



Mike Mountain Horse Elementary School

155 Jerry Potts Blvd West

Lethbridge, Alberta T1K 6G8

Phone: (403) 381-2211

School Council MINUTES December 5th , 2024 @ 6:30pm MMH Art Room

In Attendance: Megan Paul, Vanessa Hengerer, Ashley Bourassa, Kaila Ulch, Danica Forsyth, Kerry Taylor (Principal), Lindsey Wehrwein (Vice-Principal) and Amanda Fahey (Teacher Representative)

Call to Order: 632 pm

Approval of Agenda: Motion – Ashley Bourassa , 2nd- Vanessa Hengerer

Principals Report – Kerry Taylor

Information Updates:

- 1- Follow up from last meeting and discussion on field trips, Survey to teachers was not sent out but Amanda Fahey in attendance to present teacher perspective on field trips:
 - a. Grade 4 used to go to Fort Macleod and the Buffalo jump until COVID. This field trip has not returned due to increase in costs. Now would be \$3-5000. Most of this cost would be for bussing.
 - b. Bussing costs for out-of-town trips includes buses, as well as drivers hourly and lunch fees.
 - c. This field trip has not returned because of cost associated. At its current rate this would exceed the grade level yearly budget and would require payment from parents to be more than the current cap of \$25.
 - d. Even traditional 4th grade field trip to YMCA has not been scheduled for this year because of rise in costs. This year the cost went up by more than 200 and is over \$800
 - e. Goal is to take students out of the school and socialize in a different way but finances is the biggest limitation.
 - f. Noted that Supervisor to student ratio is 1:8 even when they remain on the bus. It has been noted that finding parent supervision has been difficult.

Discussion from attendees:

- Clarified goal was to understand if cost or make up of students was biggest limitation on field trips
- Parents find attending field trips is difficult when they have younger children.
- Next year will likely require asking parents to pay for field trip support.
- Also need to consider that accessible bus is more costly
- All field trips have risen in price including virtual field trips.
- Admission rates is also higher than it has been previously.
- Question from Amanda - Why do parents want students outside the city?
- Discussion variety of experiences versus just attending the movie mill
- Some students have never attended a movie in a theatre
- Discussion on use of walking field trips
- Comment on how permission click is no longer being used across the division
- Request for ensuring more time asking for parent support prior to field trips.
- School requests that there be at least 2 weeks.
- Parents request for more than 2 weeks in order to secure time off. Even if we knew to expect one in an upcoming month with a date to be confirmed.

- Other consideration is Lethbridge Christian and Southland limit out of town field trips to be back to do after school runs.

Amanda Fahey left.

2- Looking at new school photographer – Kerry Taylor

- Have been having problems with Lifetouch, unbalanced photos, always new photographers
- Presented option of company Mountain West. They have their class photos in the spring and have option of a year scrapbook page with class and individual picture together. They also have “When I grow Up” Kindergarten pages
- They also offer booking family portraits for \$30 sitting fee, all of which returns to the school.
- Their photographers have more experience, and this is a family run business.
- Lifetouch is \$5-6 cheaper in the lowest package.
- Packages available are similar, including digital download.



Discussion from Attendees:

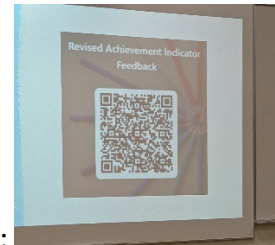
- Viewed optional picture promotions. Parents have not been impressed with Lifetouch.
 - Parental consensus to try Mountain West for 1 year and then review.
- 3- Video Presentation from Erin Hurkett. Entitled Draft Report Card- Updated Achievement Indicators.

