

**Minutes for School Council Meeting  
Ecole Meridian Heights  
Wednesday, September 20, 2023.  
Library in person meeting**

Call meeting to order: 6:35

**1. Introductions:**

In attendance: Caleigh Pagnucco, Marie Marsh, Daniel Pipke, Nicole Marcinkevics, Roni Pirot, Amy Strachan, Stephanie Guertin, Landis Wall, Laura Bell, Terilyn Pettefer, Amanda Wheeler, Serene Wakelin, Madison Butler

**2. Approval of agenda-** Stephanie, all in favor

**3. Principal's Message-** Amy Strachan

- Administration team /roles;
  - Roni Pirot
  - Assistant Principal - French Immersion
  - Focus: Character Education and Education for Reconciliation  
Indigenous ways of knowing, 7 habits/focus.
  - Nicole Marckencavics
  - Focus: Inclusive Education and Literacy Coordinator
- What's new?
  - Organization of building into pods, similar grades in close proximity to one another for collaboration and between class projects.
  - Break out space for junior high.
  - Counselor has her own space located in the basement. Kids who access that service no longer need to go to the office.
  - New staff in front office Alison Tatarin. Returning this year is Lisa Anderson and Debbie Goertzen.
  - New French Language Assistant Mr. Coulibaly, enjoys speaking with students and boosts French culture and language in the school, position is possible because of a grant.

- Positive support framework - presented to staff.
- Gaga ball pit is located near bigpark.
- Provincial screening and assessments are in full swing to get a baseline where to start in learning.
- Meridian is liaising with the PSD schools in our area to coordinate multiple evenings for the Digital Safety presentations.
- New Curriculum for grade 4-6 starting this year, K-3 was 2022-2023. Grade 7-9 new curriculum release is unknown at this time.
- PSD70 Policy change. Field trip maximum amount that can be charged to families has changed. It used to be \$120, increased to approximately \$225 per child per year.
  - Feedback needed on the current fee schedule. Parent Council needs to discuss. Due Jan. 2024.
- Cell Phone policy is a positive change, more facetime connection, students are respecting the policy.
- Full time French Immersion Kindergarten possible start 2024-2025 if there is enough interest.. Comes with a financial cost to families. Google survey was done at kinder open house and year end, limited response so far, find ways to connect to the community and get more current feedback to see if this is viable.
- Things we are looking forward to:
  - Quebec Trip for Grade Nines, fundraising meeting Wednesday 6:30 at Meridian and Broxton, continued partnership between the two schools to build student relationships for highschool.
  - Choir group is joining 2 other choir groups in PSD for a performance in Disneyland, fundraising underway.
  - Sports are kicking off with volleyball, intramurals, hosting more tournaments than previous years.
  - Needed volunteers for Terry Fox run Friday Sep. 22, @ 1pm.
  - Orange shirt day is being recognized on Sept 29.
  - Fridges are stocked with snacks for students to access.
- Communication:

- Bi-weekly newsletter will be posted to the website, link sent home via email from classroom teacher, does not replace teacher communication.
- Teachers communicate with parents on a weekly basis.

#### **4. Questions and Answer Period**

- Will we live streaming meetings?
  - Parent council meetings will not be offered in a hybrid model at this time, lacking parent volunteers to operate tech. If there is a demand at a later date, it will be considered. If you wish to volunteer as School Council tech operator please contact School Council Chair - Caleigh Pagnucco at meridian.scchair@partner.psd.ca.
- Request for future meetings agendas:
  - CPF Parkland Updates will be added to future agendas.
  - MHSAA will be added to future agendas to give updates.
- What role does PSD play regarding the safety of school playgrounds?
  - School playgrounds are inspected by PSD facilities crew.
  - It is the responsibility of MHSAA (fundraising committee) to raise funds for repairs or replacement of equipment.
- Can the agenda be shared before the meeting and the minutes shared promptly after the meeting?
  - Agenda will be shared ahead of time when possible, and minutes afterwards, to keep parents informed in case they could not attend. How they will be distributed is yet to be determined.
- How are families communicated with during emergency situations?
  - In an emergent situation, messages are sent via our Power School notification system (termed school announcements on the parent portal and messenger on the school portal). Depending on the situation, communication via mass text, email, phone call, or from the Division may be used to get information to families in a timely and efficient manner.

- Can Admin provide instructions and clarification on “School Messenger”?
  - Admin is working on communicating what “school messenger/announcement ” is, as lingo is confusing and some thought it was an app used for social media.
- Will there be a student representative at school council meetings?
  - The school is looking into how to select students to come and share, depending on the topics, and to share about their learning.

### ***5. MHSAA Announcements and Volunteer Opportunities***

- Big park, broken slide for approximately 2 years. MHSAA pledged to repair it this year. Estimated cost of repair is \$9,000. It is currently blocked at the top so no one can use it.
- Small Park update, latest quote is \$110,000. Quotes are only guaranteed for one year, costs are rising. MHSAA will decide soon what they can do to help and make a fundraising goal.
- Hot Lunch is the biggest ongoing fundraiser, usually one dollar is added to the cost of food from vendors. Volunteers always needed and welcome. For more information please contact Stephanie or Landis at mhsaaparents@gmail.com.
- CPF Apple fundraiser deadline is Sept 29, AGM meeting at Meridian on October 3 at 6:30-8pm
- Anyone wanting a tour of the kitchens and more information on the fundraising group MHSAA can stay after the meeting.
- Next meeting is October 13, Library 6:30-7:30pm

Adjournment: 7:53