



MINUTES-COUNCIL

Foundations for the Future – North Middle School

January 28, 2020 6:30 pm

In Attendance

Council

Terri Sartori, Chair
Andrew Chu, Vice Chair
Lea Ann Triska, Secretary
Shannon Middlemiss, Fundraising Coordinator
Sarah Stilborn, Communications Coordinator

Staff

John Deines, Principal
Josh Symonds, Associate Principal
Mrs. Christine Charles, School Councillor

Guests

Absent

Mei Yoong Cheah (Jennifer), Treasurer
Shabnam Afzali, Fun Lunch Coordinator
Sawson Awad, Community Services Coordinator
Marja Kuncic, Fun Lunch Coordinator
Jyleen Wong, Parental Partnership Coordinator

Meeting called to order at 6:18 pm

Approval of January Agenda

Approval of January agenda as distributed.

- **Motion - Terri Sartori**
- **Second - Lea Ann Triska**
- **Motion carried at 6:18 pm**

Approval of November Minutes

Approval of November minutes as distributed.

- **Motion - Terri Sartori**
- **Second - Lea Ann Triska**
- **Motion carried at 6:18 pm**

Chair Update

Terri

- Council bylaws state that any member with three consecutive unexcused absences will forfeit his/her position on council. Therefore, Shabnam Afzali, Sawsan Awad, and Marija Kuncic will be removed from this year's council roster effective immediately since they have not attended any meetings this year. Full council roster is now 8 members.
- The ASCA conference is happening in Edmonton in May. This is a great place to network with other schools, share ideas about how councils can bring value to their respective schools, and gather fundraising ideas from the vendors there to promote their businesses. 3 NMS council members have expressed interest in attending. A decision will be made at the next council meeting when our treasurer is present to advise. ASC has indicated that they may possibly contribute funds to send a representative in the event that a campus cannot afford to send one.
- ASC is holding a campus wide food bank drive from February 24 – March 6. Collection bins will be delivered to each campus the week of Feb 17 and picked up the week of March 9. We may be able to incorporate this initiative with the winter festival admission. Posters will be displayed at each campus.
- Since the Luau had to be cancelled due to lack of tickets sold, ASC is planning to run a fundraiser that involves selling gourmet pepper and related accessories. Funds raised will go toward the 25th anniversary celebration. Details will be communicated with campuses.

Motion to support ASC's Kampot Pepper fundraiser for the 25th anniversary.

- **Motion - Andrew Chu**
- **Second - Terri Sartori**
- **Motion carried at 6:47 pm**

- A silent auction is being considered to sell the various items that were generously donated as prizes for both the golf tournament and luau. Proceeds will go toward the 25th anniversary celebration.
- Learning conferences are happening on January 30 and 31. The staff has ordered dinner from Scarpone's at a cost of \$380. A request has been made for \$400 to cover the dinner as well as some drinks.

Motion to approve \$400 for meals for the staff during January 30 learning conferences.

- **Motion – Terri Sartori**
- **Second – Shannon Middlemiss**
- **Motion carried at 6:55 pm**

Teacher Representative Report

Mrs. Charles

- Mrs. Charles provided information on the anti-bullying program she presents to students at NMS every November. Her program involves presentations to each class which include films relevant to the age group, a slide show, and group discussion. Students are taught about different types of bullying (physical, verbal, cyber) and are encouraged to share their own insights and experiences if they are comfortable doing so.
- Mrs. Charles explained that she considers this approach to be effective because she engages and connects with the students. She is able to monitor their reactions to determine what resonates with them. Often, students will seek her support and confide in her afterwards.
- A poster contest is also part of the program. Children who wish to participate are encouraged create a poster that communicates a positive message regarding anti-bullying. The artists of the winning posters, as chosen by the staff and students, are announced in the school newsletter and rewarded with prizes such as gift cards.
- When preparing next year's program, Mrs. Charles will consider incorporating some of the suggestions she received from parents, such as categories for the poster contest.
- She has heard Tad's Bullying Stops Here presentation and supported council's decision to have him speak at NMS.
- Taking Back the Controls information session planned for Thursday, February 6.

Motion to approve \$270 to purchase prizes for anti-bullying week poster contest.

- **Motion – Terri Sartori**
- **Second – Lea Ann Triska**
- **Motion carried 8:01 pm**

Fundraising Report**Shannon**

- We will be running a Learn-a-thon as a spring fundraiser; May is the target month. Test papers will need to be created as we have only done Math or Spell-a-thons in the past. Mr. Symonds suggested that the tests could be designed to take a critical thinking approach. Students would not need to study for the test and could complete it in groups.
- The Deal Deck campaign is complete. Approximately \$1860 was raised, however, reconciliation of sales was difficult due to the large number of payment methods available. The organizer covered some processing costs on our behalf. Some changes are being made to the program for next year. One example is that there will only be one deck instead of four.
- We will run a campaign with Mom's Pantry in March with delivery of goods in April. This tends to be a profitable fundraiser and orders are easy to fill.
- One of the hydration stations has been installed and is being well used. When our own maintenance personnel do the installation, the cost drops from over \$5000 to approximately \$3200.
- Council respectfully asks that requests for "legacy project" funding be presented in June of each year so that the newly elected council can plan accordingly.

