



COUNCIL MINUTES

Foundations for the Future – North Middle School

Date | time 11/14/2016 7:00 PM – 08:00 PM

In Attendance

Council

Lisa Chin, Secretary
Faruq Suleman, Chair
Sharon Zerk, Vice-Chair
Erica Oseen, Community Coordinator
Rhonda Rempel, Community Coordinator
Susan Hendry, NMS Partnership Coordinator

Staff

John Deines, Principal
Danny Williamson, Teacher

Board

Shelley Schroh

Guests

Absent

Alka Chandiramani, Hot Lunch Representative
Raj Sandhu, Hot Lunch Representative
Sukhmeet Dhillon, NMS Partnership Coordinator
Jennifer Cheah (Mei Yoong Cheah), Treasurer

Meeting called to order at 7:22 pm

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve November 14, 2016 agenda as distributed. Sharon to add: fundraiser idea

- Motion – Faruq Suleman
- Second – Lisa Chin
 - Motion to approve November agenda was passed

Approval of October 3, 2016 Minutes

Motion to approve October 3, 2016 Minutes as distributed.

- Motion – Erica Oseen
- Second – Faruq Suleman
 - Motion to approve September 12, 2016 minutes was passed

Treasurer Update (Jennifer Cheah)

- Mom has passed away, thought of sending flowers to her mom from council. If anybody does not feel comfortable with this let Faruq know.

MOTION to give up to \$50.00 towards flowers and a card to Jennifer Cheah

- Motion- Faruq
- Second- Lisa Chin
 - Motion Passed, all parties present in favor
- Sharon will take care of that

Teacher Representative Update (Danny Williamson)

- Since last month the parent partnership is a big thing that there was a discussion with Kurtis a couple weeks ago and some work being done on that level. He will know some more by next council meeting on how it is all shaping up at the Board letter. John and him were talking about a survey that was sent out and he was glad that it is helping out. The goal is to bring this down to the North Middle School and see how we want to see it as a school council.
- Candace sent an email that she is coming to the next meeting and she will have a chocolate total by that meeting. Faruq just wanted to hear it was successful. Faruq was not sure how that Me to We program all panned out. We want partnership ideas how we can be involved more with that.

Administration Update (John Deines)

- John wanted to mention what has been going on. Shawna and him have been meeting with the teachers on the Professional Growth plan. They don't expect the teachers to know everything when they go in but encouraged them to come in with a question. For himself and Shawna, there is a lot of enthusiasm with this approach and they are happy with this process. January they are meeting with them again. David they meet every month and this puts you on the spot, which is good. In the past they have written this and then forgot about it but this allows it to be more of a focus.
- Grade 8 field trip was great. John felt the COP people were very efficient. Some feedback was they would like more unstructured time such as a lunch to mingle. Something we would do again as lots of good feedback. Erica felt that there needed to be a way to force them to interact. 4 from south two girls stuck together and two boys stuck together and the north kids were off. Sharon felt it was good to see who the leaders were. One girl guided the group. This was the first year we did COP but they did something similar last year. Ours was more amazing race and problem solving. This year south middle was hosting so they picked the activity this year.
- During the last PD Day they did teachers provincial curriculum survey they all participated in. Collaboration all the admin team from south middle, north middle and high school, integrating the grade 8's with the grade 9's. High school did not know what electives were being offered at the middle schools.
- Remembrance Assembly on the 4th, Father Greene was there and there was a lunch after. He and his son came and it was a moving experience. He said afterwards that it was the best school he ever came to. His son and him were so impressed with the behavior of the students. Father Greene is indirectly

associated. Allana Thompson used to be an officer (Captain) and has connections and other military were there as well as her mom and dad.

- We have report cards coming up so the teachers have been working on that.

Board Update (Shelley Schroh)

