

# Michael Strembitsky School Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 15, 2023

April Kennett, Chair  
Karrie Whalen, Vice-Chair  
Julia Styler, Secretary

1. Call to Order at 6:35pm by April
2. Welcome/Attendance & Establishments of Quorum

April read the Land Acknowledgement (Treaty 6).

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion made to approve the agenda as presented. Samar approved & Kim second.

4. Approval of Minutes from January 10, 2024 Meeting

Motion made to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2024 meeting by Laura & second by Jenaliee.

5. Principal's Report by Mr. Sheppard

Registration for pre-enrolment for next year is now open, please make sure you enroll, as currently only 400 people have done so. The deadline to enroll is 4pm on March 22, 2024. EPSB has changed the calendar for the 2024/25 year. School starts before the Labour Day weekend & teachers only have one start up day. Other changes are a longer fall break (similar to previous years) & one PD Day removed. The EPSB is seeking feedback on the calendar draft policy.

The division feedback survey is open for students in grades 4-9, teachers & parents.

Library volunteers are needed to have re-shelve books. If you are interested a meeting will be held on February 27, 2024 at 1:10pm in the Learning Common. If you can't make it to the meeting but still wish to volunteer please contact Ms. Ruttle.

The Bookfair started today & will be open at first & last recesses for students as well as a late night on February 22, 2024.

6. Parent Representative Report

Division 1 - The kindergarten class are getting out before the bell & some parents are finding it hard to coordinate pickup.

Division 2 - Grade 6 symphony field trip was good.

Division 3 - Junior High students wondering if ski/snowboard field trip will be rebooked. School still on waitlist for a spot.

Kids found the Opera to be not as good as it used to be, this one seemed to be more aimed at younger children.

Is there a plan to bring back overnight/weekend/spring break trips for Junior High students. Before covid there were trips to Kananaskis & Quebec etc. Some of the teachers that organized & chaperoned in the past now have families/young children. It would depend on availability of teachers willing to chaperone.

Career day - will it be in person & more interactive in the future. The Career day was a EPSB one. MSS can possibly do their own in person one in the future.

## 7. Old Business

### 7.1 The Black Bookshelf Project

Currently is still being looked into on the school's end.

### 7.2 Traffic Update

The warden came last month (end of January/beginning of February). No feedback given. There is no engagement by the warden, they take photos then send tickets in the mail. Came 3 times over a 2 week period. Sam will call them to come again. March will be the next time as they can come every 6 weeks.

### 7.3 School Council Workshop Recap

It went over the basics of the school council & the purpose, which is to come together to enhance student learning. There are lots of ways we can improve & grow, working on a yearly framework, creating a school council plan and trying to make sure parents know who we are & are aware of meeting & topics being discussed. We are hoping to find more ways to encourage parent involvement in the school. Can we get parents' permission for us to be able to contact them directly, as a lot of information gets lost on SchoolZone & not everyone checks Facebook. Get school representatives involving parents at fall BBQ (to be held Sept 12, 2024, per Mr. Sheppard).

How vital fundraising is for schools & important it is for the school council to support the parent foundation to help make the fundraising opportunities like pizza lunches/concession/casino/candygrams happen.

## 8. New Business

### 8.1 Wall Quotes in Gym

At a recent basketball tournament at Thelma Chalifoux Junior High school, attended by the MSS junior high girls team, April & other MSS parents saw that they have quotes on their gym walls from famous athletes & inspirational. It is something parents have commented

on in the past & is this something that we can have here at MSS. As we are a Honeywell school Mr. Sheppard to inquire with Honeywell with regard to permanent & non-permanent wall quotes.

## 8.2 School Bus Times

School bus has been arriving late to the school in the morning & the kids are getting marked absent & parents then receive a phone call from the attendance line. Mr. Sheppard - the bus is always late & is something that can't be controlled by the school. The kids sometimes get marked absent due to subs in the classrooms.

## 8.3 Rebook ASCA Workshop

We have previously paid with a grant for an upcoming workshop that is 3 days in a row, which is quite a big commitment. Due to parents with busy schedules & low turn out for previous workshops, April has contacted them to see if we can switch & use the grant for a 1 night workshop. They recommended a few options - Affective Engagement in Your School Community, Fundraising Association Partnership Purpose & School Council Policies & Practices.

Agreement was made to book the Fundraising Association Partnership Purpose one, which will be held virtually & last 1.5 hours. It will either be on Tuesday, March 19th or Tuesday, March 7th, time to be determined.

## 8.4 Volunteering - Upcoming Foundation/Book Fair

Mr. Sheppard has already spoke about volunteers for the book fair & library. There is a book fair sign-up form available.

9. Next meeting to be Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 6:30pm.

Keren Tang our Ward Councillor to attend.

10. Meeting adjourned at 7:03pm

### Attendance:

Samar Al Hajjaj  
April Kennett  
Jenilee Woodfield  
Samantha Miedreich  
Laura Ebbern  
Julia Styler  
Jessica Skoreyko  
Nabila Khelfa  
Kim Grumman

Janet Mitchell  
Bonita Twigge  
Sarah Attwater  
Amina (online)  
Deesha (online)  
Chap Sheppard, Principal  
Brent Bigney, Vice-Principal  
Malti Verma, Vice-Principal