

Michael Strembitsky School Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

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. Janet approved & Joanne second.
4. Approval of Minutes from March 13, 2024 Meeting
Motion made to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2024 meeting by Janet & second by Janilee.
5. Principal's Report by Mr. Sheppard
Translation now available on EPSB.ca. More outdoor field trips & sports starting up, badminton, flag football for junior high.
6. Old Business
6.1 School Council Workshop Booked for May 7th at 7pm. Those wishing to attend need to register online (link available on SchoolZone & Facebook group) & then they will send you the zoom link & documents to review before the workshop.
7. New Business
7.1 We are not eligible for getting patrollers from the AMA program. They are only able to operate in locations where there is natural break in the traffic, which unfortunately doesn't happen at MSS, they are not allowed to stop traffic. They did point us in the direction of these:

Ever Active Schools - focus on encouraging walking & biking to school. There is a whole very extensive program that we can follow, it's all laid out their website, you need a team, things you can do to encourage your children to walk & bike to school. It doesn't really help with the crosswalk situation but might help with the traffic situation. ([everactive.org](https://www.everactive.org))

Safer Roads to School - already utilizing, we currently have the bump outs, reflected pole wraps & crossing lights. The only thing we don't have is the stop light, which we are eligible for because during the daytime there are hardly ever cars there, just the 20 before & after school.

Would be great if we could get parents to commit to helping once a week, helping our current crossing guards from the school. It would be really helpful to have two people at the four-way stop.

Question: What is the actual ask? What is are we struggling with?

One of the main things, is that when cars are stopping at the four-way there are often in the path of pedestrians & the cross guard to trying to cross in two directions. They are trying to get these kids to wait while they cross the kids in the other direction, but kids see the cars stopped & are just running across the road. Then cars turn & half their car is blocking the crosswalk. Two crosswalk people are needed. The second issue is when the bell rings, the kids get more anxious to cross & the crosswalk attendant from the school also needs to get inside to start the day.

Another concern is people stopping in the road in traffic & letting their children out in the road & further holding up traffic, this very unsafe.

Action: Call 311 & request another traffic assessment. The more parents call the more chances we have of getting somebody out. Can also call the non-emergency line & request police (in the past they have come & give tickets, it does improve things for a little while).

7.2 Future Workshop Opportunities

- Booking workshops with our ASCA grant for next year with the Saffron Center for workshops helping parents with setting online boundaries related to a number of topics. Principal Sheppard shared that they have had them before and they were great. Will proceed with booking for the next year.

- Also will look into booking a workshop with the SACE that will discuss, consent and photo sharing and reporting sexual abuse for next year.

7.3 Ward Councillor Visit - Keren Tang

Traffic safety it's not just the school, it's a fair common issue in the city. There is a Street Lab program available (which MSS is already signed up for), there have been a lot of traffic safety issues in Summerside, so Summerside was the first Street Lab program in the Ward on Grande Blvd, adding a cross light for the students from both MSS & FMM.

The city has a bike plan expansion & there is a stream of dollars there for amenities & infrastructure which includes lockup area & schools are identified as a focal point, she will bring up further with the council.

EPSB traffic complaint line is now no longer taking traffic complaints, due to legislative changes.

311 sounds very frustrating, so if you want to reach out to her with very specific questions/asks & she would be very happy to connect you with someone from a more overseeing the school crossing program & other avenues.

Please subscribe to her newsletter (<https://www.kerentang.ca/newsletter>)

A couple things that have been highly affecting this neighbourhood:

- The recent dog attack, which resulted in the loss of a child's life. She has been keeping tab on control animal control bylaw since last year. Our animal control bylaw is more than 20 years old & been undergoing a full review, they just wrapped up phase one public engagement. This spring & summer they will be opening up more public engagement rounds. The final report will be released in quarter one of 2025. Bylaw officers have to follow multiple levels of legislation & regulation, the city has to follow Dangerous Dog Act & Animal Control Act at a provincial level & any other Criminal Code at a federal level.
- The other issues related to dogs is the dog park. There was a temporary pop-up dog park that a lot of people were very excited about & there was a whole discussion about how to make these dog park permanent. Dog parks are considered growth projects (new projects) & given the financial constraints on the city they are not considered any new projects. There are other pathways of getting these amenities, the Horizon Community League is interested in taking leadership on this. Horizon Community League consists of the neighbourhoods of Aurora, Fields of Summerside, Lake Summerside, Orchards at Ellerslie, Sunset Valley & Walker Lakes. The community league is always looking for volunteers.
- A question submitted in advance, concern transit safety & what the city is doing to ensure transit safety. There was a transit safety forum on February 24 & if you missed it there is a summary in her newsletter, blog & website.

Question: I'm glad you are having meets, but without actual police present out there, I don't think it's going to do anything. Daughter attends Dr. Anne Anderson HS & common consensus is none of those kids are taking the bus besides the school specials as they don't feel safe or have been harassed or attacked, & a lot of those don't get reported as it's other teenagers & don't want repercussions. Also wouldn't send her daughter to university on public transit due to safety concerns at Century Park & Southgate Transit Stations.

There is national wide rise in crime in general, there is a much bigger societal problem, transit stations/buses, this happens to be the manifestation of where these things are happening. She is very concerned. She has heard from the Teacher's Association in school there has been rising aggression in schools.

Question: Bus routes changed a few years ago – bus route to J. Percy Page used to be about 40 minutes and is now 55 minutes. Our current grade 8 year has a large number of kids that will need to attend page and there isn't enough bussing to get there – is it possible to

get more busses/or a direct route to Page like Anne Anderson has? What plans can be made now to have enough space in a year?

- Anne Anderson was able to add a bus when there was a need for their School Special within a few days.
- City is securing funding to create more storage for buses, purchase more buses
- Edmonton is one of the fastest city growing cities in the country, creates lots of challenges

Councillor Tang holds a monthly coffee or park meeting. Dates will be on a mailer coming out or on the monthly newsletter.

Other: Josh Classon has openings for Grade 5 weather watchers – Samar will send info for the Grade 5 team

8. Next Meeting to be Wednesday, May 8th at 6:30 pm
9. Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm

Attendance:

Samar Al Hajjaj

April Kennett

Jo Bullock

Bonita Twigge

Jenilee Woodfield

Degna Barry

Samantha Miedreich

Julia Styler

Janet Mitchell

Jessica

Chad Sheppard, Principal