

Galbraith School Council Agenda

May 9, 2023

6:30 pm

Chairperson of School Council: Kira Kinahan

Vice Chair of School Council: Jen Neufeld

Location: Art Room and Teams

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the traditional territories of the Indigenous peoples of the Treaty 7 region and Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3. We respect the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Metis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our community.

In Attendance: Melissa Bootsman, David Franz, Craig Whitehead, Jenn Zook, Tracy van Son, Cheryl Lyons, Sandy Scheldrup, Nicole Freel, Kira Kinahan, Tim Kinahan, Jen Neufeld, Tricia Harris

1. Adoption of Agenda – 6:35pm (Tracy, Cheryl)

1.1 MB Add a note under New Business regarding Grade 2 Family Celebration

2. Approval of the Minutes from March 7, 2023 School Council meeting – Melissa, Jen N

3. Business arising from the minutes

3.1 **Secretary**

- The school council secretary typically acts as a recorder at each meeting and ensures that the minutes are prepared accurately to reflect the directions agreed to at the meeting.

3.2 **Treasurer**

- Receive all monies paid to the society and deposit these monies into the Society's bank account.
- Ensure that any single expenditure greater than \$50.00 be introduced at a Society meeting prior to purchase and be approved by a motion.
- Prepare all disbursements of the Society for expenses occurred and keep a record of this.
- Maintain all records of all financial matters of the Society and present a report of these at each Society meeting for review and approval.
- Prepare a report for the appointed auditor no later than July 31 of each year.
- Sign cheques on behalf of the Society.

3 School Trustee's Report - Craig Whitehead

- Increased rates for divisional meal allowances
- Presentation on use of technology from RN Caylee Low; board has developed an ad hoc committee regarding technology usage in schools (use of phones in schools is one topic)
- Passed non-union compensation rates for next year
- Anti Racism and Anti Oppression Procedures – Craig mentioned this was a discussion. Nicole is on the committee and shared that procedures will be built in the near future and shared with Board and Division council
- Discussion re: upcoming election – upcoming forums for Lethbridge East at St. Paul School on May 18
- Craig shared some questions that can be asked of candidates and door knockers – will attach to school council minutes
- Southern Alberta Collegiate Institute funding will be run out of the Lethbridge College (dual credit programming for high school students) starting this fall
- Budget will be presented on May 23 to the public. There will be online survey for the public. Budget will be voted on on May 29
- Board has built new values for the school division and will be discussed at May meeting

- Interviews begin for new superintendent on Thursday; hoping to announce who the new superintendent is by the end of May
- 4 School Liaison Report – Mike Nightingale (not in attendance)
- 5 Division School Council Report – Jen Neufeld
- School Council reps were unable to make the meeting, minutes will be sent out soon from Division School Council
- 6 Staff Members’ Reports:
- 6.3 Staff Report- Karen Henrie (not in attendance)
- o Jenn Zook provided a report
 - o lots of year end festivities, planned field trips, preparing for next year
- 6.4 Vice Principal ’s Report – Nicole Court
- o BOOST program for Grade 1s have begun for students targetted for literacy and numeracy support
 - o Family Fun Night coming up on Thursday May 18 – Soccer Night
 - o Mindfulness Family Night – June 1
- 6.5 Principal’s Report – Sandy Scheldrup
- o Assurance Plan is being finalized – will be shared at our next meeting
 - o School Assembly coming up on May 30
 - o Welcome to Kindergarten June 8
 - o Welcome to Grade 1 – May 25
 - o Reminder that the last day of school is June 28 and will be a half day for students
- 7 New Business
- 7.1 Book club clarification \$500 – Kira
- Kira wanted clarification about the vote on this. Last meeting we voted on using this funding to add to the parent library with some shorter texts, cookbooks, more diverse options.
 - Tracy heard from some parents that they would be interested in books for children regarding mental health, complexities, ADHD. Nicole will look into ordering these and get back to the school council at next meeting.
 - magazine subscriptions are mostly online, so these may not be an option
- 7.2 Positions for next year – Voting in June for the next year’s positions
- 7.3 Grade 2 Family Celebration Discussion
- Tim would like some clarification about the email sent to Grade 2 families regarding foregoing celebrating Mothers Day and Fathers Day activities
 - Jenn Zook shared that the Teacher Counselor had shared some research regarding Mothers Day and Fathers Day with all staff and Grade 2 team met and decided to do an alternate activity.
 - Tim said his daughter is feeling upset about this decision
 - David shared that him and his wife were thankful for this shift and appreciated the communication
 - Kira spoke to this that her aunt was the person she would celebrate on these days as a child and appreciated the opportunity
 - Melissa said that she contacted the child’s teacher and she felt like the second email did not explain things any further and she did not feel heard. She can empathize with teachers and making this decision. She suggests that in the future there could be a different thing “made” at the time of Mothers Day and Fathers Day that wasn’t labeled as Mothers and Fathers Day
 - Tricia and Jenn spoke to the why behind their decisions – they wanted to reflect trauma informed practice, shifting families, anxiety for different families
 - Kira wonders about families who would not be able to purchase something for Mothers Day, who rely on making something at school for these holidays
 - David questions if it is really the school’s place to make gifts for families