- The board has been busy. The parental partnership surveys went out and they realized they should get them translated. It ended today. No clue on what the feedback was
- 22nd of November South Middle School and the 28th at North Middle School a forum is planned to go through the data that was collected. The people that come will be people that want to know what is going on. There will be some round table discussions like we did at the high school. This is to develop the policy. Original policy written was in our charter but the policies are being redesigned into a different format so we really needed to get as much input with parents and stakeholders. Originally were not going to include teachers but they figured they are in the front lines. She could not remember what had been asked. The 20-hour commitment has been taken out. Did our numbers fall out because they took that out so that will be round table. The well-informed people will probably come out. You can't get volunteers to read decodables. After this is done and made up in the policy it will be uniforms. Only on pieces, not the supplier. In 20 years they have never updated the uniform and maybe it is time to update it. Roger went down to talk to Alberta Education. He felt we should relax it and Shelley felt no as we are dealing with different climates. Update it as in tunics. The idea of a shirt being tucked in or not. Appeals and Hearings were passed at the first board meeting. They put in there that there was originally a zero tolerance in the appeals and hearings and that needed to be voted down. The issues fighting, weapons and drugs were all criminal offences so putting it in our policies would not need to be put in. We now have an audit committee it was suggested they will make recommendations as far as the appointment of an auditor. There are 6 people on that committee from the community, not our community. There were stringent guidelines of who could be a part of that. It was in the board newsletter in June there was a general call for people.
- PAT results and high school exam results were phenomenal. Interesting as John usually does this in the last three years. Joan Burke did this and was so excited. TAAPCS Alberta Association of Charter Schools: By-laws. 13 charter schools that work together. Andrew presented this and it was interesting but he went through the Societies Act and understanding the language act and each school gets one vote and he made this presentation and they were blown away. At the annual general meeting everyone was coming to Andrew asking questions.
- They all went to Edmonton 5 of 7 School boards. Governance and the Law, CBE would not speak to anyone of the board members but spoke to Roger. Teresa knows school boards inside outside and backwards and knows so much and was phenomenal with the info she gave us.
- 2017/2018 there will be no more full-day kindergarten. The children that are in that kindergarten are predominately ESL teachers and it is becoming too much for them. This will be phased out. The amount of time that is being taken away from other students is taking its toll. Fridays you had to pick-up your children no matter what. Because kindergarten is not mandatory in the Province it was that whole thing. There is a set amount of hours. Preston figured out the amount of days with the holidays, etc. Monday/Wednesday children it was difficult. It will now make it so there are two morning classes and two afternoon classes. It may affect our waitlist numbers. Sharon heard we are going to a lottery system and it is true in 2026, Shelley confirmed this. Nobody on the waitlist will be affected by this. We are trying to figure out the sibling status. Westmount Charter had somebody appeal because their child was not accepted and was a sibling but she did not meet their criteria. Because we are a first come first serve basis. This girl ended up getting in, it was a gifted school.
- Status of the high school. They have been approved for Phase 1 and Phase 2 and they are still lobbying by the government to see what is going on with that. Once all of these new schools are open they can look at it more. Whatever school we do get we can use that funding to get the school updated. Interior

school will have 56 students once the other school will open up so that is an option. At the end of this year, the whole thing with closing a CBC school is big with having parents appeal, etc. June 2018 it is looking like. Bursting at the seams there and we have to have an engineer signing off on the building every year.

- 20-year celebration the board, there will be no money from the board as it is government funded so don't want to be using tax dollars for this. There are events happening at campus levels. They would be happy to support us with anything we decide to do.
- If we look at the appeals and hearing policy and we see anything in there that does not make sense to us send an email to Meredith and it will come to the board and we can talk about it. South middle school they had to shut the school down as he made a comment on the bus that he was going to bring a weapon the next day to impress a girl. They had to shut down the school, as they did not know. That would be a zero tolerance. He was in grade 5. We can't reference the criminal code in our policies but we can reference the school act. You can't claim ignorance if it is stated in there. The student code of conduct is included in that. Grade 11 leadership they took it too and they tightened it up ex: whistleblowers. Board email and Meredith can get them those questions
- Mr. Williamson wanted to confirm that it was November 23rd, the day after the south middle school meeting but before the north. They have their musical going on at South Middle School and it interfered with them. Then the delay for getting the translations.

Fundraising Coordinator (Faruq reporting)

- **AdMazing Books: Sold** virtually all, there were 6 left after he last spoke to Brenda so we can close them off. That was before break but they heard they are all sold out now. 460 books bought, one upside of the downturned economy.