Updated Achievement Indicators are as follows

1	2	3	4
Beginning Grade Level Expectations	Approaching Grade Level Expectations	Meeting Grade Level Expectations	Excelling at Grade Level Expectations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early understanding - Does not yet apply knowledge of skills - Requires extensive teacher support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partial understanding - Applies knowledge and skills inconsistently - Requires moderate teacher support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solid understanding - Applies knowledge & skills accurately most of the time - Requires minimal teacher support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deep and thorough understanding - Applies knowledge and skills with confidence and accuracy - Independent

Legend as follows:

NCA	Not Currently Applicable This outcome has not been taught or assessed during this reporting term. An achievement will be/has been reported in an alternate reporting term.
INS	Insufficient Evidence Evaluation of student achievement is not possible due to insufficient evidence. Further details are provided in the comment section.
EAL	English as an Additional Language Academic Achievement is impacted by developing English language proficiency. Further details are provided in the comment section.
ISP	Instructional Support Plan with goals This student is accessing an Instructional Support Plan (ISP) that includes goals which may differ from the grade level outcome. Learning and progress will be communicated by the classroom teacher through the ISP.



Feedback on the above can be given with this link:

Comments from Attendees:

- Language remains hopeful
- Once in power school hope is to have outcomes added once they have been taught rather than have so many reading NCA
- French and other switches were not included in the last report card
- Majority of feedback received at the division is positive.
- Parents prefer the updated indicators.

Exciting events from November

- Grade 5 volleyball – Thank you coaches (Mr. Jesse, Miss Roth and Miss Park)
- Remembrance Day Assembly – Thank you Mrs. Peek-Vout and Mrs. Baker
- Roc Your Mocs
- Report Cards
- Spirit Assembly
- Fundraiser Winners Assembly

Upcoming Events

- | | |
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| - December 6- Amazing sweater and Socks Spirit day | - December 19 – Whoville Spirit Day |
| - December 11 – Winter Gala 5:30-7 pm | - December 20 – Pajama Day |
| - December 13 – Red and Green Spirit Day | - December 21- Winter Break Begins |
| - December 16- 20 – Caroling in the Gym | - January 6 – School Resumes / Pajama Day |
| - December 17 & 18 – Hot Lunch | - January 9 – Ribbon Skirt and Shirt Day / School Council Meeting |

Committee Reports:

Hot Lunch: Ashley Bourassa – First two months have gone well, enjoying having everything individually labelled and having access to all order forms. As well as not having to have school keeping track. October made \$277.33 and November made \$184.77. Triple emails that were coming out were a site glitch and has been fixed.

Reminder that with this program order cut off is 5 days prior to hot lunch date not 2 weeks like last year.

Numbers of orders has gone down from previous years, but may be new system. School is willing to add Healthy Hungry information into upcoming newsletters to promote.

QR code can be created and will be added to flyers at the GALA.

Passive gift card fundraiser is working for anyone ordering from the site.

Staff Appreciation – Tabled to next Meeting

Division School Council – Danica Forsyth

Learning Session was presented by Erin Hurkett on changes to Curriculum, From k-6 and new announcement about changes to Grade 7-10 changes to curriculum in the next few years. First will be 7-9 Math, then 7-9 Social, 7-10 PE then pilot in 2025/26. Any grade 9 involved in pilot that year will not write PAT. 7-9 ELAL draft is in progress, the 7-9 French language is in progress, 7-9 science is in progress and Grade 10 social in progress.

No information on fine arts curriculum which has not been updated since 1980. In addition to aligning the report card they are also looking at a Grade 6 gradebook pilot which will have the specific outcomes as well as tests, quizzes and assignments.

Division meeting discussed:

Society Insurance – will not be dictated by school division as societies are governed by societies act. It is encouraged to carry insurance

School council bank accounts- Some schools closing them, especially those with societies. Schools are being encouraged in the division to move to 1 bank account. If school is managing account, then easier succession planning and will be covered by school division insurance. There is some question about insurance coverage for school councils with separate accounts. Will be revisited at next meeting. School councils sponsored events are covered by school insurance.

Division highlighted need to have good motions and clear minutes, minutes should be posted and approved at each upcoming meeting. This safeguarding will help with liability.

Update on Townhall – likely to be at Vic Park but still undecided. Will likely branch off. Any parents needing transportation to attend can reach out to the division.

