



Mike Mountain Horse Elementary School

155 Jerry Potts Blvd West Lethbridge, Alberta T1K 6G8 Phone: (403) 381-2211

School Council MINUTES

November 7th, 2023 @ 6:30pm MMH Art Room

In Attendance: Danica Forsyth, Laura Keffes-Wilkes, Megan Gemmill, Kaila Ulch, Ashley Bourassa, Kalila Ranaweera, Sara Prete, Kerry Taylor, Megan Paul, Michelle Hood, Kaleena Paulovich, Lindsay Wehrwein, Christine Light, Indie Fyfe

Call to order – 7:15pm

Welcome and Introductions: Indie Fyfe (SC Chair), Megan Paul (SC Co-chair), Kerry Taylor (Principal), Lindsay Wehrwein (Vice-Principal), Kalila Ranaweera, Danica Forsyth (Division School Council Rep), Laura Keffes-Wilkes (SC Treasurer), Kaila Ulch, Ashley Bourassa, Sara Prete, Michelle Hood (SC Secretary), Megan Gemmill (MMH Society VP), Christine Light (Board Trustee Rep), Kaleena Paulovich

Approval of Agenda: Motion: Danica Forsyth
Second: Megan Gemmill

Principal's Report: Kerry Taylor

Professional Learning

- Oct. 25 (AM): Teachers engaged in data driven conversations in preparation for interviews – this time is in the collective agreement and is dedicated to giving teachers time to review assessments or prepare assessments.
- Oct. 26: School PL – Sandpaper Issues and Gold Stars – Beginning the work toward digging into creating school wide expectations, supports and consequences.
 - Staff filled out anonymous surveys and administration took the data to improve upon areas of concern and look at what is working well.
- Oct. 27: New Curriculum and Year Plans
 - Very complex and a lot for teachers to navigate, especially the math curriculum. Teachers were given resources but need time to go through them.

Information Updates

- Report Cards for Grade 1 and Grade 5
 - Focus will be numeracy and literacy
 - Administrators will be doing report cards for two specific classes due to teacher leaves. This will be communicated to impacted families.
- Winter Gala instead of Winter Walk
 - MMH used to alternate years for a Christmas concert until Covid took that away. It was time consuming and took a lot of money to rent facilities. It also took a lot of instructional time away from teachers.
 - On the alternating years there was a winter gala that involved community participation in the classroom with holiday activities and crafts. Staff have voted in favour of bringing this back in place of the Winter Walk. Dec. 13th 5:30-7:00 is when this will take place.

- Lockdown – November 22
 - Will look a little different as the school resource officers are not used in the same capacity this year so administrators will be doing the door knocking.

Upcoming/Exciting Events

- Hurricanes Visit
 - November is the month of hockey in the learning commons, so it has been arranged for 4 Hurricanes players to come visit on Nov. 14.
- Courage Assembly – November 23
 - The new format with the grand entrance of award recipients has been well received.
- CUPE 290 Sock It To 'Em
 - Collection bin at the front of the school for new sock donations.

Committee Reports:

- *Hot Lunch - Ashley Bourassa*
 - Meant to be a way to raise money while kids enjoy a hot lunch
 - We had less people order the first one (Subway), but still made \$150.
 - Choices are set for the year: Nov – Pizza, Dec – Booster Juice, Jan – Pizza, Feb – None, Mar – Edo, Apr – Booster Juice, May - Pizza
- *Special Events – Indie Fyfe*
 - Winter Gala on December 13th from 5:30-7:00
 - Candy canes and hot chocolate will be given out
 - Open house format with caroling and craft opportunities
 - Dance-a-thon Feedback
 - Loved that families were allowed to come and dance with their children
 - Very successful – raised \$10,684.85 after all expenses were paid.
 - Spring Walk May 8/9 - Lemonade and Cookies
 - Will revisit at a later date
 - March Family Fitness Month- in person MMA at the school Gym. “Scavenger Hunt” for other option activities. Draw box for Participation. Prizes to be won
 - Will revisit at a later date
- *Staff Appreciation – Sara Prete & Danica Forsyth*
 - This month staff received a chocolate, leaf bag, and note about being thankful for them.
 - Will continue with the bi-monthly recognition.
- *Division School Council – Danica Forsyth*
 - Policy advisory has been asked to have representation of 1 parent for every scope of schooling (elementary, middle, high, faith-based). Currently there is only 1 representative who is the voice for approx. 1200 parents.
 - ICE Scholarships – has anyone attended before? Yes
 - Feedback that location change is needed, and more chairs should be made available.
 - University of Lethbridge suggested as a potential venue.

- School Policy advisory committees is sending information to school council chairs, but that limits who receives the information and can respond. This should be forwarded to administrators as they can send to all parties.
 - Digital Wellness Night – Nov. 15
 - Resources are available – No Q&A
 - Poverty Intervention Committee met, and the new name will be Barriers and Financial Stressors – this is under discussion as the word “poverty” can be viewed as negative.
 - Weekend bags and winter gear funds are prioritized as struggles
 - Breakfast/Snacks in schools is an ongoing issue. Food scarcity is a challenge for our families.
 - Winter clothing is a topic of concern, including proper footwear.
 - Community Conversations happening at Westminster Hall
- *Social Media – Ashley Bourassa*
 - *Nothing new to report*

Treasurer’s Report: Laura Keffes-Wilkes

- Thank you FMMH for the \$7,931.64 toward our budget
- Approved for an engagement grant – going to be used for March fitness month.
- All lines from the treasurer’s report have been approved from last meeting. It will be shared and reformatted for our next meeting.

New Business: Indie Fyfe

- Change to Operating Procedures – AGM moving from June to September
 - Motion to officially change the date – Indie Fyfe
 - Second: Sara Prete
 - Vote: Unanimous Pass

Discussion Items from Attendees:

- A winter clothing exchange is a great idea for our school community if someone is willing to help organize it. Connect with Kerry to have a conversation about it.

Trustee Report: Christine Light

- Looking into fully funded full-time kindergarten for future years. More information to come.

Board Meeting Highlights: Oct. 24th [Board Meetings | Lethbridge School Division \(lethsd.ab.ca\)](https://lethsd.ab.ca)

Next Meeting Date:

- December 5th @ 6:30pm in MMH Art Room

Adjournment: 8:35pm

Motion: Megan Gemmill

Second: Sara Prete