



Mike Mountain Horse Elementary School

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

School Council MINUTES

March 6th, 2025 @ 6:30pm MMH Art Room

In Attendance: Andrea Andreachuk, Vanessa Hengerer, Kerry Taylor, Lindsay Wehrwein, Megan Paul, Kaira Cale, Jodi Anderson, Danica Forsyth, Katarina Dato, Kaila Ulch, Ashley Bourassa, Sara Prete, Michelle Hood

Call to order – 6:55pm

Welcome and Introductions: Kerry has welcomed Katarina Dato, Grade 3 Teacher, as staff members are now signing up to attend meetings to go back to pre-covid conditions.

***Approval of Minutes: Motion: N/A
Second: N/A***

***Approval of Agenda: Motion: Kaira Cale
Second: Danica Forsyth***

Principal's Report: Kerry Taylor

- Professional Learning
 - Feb. 20-21: Teacher's Convention
 - Staff attended UofL sessions and presentations and then shared with other staff members back at the school
 - March 14: Deep Dive into the curriculum
 - March 17: Division PL in the morning
 - Aaron Stout- Teaching Compassion, Empathy and Kindness through quality literature.
- Information Updates
 - Pilot Report Card Information – from Erin Hurkett
 - Video was shown with the progress made thus far – developed by teachers which is exciting within the division
 - Grade 5 Human Growth and Development Lessons March 11-12
 - A little earlier than normal due to a teacher going on maternity leave soon
 - It is now an opt-in as opposed to an opt-out – where parents must approve for their child to take part
 - Alberta Education Assurance Survey – Grade 4 families
 - Kerry has done the surveys with all the grade 4 students to ensure they understand the language used
 - Families were emailed to participate with a unique anonymous code
 - A brochure was created to try to explain to families what is going on inside the school, because often families don't understand all the events taking place. Grade 4 got hard copies and the rest of the families will get digital copies.
 - Celebration of Learning:
 - March 12 Kinder 1:00-3:00 and 4:00-6:00

- March 13 Kinder – Grade 5 1:00-4:30 and 5:30-7:30
- Exciting Events from January and February
 - Grade 5 Basketball season followed by tournament and pizza party
 - A huge thank you to the families who allowed their children to participate, it was amazing watching them thrive on the courts.
 - MMH Spirit Book Club for grade 4 and 5
 - Rocky Mountain Book Club is no longer an active program, so Karen Bourassa and Angie Kubik have started their own MMH book club and it is amazing to watch the students have this common reading time. Then as a school, they vote on which book is the best.
 - New Kindergarten Teacher – Ms. Kristi Schooten
 - A replacement for a teacher who has gone on maternity leave. The new hire has a lot of experience, and we are excited to have welcomed her into our school. She started just after the Christmas break.
 - Pink Shirt Day
 - Was a great day in the building with strong participation.
- Upcoming Events:
 - March 7: Report Cards
 - March 11 & 12: Grade 5 Human Growth and Development Lessons
 - March 12: Celebrations of Learning for Kindergarten – No School for Kinder students
 - March 13: 11:30 student dismissal, Celebrations of Learning
 - March 14: No School for Students – PL Day
 - March 17: No School for Students – PL Day
 - March 20: Lockdown Practice
 - Spirit Assembly – Humility 9:00am in gym
 - March 21: World Down Syndrome Day – Rock your Socks
 - March 29: Spring Fundraiser Order Deadline
 - April 3: School Council Meeting

Committee Reports:

- *Hot Lunch - Ashley Bourassa*
 - There is not an option to do an anonymous purchase on Healthy Hunger and they have never been asked about it before, so they are going to look into it on their end.
 - The last two hot lunches had the following profits: \$279.28 Mary Browns, \$481.02 Papa Johns
 - Quesada, Little Caesars is already booked, and the D Spot Café has been scheduled for the last one at the end of May.
- *Staff Appreciation – Sara Prete*
 - It is going well, there is another two planned for May/June
- *Division School Council – Danica Forsyth*
 - Provincial budget came out and there is a change in the weighted moving average from 3 years to 2 years.
 - With projections we have 76.5 students who won't be funded for the coming year.
 - With a new school getting built, there is a separate budget entirely, but the capital budget doesn't change.

- All school's budget must be reviewed before the end of June – Kerry will bring that next month.
 - We are 1 of 6 schools who have opted in for an ASCA membership. The division currently pays that which is approx. \$100. Traditionally, the school division paid that and then gave the extra \$250 for parent engagement. Then another \$400 to attend the conference, which was not enough because usually the trip to Edmonton exceeds that. Starting next year, it must be recorded in minutes that if someone wants to go and be an AGM representative for school council and then it needs to be approved up to the superintendent and then they get \$1150 to attend (per person). If you are a rep who is going, you must be prepared to have a proxy vote so prep for that would need to begin in March.
 - If Danica goes as our rep – there are 7 resolutions that we would need to vote on. She will email out information so we can read through the rationale for them and we can discuss them at the April meeting.
 - Kaira makes a motion to approve Danica Forsyth as our school council rep for the AGM.
 - Jodi seconds the motion. **MOTION PASSED**
 - ATA is rolling out nominate a teacher again – look for that
 - There was a discussion with evergreening laptops and what happens to the outdated ones. They often trickle down from high school to elementary schools.
 - The superintendent was pleased with the turnout and surveys for town hall.
 - March 27th presentation at CASA by Cpl Bangle
 - At division school council we were asked to see if our council was interested in attending this presentation from Cpl Bangle. She will be doing a parent presentation on things to know given her background in Alert and ICE (Internet Child exploitation).
 - They would ask for a \$50 contribution to cover the cost of the rental space. We could use the money from the ASCE grant.
 - Megan Paul puts forth a motion to provide the \$50 through the ASCE grant to help fund this. Kaira Cale seconds the motion. **MOTION PASSED**
 - Some parents brought up concern on the amount of non-educational screentime in the classroom and wanting to know what the division regulation is on limiting the amount of screen time in the classroom.
 - Is the content appropriate for the age? Is it learning unhealthy habits to eat in front of the screen?
 - Discussion was had about the silent lunch time at MMH and eating quietly in the classroom and why that's a rule. It is meant to be a mindful eating time, limiting screens and ensuring food is being consumed. Some disagreement was had about whether that is appropriate when it is meant to be the children's free time.
 - Kerry will have a conversation with staff about what movies/screens are being shown in the classroom and how often. She will emphasize the importance of making it G rated and ensuring it's related to the curriculum and survey the staff at the staff meeting tomorrow.
- *Social Media – Ashley Bourassa*
 - Nothing new to report – continuing to post things about the community and school