Trustee Whitehead reported on school alignment work. Grade 9's were moved into the high schools in order to justify build of Chinook High School. Looking at if div 2 students in div 3 school and div 3 student in a div 4 school still being beneficial. They are only at information gathering stage and as there is an election next October nothing will change for the next few school years if at all.

Division enrollment did not hit projections so over \$200, 000 will be returned to Alberta Education.

Reminder that when Board Highlights are emailed to school council chairs they are to be emailed out to school council members.

ASCA money still not decided if adjustments can be made to \$300 allocated to ASCA AGM registration.

ATA representatives presented StoptheExcuses.ca campaign (see attached). Asking for parent support to help Alberta go from lowest funded education system in Canada to average funding. Highlighted that Alberta Treasurer has survey open which can be accessed by [Budget 2025 consultation | Alberta.ca](#)

There was feedback from Senator Buchanan about concerns with the change in their accelerated funding. Reported that while an elevator is helpful, they still do not have accessible bathrooms. Trustee clarified that funding to meet the disability act would update all areas of the school in order to meet the Disability Act which would include bathrooms.

There is an upcoming education session being planned that will be open to all school council chairs, parents and principals. Considering topics like , meeting your legislated role, understanding the difference between PAC and school council, how to appropriately chair meetings and engaging parents. Asked for topics if parents would like them addressed to be emailed to Danica who will return them to DSC.

Social Media – Ashley Bourassa – Nothing to update. Reminder to like posts.

Treasurers Report – Vanessa Hengerer

- Upcoming expense for hot chocolate, cups and candy canes for winter gala
- Request from society for field trip funds is tabled
- Currently no needed funds from society to run winter gala, maybe in the new year

Special Events – Megan Paul

- Winter Gala December 11 5:30-7

Discussion to use the same pamphlet from last year with changes to meeting dates and adding Healthy Hunger information. Megan to ask Michelle to update pamphlet. They can be printed at the school. Discussion if we need to hand them out. Kerry reported that would be better handed out, school staff can do this if needed. Might consider handing them out near hot chocolate to get better engagement from parents. Indie to purchase needed materials.

- ASCE funding for family fitness months.

Reviewed examples of parent engagement activities and projects funds can be used for:

- Workshops for parents to increase capacity for school council members
- Information sessions on how parents can support students learning at home and school
- Parent resources and workshops on important topics such as mental health and well being, cyber bullying, healthy living etc.
- Programs to support multi-cultural and Indigenous families including English language learners and First Nations, Metis and Inuit learners.
- Parent resources and tools in multiple languages
- Events to engage parents on important local issues
- Conference fees
- Parent engagement in promoting the value of the arts,
- Trainer / facilitator costs for professional development, workshops or sessions associated with the above.

Funds cannot be used for:

- Entertainment costs, meals, snacks, other food.
- - no capital asset purchases

- Activities that have already taken place
- Organization memberships
- Fundraising events
- Prizes or incentives to parents / students
- Payment to school board staff including honoraria / gifts
- Entertainment activities such as barbecues, volunteer teas, movie nights, dances, concerts or performances.

Discussion about use for family fitness activity. Consensus to continue with plan. Prizes are not covered.

Discussed that prizes might not be necessary but can be purchased from society if needed. Will discuss further at next meeting. Encouraged council members to come prepared with ideas. Comment to ensure differing days and variety this year.

Discussion Items from Attendees:

Kerry – School looking to plan celebration event likely in June to celebrate the new school and say farewell to students leaving the school. Option of having cake and dance in the gym. If parents have other ideas please bring them to Kerry.

Fundraising assembly was a big success.

Trustee report - not in attendance

Board meeting highlights November 26 <https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/download/474959>

Live stream [Nov. 26 Board of Trustees Meeting](#)

Future Meeting Dates:

Jan 9th, Feb 6th, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5.

Adjournment: 8:24 pm

Motion, Ashley, Second Danica