. Connie Drake motioned to accept the October 10, 2019 Meadow Ridge School Council Establishment Meeting Minutes as presented. Acceptance of minutes seconded by **Anthony Rider** and **Kristi Lundquist**.

5. Overview of legislation, regulations, policy and School Council Operating Procedures, Alberta School Councils' Association resources for School Councils and parents. As a new school council, we are working on customizing the Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) School Council Operating Procedures Template to better represent our school. School council operating procedures involve an inclusive council. We will go through these operating procedures and approve them later as our own. There are a lot of resources for parents to review at www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca. Code of conduct included in conjunction and provided to meeting attendees. Our model of governance is town hall and we will go with majority rules.

6. Updates

a. Trustee Updates

- i. **Sharon Nichols** - Thank you for stepping up, for being here, for supporting FSD so well. Thank you for making sure transitions happened smoothly and effortlessly to the benefit of everybody. We recently visited EPP for their town hall (candidates presentation) and MR sent a group of students. As the students returned to the school, kids hugged each other from both schools as they recognized each other at the community gathering. This is a strong group of kids staying connected despite different schools and they will meet again at the comp.
- ii. **Larry Albrecht** – Regarding work the board is doing – in Millarville we have been tasked with a request to change the grade configuration to add grade 9 back in. We have undergone an engagement process with 2 public engagement sessions in Millarville and BD. We are looking at all of the input now and will make a decision in November. The board recognizes that Okotoks boundary changes also affect grade configurations in surrounding towns. Public consultation and engagement very important to the trustees. **Sharon Nichols** - Often we have policies that require input from the public and go out for consultations. We hear every comment and

- make a decision with as many voices as possible and with the soundest judgement possible. We welcome you to contact us with any questions or concerns you have.
- iii. **Larry Albrecht** – We have a new self-assessment tool that is much better than what we have used in the past. We are using it to review last year, to ask what were our goals and did we meet them? What are the goals going to be this year? We are trying to provide foundational work that shows what the role of a trustee entails. It's a big job that we take seriously. As chair I have assigned homework to every trustee to bring forward to our review meeting.
 - iv. **Sharon Nichols** – 3 or 4 times every year students come together in the Students' Matters Committee and bring forward issues and activities that are happening in their schools. It's a great activity for student leadership.
 - v. **Sharon Nichols** - There is a conference on visible thinking and cultures of thinking (deep understanding) that the trustees are attending in Kananaskis next week. This will support student learning and permeate through the division.
 - vi. **Larry Albrecht** – A Council of Chairs has been meeting in the past which is attended by School Council Chairs from FSD schools . It was determined in May/June that the Council of Chairs is not a function of the school board and is a function of school councils. For this to continue it has to be run by the school councils. In the coming months the board will have a meeting to look at planning the Council of Chairs through the school councils. The board of trustees wants to support the Council of Chairs and provide funding for a few parent council members to attend the ASCA conference
 - vii. **Chris Fuzessy** – I arrived on June 10 from Quebec and recently joined the board of trustees. Thank you to the community for making my family feel so welcome. I come from a larger district of schools – if there was something people weren't happy with it appeared on my desk. I was a board member of child and family services and supported inclusive education. I was a teacher and remain a teacher at heart. I like to be present in the schools and am visiting schools about 50% of the time. I have a deep commitment to professional learning at FSD. We have recently talked about concept-based learning and what is the purpose of schools/why they exist. Emphasis on staff and learner wellness right now and focus on continuous improvement.
 - viii. **Question from Wendy Anhorn to the trustees** - What is the appetite for late entry French Immersion now in FSC 38? There wasn't enough interest when it was going to start in grade 5 but the Catholic School Division starts in grade 7. Would FSD consider starting late French Immersion in Grade 7? **Larry Albrecht** – the board is committed to French immersion. We did a consultation and there is a minimum number of students required to run the late immersion program starting at grade 5. The first year we had 14-15 kids interested and we expect to lose a few students over the years. This year we tried to go out to surrounding areas to get the late immersion program running and there were only 11 students interested. **Sharon Nichols** – not all schools have been offering French from Grade 4 forward but this year they all are offering French for grades 4-6. With more exposure to French there should be more interest in the late immersion program in the future. **Rebecca Forchuk** – we are fortunate enough to

have 2 former French immersion teachers at MR to offer French in grades 4-6. Grade 4 just started their French classes, Grades 5 will start soon and Grade 6 FSL has been running since September.

