

**Fort McMurray Christian School
Council Meeting**

Date: September 19th, 2023

Time: 7:30 - 8:30 pm

Location: Fort McMurray Christian School

Present: Geoff Bishop, Melissa Walker, Peter Green, Elizabeth Benner, Aila Kellert, Mary Murley, Christine Gogolinki, Colleen Dorchak, Tunde Oladipo.

Regrets:

Chair: Tunde Oladipo

Vice-Chair: Elizabeth Benner

Secretary: Colleen Dorchak

FMPD Presentation:

- The district wanted to come to all the schools in the district to give a presentation about feeling safe and belonging at FMPD.
 - We (the district) follow ATA, Legislation and Education Act (35.1/16.1(6)) and use this to make decisions.
 - If students want to start a GSA group then they have to be allowed to do this. This group is just meant to be a get together for the students. A teacher must facilitate this and help them set up this group. This group is not meant to sit around and talk about SOGI things, it is just there to provide a safe space for students. Statistics show that when kids do not feel like they belong then they are more likely to have mental health concerns. The point of the groups is to help kids feel like they belong.
 - The resources on SOGI are for educators to use to help them when kids come to them with questions. It helps them find age appropriate books to use when a kid comes to them for help.
 - The curriculum does not contain SOGI topics.
 - PRISM book is used and can be found online. It is professional learning for staff, not lesson plans.
 - When the counselors in schools hear information from students about their thoughts, they are encouraged to talk to Mom and Dad or a safe person at home.
 - All books that are approved by the ATA that talk about these topics are in a list and are age appropriate. The librarians are currently going through all books in their libraries to vet all the books and make sure the principal knows what is in the library. Then they go to appropriate places in the library.

Summary: The tools that we have are meant for teacher learnings so that they can deal with questions and issues that come up in the classroom and can be then addressed on a case by case basis (not to the whole class). If parents have issues with books in the school, they can talk to the principal about them as the principal will have vetted all the books. Current focus is to highlight ways people are all the same rather than how we are different.

1. Welcome and Call to Order

2. **Opening Prayer** - Mary
Round table introductions

3. **Review and Approval of [Minutes from June 6th, 2023](#)**

Christine Motions to approve the minutes.

Elizabeth seconds

Result: Passed

4. **Actions from Previous Meeting:**

- a. Tunde will reach out to Colleen to work on the year end report. Still working on them. Sept 30th technical deadline, District would like them in June in the future.
- b. Colleen will include a list of ASCA workshops that can be signed up for next year in next year's school council plan. Done
- c. Colleen will make a nice copy of the school council plan that can be sent out early next year. Done

5. **Welcome and Orientation of new School Council members**

The general format is to have meetings with business discussions, then next meeting will be a working meeting. The October meeting will be the AGM.

6. **Review [2023-2024 School Council plan](#)**

Summarized the council plan that was sent out.

Idea about making a post/survey about what people would like to see happen at the school? There was a google sheet that was sent to existing school council members and staff to add ideas to. This sheet will be sent out to new school council members as well.

Actions: Geoff will send out the 2023-24 Project Ideas sheet to new council members.

All Members may look at the sheet and add ideas to it.

Junior high is also working on some projects so it might be good to work together with them.

7. **Discuss [ASCA's School Council Workshops](#) (Is there enough new members to register for these meetings? If so book meetings preferably beginning of the year)**

Discussion around sending out the list of workshops so we can determine which ones we want to do.

- Do we want to do it separate from or in replace of a meeting? If enough are interested we could do both? Consensus is it would be nice to plan one in November in addition to the November working meeting.

Actions - Secretary will send out the list of workshops to new council members.

All Members will review the ASCA list of workshops and come to the next meeting with some options. Also may reply to the email so this discussion could also take place via email.

8. Principal Report

- We were at 234 in June, currently at 283/285. Lots to Div 1, now two kindergartens and a Grade 1/2 blended. Hired alumni from the school for this role.
- Terry Fox today. Hoping to raise \$2500, now at \$955.
- Parents can come Monday morning for Creation Ministries International at 8:30am - 9:30am. This presentation is geared towards kids. At 10am there will be a Junior high presentation.
- Friday is Picture Day.
 - A Parent brought up a concern about kids losing Gym time when pictures are booked on a Mon/Wed/Friday. We will try and request a different day, other than our Gym day for retakes day and spring photo day.
- We are running into difficulties scheduling Gym with the growth of the school. Hard to get all classes their time slots when we only have the gym 3 days a week.
- The Junior Highs are going to Maqua lake on Thursday. Invitation for parents to join Geoff if they would like.
- The Christian Education Evening is Oct 4th. PCCE will hopefully be joining online and 3 teachers will present their goals for the classes for this year.
- Book Fair is Oct 4th and 5th
- Missions Trip planning meeting tomorrow night for Grade 8 and 9. Roughly \$2500 per student, planning to do a lot of fundraising, to get that down to \$100-200 per student out of pocket. Society also has a line item for this to help make sure that all kids take part and money is not an issue.
- Hoping to take Gr 6 and 7 to go to Edmonton for the soup kitchen.
- Plan as a school to continue to build community and relationships with Churches this year.

9. Discussion of what School Council members would like to work on during the school year and their expectations of the School Council and individual School Council members

- Discussion about the project list idea sheet to be sent out.
- Another idea was the Garden boxes? Issue is usually summer time care.
- Plan is to determine at the October meeting what to do at the November working meeting.
- Concern was raised about the ramp and concrete around the school. Geoff will need to submit a ticket to the district about it.

10. Discuss and finish school council report from 2022-2023 - tabled

11. Determine which School Council members will be reps with other education stakeholders and organizations and committee assignments (if any) - tabled

a. List possible committees here

12. Call to Adjourn

Tunde motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm

Colleen Second

Result - Passed

Future Projects to be in consideration for:

- Community Building (Welcoming Committee, Classroom Reps)
- School Ambassador Program

