



Dr. Freda Miller School Council

Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2023

1. Call Meeting to Order - called to order at 6:31 pm

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Hello! My name is Janelle Pepin and I am the DFM School chair for this year! I want to welcome returning and new attendees (both Parents & teachers) to our school council meetings. Thank you for your time, input, ideas and conversations. We will start the meeting with a land acknowledgement.

Elders have taught us it's important to acknowledge the land where we gather and the First Peoples who traditionally lived here. It shows respect for people, their contributions and their ways of being, belonging, doing, and knowing, which are reflected through the stories and songs that have lived on this land for thousands of years. We are making this acknowledgment to demonstrate our commitment to work together as a community in laying the foundation for reconciliation through education.

We would like to acknowledge the traditional territories and oral practices of the Blackfoot Nations, which includes the Siksika (Seeg-see-gah), the Piikani (Bee-gah-nee) and the Kainai (Guy-nah) We also acknowledge the Tsuut'ina (Soot—tenna) and Stoney Nakoda (Na-ko-da) First Nations, the Métis Nation, and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta

2. Approval of September AGM Minutes - approved by Liz LeDrew

3. Approval of Agenda - approved by Shannon Munro

4. New Introductions

5. Chair Report /Old Business

a) Role of School Council

Alberta Education defines school councils as a collective association of parents, secondary students, the principal, teachers, and community representative(s) whose purpose is to advise the principal and the Board of Trustees respecting matters related to the school

Every CBE school community is required to establish a school council. Working in collaboration with the principal and school community, school councils can help foster a supportive learning environment and create valuable opportunities for students to meet the standards of education set by the minister.

How School Councils differ from other parent groups

School councils exist to advise the principal and the Board of Trustees on school matters. The school principal and at least one teacher at the school must be members of the school council.

Parent societies are a formal group of parents, incorporated under the *Societies Act* for the purpose of raising funds for the school. A society is a separate legal entity from the school council. The school principal is not a member of this group, but may participate in the meetings.

Review the [CBE Website](#) for more information on school councils. One of the goals this year will be to end meetings on time 😊

b) Processes for Communications

- How to add meeting agenda items?
 - Email school council chair and or vice chair
 - Submit suggestions on the google form [Work Request - Google Forms](#)
 - suggestions can be added to group social media pages
- How we get the word out to families about the work we are engaged in?
 - Facebook posts on DFMSES
 - Sandwich board announcements/ posters - volunteer opportunities here -who will take a leadership role to co-ordinate volunteers to move board in and out of school, who will create the visuals and where will they be located? - how often will the board be used?
 - collaborate with DFMSES (Enrichment Society) on creating a collaborated Instagram account / Facebook group
 - use surveys - paper copies home with QR codes for ease with parents and a visual in the school bag
 - use IG stories to see engagement and gauge audience we are capturing
- DFMS Website has agendas and meeting minutes
 - Do we want to provide a summary update to the weekly message following the meeting?



c) Volunteer opportunities: special school dates i.e. world teacher day, start of year events, field trips, assisting with fun lunch delivery, parent parking control.

- [Volunteer approval process](#) - currently taking about 4 weeks
- CPS checks are required prior to volunteering

d) Lost and found

- There are many items and after multiple notifications through emails the clothes that remain will be donated at regular intervals
- Parents are able to attend the school to look through items before school starts and or after the last bell of the day. With special approval parents may be able to attend on Monday evenings to look through lost and found. Please email Ms. Gillott to make arrangements.
- Potential to discuss someone arriving to meetings early to be available to parents after hours
- Please ensure all children's items are labelled - mabels labels and DFMSES - Enrichment Society to communicate further detail to parents about program
- Any other suggestions to have lost and found items returned to rightful owners?

6. School Report

- a. Teacher Presentation- Grade 5
- b. Update on Transportation (2 to 3 buses, two providers for one bus, lots of hiccups but staff working very hard on doing everything they can to resolve) Buddy Classes (following grades will be buddying up for mentorship, motivation and reading, trips to Fish Creek and Pond etc. Grades 5 & 2, 3 & 1, 4 & Kinders), Preservice Teachers from Ambrose (24 preservice students (ending DEC) 4/day every Wednesday visit a classroom) and MRU (working out exact number potential for 3 for the balance of the year once a week)
- c. Curriculum Parent Focus Group Opportunity - Sunday message - site my childs learning - parent resource website
- d. Upcoming Dates:



- Fall Break reminder – November 9-14
- Parent Teacher Conferences – November 23, 24
- Winter Celebration Night- December 7

7. Old Business

8. New Business

- a. Meeting Days- Proposed: Oct 19, Nov 16, Dec. 14, Jan 18, Feb 22, No meeting in March, April 11, May 9 and June 6

9. Next meeting Date: Nov 16, 6:30 pm - approved Turab

10. Adjourn Meeting 7:20pm

