



Dr. Freda Miller School Council Meeting Minutes

December 14th, 2023

1. Call Meeting to Order 6:35pm

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

2. **Approval of Minutes-** Motion: Liz
3. **Approval of Agenda-** Motion: Tim
4. **New Introductions**
5. **Chair Report**

a. Key communicator report - Saheedat

Brief Re-Cap of the COSC meeting held on October 26th, 2023.

The following were discussed:

1. **Role of school council:** advisory in nature, a way parents can have their voice heard and have representation in decision making. School council handbook is a valuable resource and is available online. The role of the Board of trustees in terms of representation and advocacy was also highlighted. School council is encouraged to invite their trustee to a school council meeting, its an opportunity for the trustee to learn about the school community and to answer questions parent might have about the system.
2. **CBE enrolment:** Year over year increase in enrolment of 7,000 students (enough to fill 15 elementary schools!), 29% of CBE students are EAL (English as an additional language). This implies increased complexities in the school, most schools are at capacity, especially high school, this also puts pressures on school infrastructure, and services like transportation, especially in the NE and SE. 1 in 10 CBE school is overflowed.
3. **Need for Learning Spaces:** 3-year (2024 – 2027) school capital plan was submitted to Alberta Education last spring, 16 projects (7 new school requests, and 9 requests for modernization of existing schools: more than half of CBE schools are 50 years old). The board requested 80 modular classrooms (12 are relocation of existing modulars and 68 are request for new modulars). Most of the requests for new schools are concentrated in the North of the City.
4. **New K-6 Curriculum – Social Studies Update:** Curriculum is being updated to reflect feedback received, first round of public engagement was concluded 16th October 2023. In 2024-2025 school year, teachers will have an opportunity to pilot refined draft curriculum in classrooms and provide feedback. Parent resources on the K-6 new curriculum are available on CBE website.
5. **Active and safe routes to school:** Active modes of transportation to school where possible is encouraged as research shows walking and cycling to school promote health & wellness. There's a Safe Student Travel Advisory Group supporting student transportation across the city and has wide representation (CBE, Calgary police, Calgary transit) Suggestions or concerns can be shared with this advisory group at transportation@cbe.ab.ca
6. **Alberta School Council:** ASCA exists to support school council across the province. Registration details can be found on the ASCA website. \$500 Alberta School Council Grant is being funded by Alberta Education again this year. To access these funds the name & email of the school council chair should be sent to the Alberta Education, through the board of trustees.

b. Social Media Guidelines/Report – ask for feedback

Increase to followers of over 100% from last month, tag school account and vice versa for more traction and to promote followers so more people are aware of what school council does and how they can get involved, what volunteer opportunities are available at the school, volunteer form to see where opportunities lie for school for parents and what availability parents have to support field trips etc,





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still looking for someone who may be interested in taking on the social media accounts to promote school council and ongoing events at the school

c. School Council grant – potential for Paul Davis? Inquiry sent

Re-connect on grant in January to see if other ideas and then vote to confirm and proceed with booking
Consider Starlight Family and something similar to last year's event - would need to book Jan

d. Operations report

- volunteer details survey piloted at winter celebration: school volunteer opportunities can be promoted with teachers and parents
[DFM School Volunteering Details](#)
When and where can you volunteer - what is your availability - do you have special skills to share
- have we all filled out the annual volunteer form?
needs to be completed annually - see Ms Kachra - even throughout five year limitation on police clearance
- would like to support field studies (i.e -to match curriculum, every year grade 4 students attend heritage park as it aligns with curriculum, grade 2's attend bow valley fish hatchery etc),
 - i.e motion for funding to decrease barriers – maybe for SES to fund busing for each grade's field study - SES to vote
- dance planning
 - May and October 2024 -Committee members: to reconvene in January as many not present, need a lead and to book DJ - Jen has contact from last year
- fun lunch
 - sign up genius is full!, spots for back ups made available. Will draw for a grocery gift card each month for the volunteers
 - checklist follow up
- Community engagement/ SC board position elections (June 2024) get ahead on planning for 2024-2025 school year, planning can be implemented earlier for success and more events throughout year - (September event for community engagement and social, Dance in Oct)
- New*- yearbook is in production- will sell for \$23, pick up next September to capture the June events

6. School Report

a. *Teacher Presentation- Grade 3 - Curriculum Integration with Land Based Learning*

b. *New curriculum - Opportunities and Challenges*

Opportunities:

Designing meaningful and engaging learning experiences facilitates student learning and transfer of knowledge.





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Teachers have the freedom to work with the new foundational documents to develop tasks that address and assess many Learning Outcomes in creative and inviting ways.

The ELAL curriculum is more detailed

Challenges:

Compression

Large gaps in outcomes, especially in mathematics

Lack of resources developed to date

Content heavy vs process heavy

Samples of ELAL Scope and Sequence Charts were shared.

c. School Development Plan Highlights

Writing

A: What we heard and saw:

Small group intervention funded and proved effective

Teachers developed exemplars, models and data tracking tools to identify gaps

Teachers worked together to create Writing prompts, calibration and common assessment tools (thermometer dips)

Teachers developed success criteria developed in student friendly language at each grade

Report Cards Marks – indicator 3 or 4 Jan to June

Grade 1- 46% - an increase of 7%

Grade 2- 50% - an increase of 7%

Grade 3 – 52% - an increase of 19%

Grade 4- 61% an increase of 5%

Grade 5 – 73%- an increase of 12%

B. What we are focusing on this year

Need more time to develop processes, skills and assessment tools that align with the new curriculum

K-3 outcomes have changed

EAL require more intense support

Students require support for organization, expression and clarity of writing

Explicit teaching of sentence structure

Continue with success criteria





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Regardless of the curriculum being taught, teachers continuously work to meet each student where they are in their learning

7. Old Business

- a. Upcoming meeting dates: Jan 18, Feb 22, No meeting in March, April 11, May 9 and June 6 (potential school council board elections and plans for fall 2024 complete by June meeting)

8. Next meeting Date: Jan 18th, 6:30 pm

9. Adjourn Meeting 7:47pm

