

Mike Mountain Horse Elementary School

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

School Council AGENDA

March 5th, 2024 @ 6:30pm MMH Art Room

In Attendance:

Ashley Bourassa, Indie Fyfe, Kaira Cale, Sheana Van Mill, Danica Forsyth, Sarah Prete, Kristine Light, Kerry Taylor, Lindsey Wehrwein

Call to order -

Welcome:

Approval of Agenda:

Motion: jodi anderson

Second: kaira cale

Principal's Report: Kerry Taylor

- professional learning\
 - Something staff has been working on for awhile
 - Where are the challenging spaces for the school
 - School not designed for this many kids, so it's challenging
 - and paper issues
 - Started with negative as it's how the human brain works
 - \got lists of things that were challenges
 - Once that was out of the way, got lists from the staff that really work
 - recess
 - bathrooms
 - Lineups
 - Discussion around how \kerry and staff came to where they are at
 - Part of staff handbook

- Consistency is important
- Needed to be on the same page across all staff
- Teachers got the draft this past \friday
- Behaviour expectations and consequences list is shown on the screen in the front of room where Kerry explains what consequences are going to be consistent across all staff for recess, lineups and bathrooms
- Recess
 - Staff are going to start asking about plans for recess, especially for kids that struggle with recess
 - Staff are also initiating play for kids
 - Stay within school boundaries
 - Lineup quickly and other lineup rules
 - Reinforce idea throughout the year
 - Staff's job to teach children these things
 - Make sure kids are dressed appropriately
 - Can't be letting kids back in to get jackets as it takes supervision away from the rest of the kids
 - Another issue is not bringing equipment back in
 - Walling - stand at a wall for a few minutes, which staff decides
 - Walking - more serious and common behaviour - kid walks with supervisor and chats about good behaviour
 - Loss of \recess - fighting, kicking, hitting. Kid might lose next recess but only after communicating with the office staff.
 - Recess equipment - if you take it out, you bring it back in. consequences if equipment not brought back
 - Expectations of adults as well for supervision.
 - Kerry explains what these expectations are and how teachers approach issues on the playground
 - Staff has responded well to kids who need help on the playground
 - No bells for recess, so they have to use whistles.
 - Supervisors do a sweep of the playground after recess to make sure all kids have come in
 - Kids are always supervised
 - Inside, everyone is in supervision at all times
 - Ask teachers always have cell phones for emergencies
- Bathrooms

- Lots of kids that like to play in the bathrooms
- Making expected behaviour known to kids
- Use bathroom, wash your hands and go back to class
- Always use grade level bathroom, no matter where they are in the school
- Unsafe behaviour needs to be reported to staff
- If kids are making a mess, they will be cleaning it up with supervision
- There are children with adult supervision for bathroom visits, to keep the child safe
- Staff always on supervision, even if it's not their grade bathroom
- Thinking about doing a \sign in and \sign out for each classroom but haven't always had success with this
- Trying to limit access to bathrooms per classroom, so they are thinking of only having a certain amount of passes per classroom
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- Hallways
 - Kids running down halls and hitting doors and walls
 - Walking in the hall, keeping body parts to ourselves
 - Make good decisions
 - You can smile, wave or wink but keep hands to yourself
 - Return to beginning - if class isn't behaving, start from the classroom again
 - No class should be moving without an adult
 - Ensure kids can see their class
 - Careful at the corners\
- Lining up \behaviour
 - Kids don't have spacial awareness
 - They stand too close to each other
 - Single file\
 - Voices off to not disturb other classes
 - Make space for classmates to join the line
 - Join the end of the line, don't push in
 - Line leaders or number orders for lines
 - Students who struggle usually have a special spot
 - Reinforce consistency
 - Staff only move their kids when the kids are ready to go\
- Particular language used

- List of to do's, not do not's
 - Going in staff handbook, which can be found on the school website
 - Parent conversation with \kerry about their child's experiences and if families will get access to the handbooks so they know what the steps are for recess/consequences
 - Kerry asks that if kids are coming home and saying their problems haven't been supported, please make sure to reach out to that child's teacher
 - Parent's will get a link to the handbook from schoolmessenger and there will be a spot in the \march newsletter
 - Parent and \kerry conversations about what is happening in the school and if things are being communicated to parents
 - Please make sure to contact the teachers if you have a concern
 - If you feel like you aren't getting enough communication, please reach out to the teacher
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- Finished school and Alberta Assurance survey on friday
 - For Grade 4 students
 - Don't traditionally have great responses
 - Use it to make a plan for the next year
 - Assurance \plan is on the website and all schools \have to go this
 - Related to division priorities and what we are doing in the school to support that
 - Goals, strategies, resources and measures
 - Kerry quickly goes through the Assurance Plan on the website, which is displayed at the front of the room on a whiteboard.
 - Focus on PBL
 - Supporting learning and wellbeing
 - Caring environment for all and all cultures
 - How are we learning to respect all the diverse cultures in the school
 - Assurance data report is also on the website, which is updated every November.
 - Orange and yellow mean things need some work
 - All of these can be found on the MMH website
 - Mostly the school is doing very well but there are areas to work on
 - Will bring results once they are available
- Sending in early projections for student numbers for next year