Community Coordinators (Erica Oseen and Rhonda Rempel)

- Only update Erica has is she has been back and forth with Nancy regarding the food drive thing again. Once she gets all of the details done with that she was hoping to do that at each campus. In February a campus wide food drive. No more details, it is coming January or February, it became an initiative for the food bank after Christmas. The 6th through the 10th of February was what Shelley thought. Faruq does not want to compete with that. The Board and ASC go and sort the food and do a couple of shifts there.
- Rhonda said Me to We: she wanted to know what they have to do in February. John said he does not know if that list is comprehensive in them doing all of them, it can be elaborated upon in the next meeting.
- Rhonda wanted to know if there was a volunteer appreciation. Parental partnership and we would really like to get parents on board more. Maybe earlier in the year we could have a parent appreciation night that could incorporate and to share, we could do a bake sale and a Me to We presentation with a multi-media. Great time to build community, connect, become informed but then realize how to make that time. Mr. Williamson thinks there is some good dissection you could take from there.
- Faruq felt also that at the middle school you are trying to foster this independence, hand holding in grade 4, still hold your hand in grade 5 and then grade 6 moving on and showing where they need to be. Mr. Williamson, once we get from the board what it is going to look like and have one vision we can put ideas to play.
- Staff Gifts: Erica said for Christmas last year they did a little hot chocolate mix and Mr. Williamson said anything is always appreciated. Erica felt like it may be more of a purchase kind of thing. 40 staff members at our middle school. They will come up with some ideas of how to recognize the season and talk to Faruq about funding. They will figure it out.

Hot Lunch Coordinators (Alka Chandiramani and Raj Sandhu)

- No updates: Tim Hortons, no toppings showing up on the order form so some students did not order
 -

Parental Partnership Coordinators (Sukhmeet Dhillon and Susan Hendry)

- Sukhmeet sent Susan her files; she needs to figure out those things. She does not know how the grade 4 parents from NWE are feeling but NEE parents find the transition to middle school is difficult as they are very hands on in the elementary. Would it be a good idea for a transition thing for grade 4 parents at the beginning of the year as far as volunteering goes and how they can help out and even now if she knew where they could be more involved she could help them. Is there a database where you can direct them to then that is great. Orientation date Sharon addressed this issue to take it upon yourselves to ask, saying the teachers will not hunt you down but if you tell the teacher you are available they know. Just a quick email is all it takes. What if the teachers don't have anything to help? Mr. Williamson's goal is trying to take a lead role here by the end of the year to get some tangible ideas and then by March to June looking for some things to implement those ideas. He used to teach at the NEE and he wants to try to find ways to involve. He says there is a database that was started a few years back. They will talk about the new direction with this. They are still trying to get an idea of how they can get the parents more involved. Faruq said hot lunch, getting them on council or coming to meetings having a direct influence. Maybe a Segway through the grade 5 teachers. One of the challenges is a high ELL population and he has a background and those that don't speak English as their first language there are intimidations there. Mr. Williamson is focused on this to include everyone but he is tinkering with this right now. John said there is also not as much that needs done at a middle school level as there is at an elementary level. You can't have parents marking for example and there aren't a lot of things that are there that can be meaningful work for parents to help out with. By the end of the year if he can try to find 3 or 5 things that would be great. Privacy and professional level is why we cannot mark things. Erica felt if there were a few items such as the library getting a shipment of books where we need this help. Parents if they have ideas such as science related career where they could help with that would be helpful Mr. Williamson thought.
- The kids' ideas such as an Edsby and the parents getting involved on how to help their kids with these things. Shelley said she had a discussion with Meredith and she wanted to know why they focused on their charter things but it was about choice. Shelley said that as a parent that went through the public system without getting past that front door she could not observe as a parent in a classroom and parents were feeling cut off at the door. When we had one campus with 80 kids it is a lot different than we were today. It has to evolve on what was done 20 years ago. Education has changed and we want to be involved on where we were and how we are today. We want to make sure the populations in the school's today feel just as engaged as they were 20 years ago and it is hard. If you look at a picture of what our school looks like now compared to 20 years ago. We have a large population of first generation Canadians in our school.
- We will find a way to do this, just making sure we all have a common vision Mr. Williamson by the end of the year. Realistic ideas and smart ideas Mr. Williamson said

Financial Statements (Jennifer Cheah)

- Next meeting

ASC Representatives (Sharon Zerk and Faruq Suleman)

- Add: Fundraising idea-----Jamie Raaymaker's husband owns a wine service that said he ran this fundraiser for his kids. The parents email it out to the parents, for every 6 pack case of wine sold we get \$30.00 for 6 bottles. Whites, Red and a Mix. \$125.00 and normally \$184.00 \$30.00 going to us. Jeremy would deliver it.
- Conflict of interest and some of the community would not be on board with that.
- No update in October

New Business (FARUQ and ALL)

- None

Next Meeting

Set for December 5, 2016

Meeting Adjourned: 8:56 pm

Goals of Parent Council...

**To increase Parental Partnership involvement and have all families feel welcomed.
To make sure that our students are number one in all our decision making.**