- Melissa says that she worries about taking away challenges from students such as Mothers Day as we are trying to build resilience in students
- Jenn feels like students in situations such as these are already facing many challenges and this is removing a barrier for students already dealing with complex situations
- Melissa appreciates this and wanted to have an open dialogue because it was important to her family and to other parents she had spoken to, came to meeting to share the concerns of the parents she had discussed this with who were unable to attend
- Jenn notes that other teachers at Galbraith do not celebrate these holidays, but their team decided to be transparent about it and send the email so that families could prepare or make other plans if they chose to
- Kira wishes they would have received notice earlier instead of ten days. Jenn says that if she had known this was going to be an issue they would have given more notice to families.
- Tim questions if this is inclusion as he feels that 80% of the families do not have an issue with celebrating Mothers Day and Fathers Days so they could feel excluded by not doing it.
- David wonders what is the school's place in this? This is not a statutory holiday, so is it there job to celebrate this holiday?
- David feels like people probably would not have noticed the change if there was no email sent to parents
- Sandy is going to bring this forward to the upcoming staff meeting and the Elementary Principals Meeting to get the perspective of other staff and schools
- Tricia wants to be clear that we are building resiliency in our students every day. She notes there are gaps right now in student skills, frustration tolerance that we are scaffolding.
- Melissa did not want it to come across that teachers were not building resiliency. She sees the tricky place teachers are in and empathizes with that. She has concerns that teachers are burning out and doesn't know how we can support our teachers better. She recognizes that she is only one parent. She appreciates teachers and understands the place we are in, and it is the parents' job to let teachers know that they have an issue.
- Tim feels like that if this was a school wide or division wide decision it would not have gotten so much pushback.
- Jenn feels like her students are excited about the project they are working on. They want parents to know that they hear them and have learned from this situation.
- Melissa does feel heard tonight and says we are all learning together. She hopes that we take what we have learned from this situation and apply it to another one.
- Craig says that this has been a concern of the Board as well. Craig says he is not speaking for the Board, but says he does feel that this is a difficult situation, and will be looking into how we can engage with families (an example could be the Town Hall). This could be an area to discuss with the new superintendent.
- David questions if events such as Town Hall are going to get a biased group – will all parents be able to attend such an event or just parents who have childcare (e.g. two parents in the home) when the event takes place?
- Nicole notes that she appreciates that this was a productive discussion and thanks people for being respectful and transparent about a complex issue.