- **Returning student registration - they are working on it and parents should be receiving registration by end of April.**
- **Discussion around how new students can register**
- **Report cards come out Friday**
- **Starting to track how many people are logging in**
- **Naming committee meeting on Monday for new school**
- **Kerry was invited as the new school will have a large impact on this schools population**
 - **Families have been invited**
 - **Vote and make discussions as a committee and then submit to the board**
 - **Ballot vote**
 - **Keep voting until one name is left**
- **celebrations of learning is on March 14th**
 - **Had very engaging conversations about celebrations of learning vs interviews**
 - **Traditionally, MMH has done interviews during the day and in the evening doing celebration of learning**
 - **Is this actually good, if kids are talking at interviews and then doing the celebration?**
 - **Important for kids to celebrate learning**
 - **How effective are the 10-15 minute interviews with parents and kids having to come back the same night to do a celebration of learning?**
 - **Want to give kids opportunity to just celebrate learning**
 - **Open house format - kids dismissed at 11:30am**
 - **1-4pm and 5-7:30 pm will be the times**
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- **One school one book**
 - **Surprise for the staff and students**
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- **Lock down practice with just staff**
- **Spirit assembly at the end of the month**
 - **Discussion around spirit assemblies and if parents like them as the format has changed**
 - **Discussion around kids knowing why the kids are getting the spirit awards**
- **Spring break is early this year**

Committee Reports:

- **Hot Lunch - Ashley Bourassa**
 - Little Caesar's is wondering why we use Papa Johns instead of them for the monthly \$ off promotion
 - Little Caesar's wants us to use them instead of Papa Johns
 - Propose all money made on a certain day, we will get proceeds from
 - Kaira said she will reach out to her contact at Little Caesars
 - Nothing other than that for hot lunch
 - Have Edo and Little Caesars coming up

· **Special Events -**

March Family Fitness Month-

First MMA Night Success!

First weekly draw March 11-prizes for the week will be to the school later this week

March 13 6:00 next MMA night. Would love to have a bigger turn out

- Started the event
- Yesterday we had 4 families
- Last year we had at least 15 families and it was a lot of fun
- March 13th is another night
- All kids should have come home with colour coded papers
- First draw will be march 11 or 12th
- Prizes are some fun stuff like gift cards, knick knacks and prizes

- **Staff Appreciation – Sara Prete & Danica Forsyth**

- Did one in February - You're EXCELant with excel gum
- Kerry says staff loves these!
- Did right before the break
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- **Division School Council – Danica Forsyth**

- Report if attended
- Learning on report cards, collecting feedback as the report cards will be changing
- Still collecting feedback
- Not sure when this will happen and information will be available
- Highlight that we should all just the SchoolGuide app

- If you have kids in multiple schools, you can get the newsletter and information all in one place
- Discussion around why there are so many apps for schools and purpose of these apps
- Question about number of students with exceptionalities - about 11%
- Looking for active student councils and that we have our webpage updated for new parents
- School choice policy was amended recently
- ASKA resolutions are out
- Can still send somebody to that
- AGM is coming up
- 7 resolutions have been put forward
- Danica would like to know how we would like to vote
- March 20 is the ice sculpture competition
- Our school does not have anyone
- Town hall - there was a survey that went out after, just over 1600 responses
- More people showed up than had registered
- Budget and strategic planning is starting
- Next division student council will look at the budget a lot
- Went over staffing as the student population has grown
- Talked about beginning very early stages of one division, one book
- Community engagement is this wednesday
- Talked about school cash online and the struggles of using it
- Started at 4% plus 10 cents, to take off the money that is fundraised
- We are now at 6%
- Concerns about this and some schools have gone entirely away from this for fundraising
- Some schools are doing more direct fundraising
- Also someone in the division that some of the schools are looking at having come in and do chats on technology and uses of technology; as well as being safe online
- Asked if any schools are interested in a split session to reduce costs
- Danica goes over what will be included at this chat for both kids and parents
- Discussion around this internet chat from the parents that came to council and some additional explanations from Kerry
- Danica will let division know our school is interested in splitting this cost with another school
- Next meeting is April 8, 2024

- Parent asked if there was anything about bussing that was brought up
 - Danica explains what has been discussed about bussing at previous meetings and being able to volunteer to be an extra person on the busses
 - Short on busses
 - Already doing double runs
 - Bussing has to try and accommodate our division and the catholic division
 - New school will change routes
 - Changing how they are measuring the distance for bussing
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- **Social Media – Ashley Bourassa**
 - Please engage in the posts so the posts will be shown in the algorithm
 - The more engagement, the more people that will see the posts
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Treasurer’s Report: Laura Keffes-Wilkes

- **Budget for Year To Date**
- Budget is on track

Discussion Items from Attendees:

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Trustee Report (If Trustee is Present):

- **Had a conversation at last board meeting about next years calendar as well as this years kindergarten interviews**
- **Allowing teachers to choose between PL or extending parent/teacher interviews**
- **Given an extra day for 2024/2025 school year**
- **Trustee rep goes over some other school accomplishments**
- **Thanks those who came to the school division town hall**
- **Board has strategic planning retreat this week where they go over the assurance plan and going over town hall feedback**
- **Talk about student growth and achievements**
- **Hired david steel as policy consultant to create a new framework for our policies**

- Goal to create something that is accessible, easy to understand and easy to engage
- Next meeting is March 26

Future Meeting Dates:

- April - 9th
- May - 7th
- June - 4th

Adjournment at 7:58pm

Motion: Indie Fyfe

Second: Sarah Prete