

Michael Strembitsky – School Council Meeting Minutes
Date Tuesday October 11, 2016
Location – Michael Strembitsky School – Learning Commons

President: Lindsay Peddle
Vice President: Sarah Jane Barriage
Secretary: Stacey Houston

1.0 Call to Order

President Lindsay Peddle called to order the meeting at 6:37pm on October 11, 2016 in the Learning Commons at Michael Strembitsky School.

2.0 Attendance and Establishment of Quorum

Quorum in attendance
Attendance sheet circulated – see attached.

3.0 Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented: Candy Morningway
Voted: All in favour
Motion Carried

4.0 Approval of minutes from last meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2016 meeting
Motion: Kristin Topilnitsky
Voted: All in favour
Motion Carried

5.0 Special Presentation

5.1 Inclusive Learning Team

Jeanette, Coralie, Alexis, Linda and Donna of Inclusive Learning Team
Ms. Babachuk introduced the Inclusive Learning Team. The team provides support to faculty to help students and to celebrate diversity. Every school at EPSB has a team.

The team seeks to assist all school stakeholders. They work in a multi-disciplinary team and meet monthly at MSS. The team consists of many services including but not limited to; Speech Pathologists, OTs and Reading Specialists.

Linda then explained that with the help of Alberta Health Services Social Workers are made available alongside Physical Therapists, Ed/ Behavioural Specialists and Psychologists.

Jeanette talked about English as another language. Support for teachers is available to help program for children whose English may not be their first language. Intercultural Consultants also provide translation services and support schooling.

The whole team works on a Consultative Model which is strength based programming. A two-way conversation to collaboratively devise strategies that will work in the classroom.

There is a pyramid of intervention.
80% of students are captured within universal strategies.
15 % require targeted strategies.
5% require specialized assessments via a referral system.

Q. If a parent has a concern, how do they refer? MM responded by explaining that a parent would have a conversation with their teacher. If a referral or specialized individual plan is necessary, discussions would be held with the appropriate team member.

MM asked if parents were aware of the support available – the majority responded that they were. Ideas came from the group when asked, do gaps exist? Anxiety, social skills, ADHD were raised as concerns.

Suggestion made of family workshops to aid transition from Elementary into Junior High and High School.
Moore workshops exist already but information can certainly be shared by MSS faculty.

6.0 Reports

6.1 Principal's Report

Reflection on Thanksgiving – MM expressed thanks to the group for their support of parents and the faculty, mentioning the following:

- Positive attitude
- Showing up to games
- Support for Physical Education
- Pizza Lunches
- Dances
- Holiday Events
- Easter Bunny
- Support for Reading and Commitment

MM went on to explain Provincial Achievement Results for the District. The school is analyzing their data as to reinforce our successes and our next steps. Grade 6 and Grade 9 scores are above the provincial average. This gives us the ability to look at what we do well at MSS, and areas we need to focus on.

MM is working on a catchment review of results which will be presented to the Trustees and Superintendent as well as with 4 other schools and the Assistant Superintendent. A document will be provided to our parents in November summarizing our results in detail. For more information please feel free to connect with Mrs. Michailides.

6.2 Teachers Report

Ali Stewart and Laura McGillivray presented jointly.

The teachers spoke about how their data conversations with the Grade 4 staff. They discussed how there is hard data e.g. statistics, observations, conversation and achievements but there is also the importance of the collection and reflection of the source of the numbers.

They described learners at MSS as becoming lifelong learners who have meaningful experiences with hands on learning and assessment. The traditional pen and pencil learning is not the most concrete method. Special events emphasize this and give opportunities for variety in learning. Orange shirt day- understanding the meaning, the Terry Fox run – understanding the history, Book character day – learning about literature - all help learners become enthusiastic about being at school. Ali and Laura expressed thanks to the group for their contributions to making these successful.

6.3 Community League Report

Candy Morningway presented

Over 700 people came by to support the day. Grade 4s collected bottles and cans towards the eco-warriors curriculum.

On October 17, 2016 the Sandman Signature will host the AGM and Board Positions are available.

The Community League is seeking volunteers for the Snowflake Festival 6 communities are represented in the Community League. Door hangers will be delivered requesting help by completion of a survey. The results of which will lead the development of playgrounds and land that belongs to the Community League.

6.4 Divisional Representatives Reports:

6.4.1 Grade 1-3 Candy Morningway and Ashley van Beuningen

- Schoolzone concerns – some parents raised questions about whether there is another way to communicate
- Feedback received that students and parents were happy that the Grade 3s were together
- Positive comments about the extra pathways through the back of the school.
- Happy that the calendar was added to schoolzone.
- There were 13-14 responses in relation to the physical environment in Grade 1. Concerns were raised about the size of the furniture. MM Confirmed that all furniture is adjustable. Candy will report this back to parents.
- 4 Grade 1 classrooms have desks and 3 have tables. Some families have concerns that some students are upset due to playground talk.
MM responded by opening up conversation to the floor by asking if by having tables, does this affect the learning environment? It was confirmed that in Grade 3 tables are pushed together regularly to ensure collaborative student work and that having tables naturally encourages teamwork. A suggestion was made to move tables / desks into other classrooms part way through the school year.
MM invited families to approach school staff with specific concerns.

6.4.2 Division 2 – Esther Chapple

- nothing to report

6.4.3 Junior High – Calee Gibb

- nothing to report

7.0 Old Business

- No old business

8.0 New Business

- No new business

9.0 Date and time of Next Meeting

- Tuesday November 8, 2016 at 6.30pm in Michael Strembitsky School Learning Commons

10.0 Adjournment

President Lindsay Peddle adjourned the meeting at 7.41pm
Motion: Ashley van Beuningen
Voted: All in favour
Motion Carried

Minutes Submitted by: Stacey Houston

Minutes Approved by:

**Attendance – School Council Meeting
Michael Strembitsky School
October 13, 2016**

Lindsay Peddle
Sarah Jane Barriage
Ashley van Beuningen
Kristen Topolnitsky
Lorie Laybolt
Kristin Shandro
James Rehman
Stacey Shepherd
Merrill Burns
Candy Morningway
Stacy Jackson
Wendy Westren
Gale Johnson
Robyn Homubs
Tanya Johnstone
Miriam Fierbach
Esther Chapple
Gaelene Cranford
Stacey Houston