Treasurer's Report: Vanessa Hengerer

- Budget 2024/2025
- Upcoming Expenses

- Update on request to society for the field trip allotments (direct to school)
- **Discussion tabled to the next meeting**

Special Events: Indie Fyfe

- MMH Family Fitness Month(s)
 - ASCE Criteria:
 - **6. Examples of parent engagement activities and projects that funds can be used for include:** *workshops for parents to increase capacity for school council members; information sessions on how parents can support student learning at home and at 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, Métis 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 arts; trainer/facilitator costs for the professional development, workshops or sessions associated with the above.*
 - **7. Examples of non-allowable expenses include:** *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 and/or students; payment to school board staff including honoraria, gifts; entertainment activities such as barbecues, volunteer teas, movie nights, dances, concerts or performances, etc.*
 - **8. All funds provided must be spent in the school year in which they are allocated. Any unused funds must be returned to Alberta Education.**
 - **We need ideas to use the \$500 ASCE Grant or we will lose it at the end of the year. If we can make it fit into our family Fitness Month awesome.**
 - Bingo Sheet
 - Dates – March 18th – April 11th
 - Michelle will create a bingo form and send it out to the council for feedback, it will be ready for distribution to students by March 12th.
 - Family fitness evening options (I don't think they will fit the criteria for the ASCE grant)
 - **Urban Beat Dance Studio (at the School) – We think ASCE funding will cover this and would like to move forward with it.**
 - \$150
 - Dance styles: Hawaiian, Musical Theatre, Hip Hop, Swing, Salsa, Metis Jigging
 - Yoga: Kids Kidding Around Yoga, Land-Based Yoga, Chair Yoga (for everybody and every body), Gentle Restorative Yoga
 - **Swimming Pool-Cancelled. Cannot use ASCE Funds for this.**
 - **Nicholas Sheran Pool:**
 - March 15, 22, April 19, 26, 6:30-8:30pm
 - March 16, 23, April 20, 27, 11:00am-1:00pm and 5:00-7:00pm
 - 0-50 guests is \$126.25 per hour, plus \$25 refundable cleaning deposit
 - 51-100 guests is \$189.50 per hour
 - 101-150 is \$252.75 per hour
 - 151-200 is \$315.50 per hour
 - **Skating Rink (CFC East) – Cannot use funds for this.**
 - April 1st 7:30-8:30pm

- \$126 plus get per hour + \$20 liability insurance
- **Coulee Climbing – waivers would be challenging – vote is no.**
 - Random evening/ times (ex: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 5-6) as MMH time. People would use a link from Coulee Climbing to sign up. Limits to numbers.
 - Pick a time/day for 2.5 hours for 70 climbers (anyone not climbing would not count). Sign up and waivers ahead of time.
 - Divide two groups over 2 hours. First group of 50-60 at 5:45-7pm. Next group at 7:30-8:45
- Megan will work with Kerry to choose 3 dates that work with the school and plan the following: 1 night with Urban Beat, 1 night with MMA, 1 night with open gym time.
 - Danica Forsyth makes a motion to use funds for the 3 events as listed above
 - Ashley Bourassa seconds the motions – **MOTION PASSED**

Discussion Items from Attendees:

- None

Trustee Report: Andrea Andreachuk

- Happy to hear about the weighted moving average for funding from the provincial government.
- Love seeing that schools are going through the new piloting report card
- West Coulee Station is coming along well – staffing is getting finalized before the regular rounds go out.
- The YMCA is being seeking support by the government with a daycare in conjunction with the Galbraith modernization and the division is supporting this application.
- Town Hall was a success, so a huge thank you to everyone who came out. All feedback is given to the trustees and it is read through thoroughly. It is helpful guidance for budgets and writing the assurance plan.
- The first reading of the trustee code of conduct passed. It has gone back and forth for months so this is exciting news.
- Community conversations on March 19th will be in the morning 9-10:30 and May 7th from 7-8:30 in the evening and those are the last two for this year.
- A trip to Nashville has been approved for Chinook band for next year.
- School council support is great – appreciate speaking about ASCA
- March 27th the ICE scholarship showcase is on at Winston Churchill. This year there is a \$100 per table being given out to go toward whatever comes next for them.
- Gratitude was given for the one school, one book – Charlotte’s Web last year.
- One Division, One Book is not happening this year with all the new curriculum.

Board Meeting Highlights: Feb. 25, 2025 - [Board Meetings | Lethbridge School Division](#)
 Live Stream - [February 25 Board of Trustees Meeting - YouTube](#)

Future Meeting Dates:

- April 3, May 1, June 5

Adjournment: 8:44pm

Motion: Danica Forsyth

Second: Ashley Bourassa