

**Meadow Ridge School
Council Meeting Minutes
16 January 2020**

Attendees

Roll Call: Bryce Godenir, Sarah Lynch, Leslie Navratil, Richard Horner, Anthony Rider, Kristi Lundquist, Kristi Nutter, Sheroma Green, Carina Chen, JoAnna Anderson-O'Neill, Connie Drake, Nancy Nuessler

Admin: Vice Principal Fred Woods, Music Teacher Jamie Boland, Board Rep Sharon Nichols

1. Meeting called to order at 6:03
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Agenda updated (#5 deleted) and approved
4. November meeting minutes reviewed. Connie recommended and motioned for approval. Anthony and Patty approved minutes. October minutes are on school web site. October minutes to be reviewed/approved at February meeting.
5. Leadership team presentation – deleted from agenda, deferred to next meeting
6. Jamie Boland (music teacher at MRS) presented about the music program and what's been happening in the classroom. K-Grade 2 are working on singing and movement. If you can sing it, you can play it. Learning about instruments of the orchestra, Peter and the Wolf. Grades 3-4 starting to play instruments. Grade 3 Recorders. Grade 4 handbells. Grade 5 singing and handbells, started today with ukuleles (sharing them with 2 classes right now). A lot of students are interested in ukulele because it leads to guitar. Grade 6 really getting into instruments, aiming for Star Wars music. Grade 7 and 8 are learning together, more challenging with beginners to more experienced (mentoring). Starting to look at playing 2nd year music. The goal is the High River festival in late March/early April. Next year would like to go to festivals in Calgary and Camp Horizon (band camp) in the spring. This is where the program is headed.
 - a. What is needed? We don't have enough Ukuleles or guitars. Have borrowed some instruments from other schools and risers (flip forms also are like a stage). Rentals of instruments are \$100 but we can waive that if needed. Cost to attend band camp and festivals can't be waived and some parents can't afford. When we started up, we were given some instruments from other schools and some new ones – some of the used instruments have less than 5 years of life left. For fundraising, proposing an outdoor concert on May 21 – blankets and lawn chairs. K-5 campfire songs, portable fire pits? A family night, concert in the park. Jamie has had food trucks come for these events in the past. Not sure what the rules are regarding planning this. Silent auction has been successful in the past. Stage and sound? Fred – there may be a May 21 conflict with JH Track and field as it's usually a Wed with Thursday back up date in case of rain. Kristi – does the school have funds for instruments that wear out? Fred – the \$100 that kids pay goes into a big pot at FSD and teachers have to justify their needs to get new instruments. Leslie – we have an Aunt with some instruments, could they be donated? Our son is in a program called Larry Bird Four Ring Puzzle to raise money, the puzzles can be borrowed from the library, no cost to borrow,

at least 5 contestants. Andrew – we will keep those fundraising ideas and needs in mind at our future meeting, do you have a wish list? Jamie – I can draft one.

7. Updates

a. Trustees Report – Sharon Nichols

- i. Very exciting to have a brand-new school with a brand new program. All of our information is now on our web site where you can get details in depth. A lot has happened with the budget and efficiencies, and we are doing ok. We have sent some ideas for efficiencies to the schools. We did make some adjustments, have had to make changes in personnel, we have not been happy to have to do that. Have had to cut back in every way possible. Will have to continue and we expect more cuts. There is a fall budget update on our web site and we have started a thought exchange under the Community Engagement page. Please take a look at that and consider what is foundational and important to us and what are some suggestions you have for helping us to organize the budget. Over 75% of our budget is in staffing. Our executive team has put together a timeline for us (also on the Community Engagement page). We have students joining us at the student matters meetings to help decide what is most valuable in education and what we can live without for a while. On May 1 we will have a meeting with all stakeholders to discuss the budget. May 20 budget decided at the board table, must be approved in June. We will put this together with the 3 year education plan that we have going forward. We have a strong school division with teachers committed to professional development, and it is some of these PD opportunities we will have to cut back on. My goal is that we maintain the quality of education that FSD has. We've been making partnerships with the towns in the FSD and they have been very supportive.
- ii. We have a meeting coming up on Jan 29 with the education minister. Adriana LaGrange. She has made time to have a tour of the school, - Anthony – wouldn't it make more sense to visit the schools that need some attention too? Question added to list.
- iii. Jan 27 is the council of school councils meeting. Connie will be attending. Our schools will be connecting within our division. Patty – where do the teachers plug in their vehicles? We spent all of these millions on a brand-new school and staff and teachers did not get plug ins. Fred – I am the car starter and the plug coordinator. We have 2 outlets to share. We usually only have 1-2 weeks of the year where we need them. Connie – is the link for parent engagement on the web site? Sharon – yes.

b. Principal/Vice Principal Report - Fred Woods

- i. We don't have a lot of data and the board of education has sent surveys to grade 4 and 7. Please take the time to fill out the survey. Sharon – this is very important. We need the data for programming, how we are doing, parental engagement. Some schools do a parent night to send it out. It's a drive to increase parental involvement. I'm hoping to get at least 30-50 parents. Would be great to get near 100% parental participation. Connie – is there a tournament coming up? Anthony – Rebecca will let us know how many teams are coming and if it's worth doing a canteen. Fred – it's at the end of January. Jodi – when we had this tournament,

parking was a problem after school. Fred – we are working on this with the town to have extra parking always available. Patty – parents don't always know the parking lot is one way. Fred – the arrows are painted. There were a few parents going the wrong way on these days when the busses were not running. If we are going to host a tournament, we will make sure people know where to park. For future tournaments will ask them to park further away while school is open. Kristi – when the snow melts are we going to have access to the field? Fred – not this year. The irrigation is in but they still have to seed or sod it. The field belongs to the Town of Okotoks. Kristi – currently the kids are switching off for playground usage. Is that going to change? Fred – it is due to space but the novelty is wearing off. We will look at the rotation and see if the 4-6's are using it and if we need to continue doing the rotation. There is equipment (balls etc) for the kids to use outside. We will look at expanding the open area as much as possible in the spring.

- ii. Kristi – I'm here at lunch a lot and it seems chaotic. Do we have enough supervision? Fred – we are trying lots of different things. Using classrooms, taking turns using the open areas, having enough supervisors.
- iii. Carina – why don't we have compost at school? Fred – we have lots of composting space but we don't have anyone leading that charge. It's often Grade 4s that lead that charge. Recycling is on the list but it isn't our main priority. Blackie had a worm compost.

8. Connie - School council operating procedures. Does anyone have any concerns? We have decided to leave the length of terms open and let elections decide it. Patty – motion to adopt as presented. Andrew seconded. Motion as carried by everyone.
9. No new business
10. February 27 will be next meeting.
11. Connie – motion to adjourn. Kristie Nutter first, Bryce seconded motion to adjourn. 7:09.