8 School Council Adjournment – 7:37 pm

Next meeting: June 13 @ 6:30 PM

Galbraith Parent Advisory Council Society Agenda

General Meeting

May 9, 2023

Chairperson: Kira Kinahan

Vice Chairperson: Jen Neufeld

Location: Art Room and Teams

1. Adoption of Agenda- 7:37pm – Jen N, Cheryl
2. Minutes of March 7, 2023 Galbraith Parent Advisory Council Society meeting – Jen, Melissa
3. Business arising from the minutes

3.1 Open Positions 2023-2024 School Year:

Secretary

- The school council secretary typically acts as a recorder at each meeting and ensures that the minutes are prepared accurately to reflect the directions agreed to at the meeting.

Treasurer

- Receive all monies paid to the society and deposit these monies into the Society's bank account.
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3.2 Hot Lunches- Healthy Hot Lunch - Kira K.

- Hot lunch is booked for June 5 – Pizza 73
- Juice boxes will be purchased separately because it was less expensive, is part of the price
- Nicole will add a note on the poster that juice boxes will be included
- Cheryl wonders if there was a dairy free option, Kira says no
- Nicole notes that Opa was received well by some students, was a good deal
- Melissa felt like it was a better cost than the Taco Bell lunch
- Jen said some of her students did not enjoy Opa lunch
- Kira notes that there are still not that many options for Healthy Hunger in Lethbridge, but hopes it continues to grow
- Kira says if you think of places that we could contact, please let her know, it is an easy process for the business to sign up
- David says he will find out about a company that catered for his work, will find out more information for Kira
- Reminder that it needs to stay under the \$8 limit for hot lunches

4. Treasurer's Report – Cheryl Lyons

- Opening balance is \$706.93
- Cheque for around \$100 from Healthy Hunger to deposit
- Casino balance is \$5425.51

5. New Business

5.1 Vote on 50/50 – Kira

- Motion: Cheryl moves: I make a motion for online 50/50 tickets to be sold leading up to the Spring Market May 12 2023.

- Seconded by David

- Motion passed (all in favour)

- In the fall we can make a motion that specifies when we will do 50/50 draws for the school year

5.2 Gift to grade 5's – Tracy and Sandy

- Water bottles have been ordered with a Galbraith graphic on them. Came to \$573 for 65 bottles. They had to be ordered to get them here in time. Wondering if School Council is interested in putting money forward for this.

- Devon Lyons (AWC Communications will be donating \$500 toward Grade 5 gifts and awards)

5.3 Awards - \$300.00 in gift cards – Sandy

- 30 awards of \$10 gift cards will be needed for Grade 5 awards

- In each classroom there are a variety of academic, social skills, improvement awards, effort, etc.

- Cheryl's making a motion to spend \$373 from the School Council Account towards Grade 5 gifts. Jen N seconded it, motion passes.

5.4 Nets \$500 each – Sandy

- asking for 4 pop-up nets for hockey (\$2000 in total)

- looking at lightweight folding nets that would be easier to store, safer, better quality

- our current nets are very heavy and older, difficult to move and store

- the old nets would be passed on to the school division and they would decide what to do with them

- Cheryl moves to spend up to \$2000 plus taxes, shipping, handling from the casino fund to purchase 4 pop up nets for the school

- Seconded by Tracy, motion passes

5.5 Vote for gift cards for Spring Market – Kira

- Kira would like to set up a draw at the market to get people interested in the school council

- will have a table at the market

- Kira will check in with Division School Council for information about school councils

- Melissa wonders about Galbraith swag – too late to order this time, but an idea for the future

- would be a good idea to have a table at Welcome to Kindergarten (June 8) and Welcome to Grade One (May 25) and Meet the Staff Night in September for parents with information and draws at each

- Suggested to have \$25 gift cards for people who are interested in joining parent council – still have some that we can use for the upcoming Spring Market

- Melissa moves to spend \$150 in gift cards for parent council recruitment at Welcome to Kindergarten, Welcome to Grade One, and Meet the Staff Night in September.

6.School Council Society Adjournment - 8:20pm

Next meeting: June 13 @ 6:30 PM