b. **Principal/Vice Principal Report (Rebecca Forchuk)**

- i. We are about 6 weeks in and have learned a lot about our students and their needs. We are getting used to the new space. Thanks for your support and patience. Included in the handouts I have shared the mission, vision and values which all drive the decisions we make regarding the programs we offer and support we provide. We don't want this to be something that stays the same for 10 years. It must always reflect who we are and who we want to be. **Hearts** – is the learning relevant, does it matter? **Head** – we need kids who can think. **Hands** – what are they doing with their knowledge and skills? What are they doing to make a difference in our community and beyond? We are making a lot of decisions based on the Hearts/Head/Hands. We are working hard to establish and nurture our MR community. The second pillar is our 8 competencies – how are we developing those competencies in our kids and how are we preparing them for High School? The third pillar is engaging our kids as thinkers and creators.
- ii. Education plan will be presented next School Council; will finalize goals and strategies at conference next week. On Friday (PD day) we looked at nurturing our community and helping our kids feel safe and that they belong. We took the teachers through a reflection piece (included in attendee handouts) – Nurturing our community. We have been sharing ideas. What is working that may be tried in other grades? What are we doing peer to peer to build strong relationships? What are we doing in the classroom and in our spaces/environment to bring a sense of belonging? Social/emotional learning, growth mindset language, building resilience. K-1 teach zones of regulation.
- iii. **Key events** - provided in handout
- iv. **Stakeholder Engagement** –Using Instagram lots. **Shawna Fawcett** – some parents are noticing these emails are full of information but they didn't see those emails going to their junk folder. Suggest sending a paper notice home to let parents know which email address to add to their inboxes. **Rebecca Forchuk** – I will look into this further to ensure parents are noticing the emails. Community Engagement Leadership committee is getting started and we need at least two parents to join. Looking at another community engagement session for the spring as a check in.
- v. Learner profile coming out in November and it is going to look a little different. What we decided to do as a division is look at work habits, responsibilities, citizenship to see if they met these indicators. These things are intrinsic values that cause students to take ownership of their competencies. They reflect personal growth and well being and we will now report 5 categories. If there is a "Not Yet" indicated, there should be comments explaining why. Looking at how they communicate and how they collaborate with others. I am a global citizen – this is important to the culture in our school. Acknowledging diversity and making a difference. I am an innovative problem solver who...(see handout). This does not necessarily reflect the academics but it is still important.

7. **Connie Drake** – there are two committees we want to get started on right away.
 - a. The Ad Hoc committee to get the policies in place for the school council. We have a starting point but want to customize what we have to something aimed at Meadow Ridge School. **Bryce Godenir** to take the lead and **Shawna Fawcett** to help out.
 - b. There is a community engagement committee too. We need a volunteer committee lead. **Rebecca Forchuk** - Oct 25/26 we are hosting a high school volleyball tournament and we need volunteers. It would be good to sell something at this tournament from our kitchen to help us raise money for sports jerseys. **Nancy Nuessler** – Can we contact parents who have joined the fundraising committee even though this is a school led initiative? **Carina Chen** – Yes, that should be possible. **Patty Haslum** – contact FCHS to see if the grade 12s may need volunteer hours and perhaps they could sell food. Anyone who is interested in helping with selling food at the tournament please contact Rebecca. **Connie Drake** – we would like to do a potluck to support the teachers during conferences. I will set up the potluck in Signup Genius and send out the link.
8. **Communications** – if you would like to communicate with us, contact Rebecca or email mrsCouncil@gm.fsd38.ab.ca. We want everyone to know communication is open and very important to Connie as chair that we are collaborating with the school and having fun.
9. **New Business**
 - a. **Sarah Lynch** – we have been tasked with seeing if our schools are open to a short update from the Foothills Children’s Wellness Network Steering Committee. There is a child and a youth branch and I would bring info on services. **Connie Drake** consulted with the group and confirmed Sarah could bring info on services to future School Council meetings.
 - b. **Kristi Lundquist** asked if there is going to be any change to class sizes or if 30 is the new norm? **Chris Fuzessy** - the class sizes are in line with staffing allocations. Part of enrollment is looking at how many kids are actually there and we look at supporting the school. **Richard Horner** – is this related to the provincial government? **Chris Fuzessy** – we have been told to plan for the same amount of money as last year but we can’t commit to anything until we see what the budget looks like. Enrollment growth will be funded by Alberta gov’t.
10. **Next Meeting** – November 21st at 6:00 p.m.
11. **Adjourn** at 7:21 pm