Treasurer's Report**Jennifer**

- Financial information was distributed by email prior to the meeting.
- The balance in our account is \$10,016 with approximately \$343 still to be received and \$2950 committed to expenditures motioned before tonight's meeting.

Fun Lunch Report**Shannon**

- Fun Lunch is going well this year. We must ensure that unregistered families are being contacted each month before the order deadline in case they want to participate.
- We are earning approximately \$300/month in fundraising profit.
- We will run a one-day fundraiser by selling heart shaped donuts and cookies during the week of Valentine's Day. Families wishing to participate will be able to order and pay through the Healthy Hunger site.

Communications Report**Sarah**

- Council meeting agendas and minutes will be posted on the school website. Uploading this information has not happened regularly over the past year or

two, so an effort will be made to include the missing documents. We will ask Mrs. Wong to assist us with this task as she has administrator access to the website.

- We will also use the school's e-newsletter to connect with families. For instance, we can explain the roles of each council member, advise what business is ongoing, and explain how parent-raised funds are being spent.

Community Partnership Report

- No update.

Parental Partnership Report

Jyleen

- The annual winter festival is scheduled for Thursday, February 27. The planning committee has met and tasks have been delegated. Volunteer opportunities have been communicated by Mrs. Wong; council will also send a notice to families.
- The cost to have the horses and sleigh/wagon is approximately \$500, which we are told is a very reasonable price.
- Other event costs will be covered by admission.

Motion to approve \$500 to pay for horses and sleigh/wagon for the winter festival.

- **Motion – Andrew Chu**
- **Second – Terri Sartori**
- **Motion carried 7:23 pm**

Principal's Report

Mr. Deines and Mr. Symonds

- Randy Bottle returned to the school to continue his teachings. Although his virtual reality equipment was not available, he spoke with the grade 5 and some grade 6 classes outdoors about how indigenous people read nature and the weather. He taught some indigenous games and related them to how ancient warriors prepared for battle. Mr. Bottle will return to NMS again.
- Quality initiatives state that indigenous teaching must be incorporated into the curriculum. Experience shows that the teaching is most effective when an elder from the indigenous community engages with the students.
- Welcome back to Mrs. Kraushaar who has returned to teach grade 6.
- Long time board member and FFCA advocate, Shelley Schroh, passed away before Christmas. This is a big loss for the FFCA community. To pay tribute to her legacy, a scholarship has been renamed in her honor and is now privately sponsored for the foreseeable future.
- The teachers have been hosting their own PD sessions on Tuesdays after hours. These sessions have been very well attended. Topics have included tips for incorporating Microsoft 365 into the classroom, executive function

and control in the classroom, and how the brain learns to read. The plan is to record the next session to make it available to those who are unable to attend.

- Basketball season is underway. The girls' team is off to a slow start, but the boys are 4-0 in tier one.
- A lot of staff members have been ill during past two weeks. 1/3 of staff was away last week. 3 FFCA alumni were substitute teaching one day.

ASC Meeting Update

Terri and Andrew

- A planning committee for the 25th anniversary is being assembled. At our next meeting, council needs to nominate someone to be the committee's NMS representative. It will require a 2 month commitment.
- The committee will be responsible for creating a plan for the 25th anniversary celebration complete with costing. ASC wants to communicate the plan to campuses by May's AGM.
- ASC is discussing the feasibility of having a communication/shared documents platform for council members to access. This could include shared calendars, file sharing, video conferences, access to bulletin boards, ideas for fundraising, etc. It could be quite useful for council members but not for the general parent population.
- Fundraising and planning for 25th anniversary celebration
 - Schools to discuss with their council and bring the candidate back.
 - Raymond is still willing to set up pepper sales with proceeds going to the 25th anniversary.
 - For money to go to ASC all 7 campuses would need to agree that money is earmarked for the 25th anniversary celebration.
High School
 - Raised \$2,100 in lieu
 - Teacher appreciation dinner on Jan 30
 - Principal/Student lunch for students with parents achieving 20 or more volunteer hours
- SMS
 - Annie musical in December. Busier than expected and kids had a lot of fun.
 - Bake sale before musical for food bank.
 - Cheer team won gold last weekend.
- NWE
 - Potluck in December for council/society. Hung stockings outside classrooms and gave gifts for teachers and students.
 - Paying for meal for teachers on Jan 30.
 - Community Coordinators looking to do sandwich drive for Mustard Seed at end of February

- SWE
 - Currently at \$17,000 for fundraising
 - Doing a clay night. Have a kiln at their campus so will be raising money.
 - Society selling raffle tickets to help Grade 4 attend the Be Brave hockey game. The raffle is for Hitmen tickets and tickets to TELUS Spark
 - 64% of families logged hours.
 - Feb 21 dance
- SEE
 - Additional fundraising selling sweatshirts for parents. This has gone into production with a display at the parent teacher night.
 - Purdy's chocolate fundraiser.
 - Planning Stampede breakfast.
 - Society just spent \$30,000 on Chrome Books (2 carts with Chrome Books).
 - Fundraiser coming up – Spell-a-thon.
 - Had a photo weekend. Photographer comes in and does sitting for \$20 (all to the school). You can then buy pictures after. Earned about \$600 during the 2 days.
- Report from Superintendent (Lorne)
 - Observing classrooms and impressed with how well things are going, particularly around inclusion.
 - Government surveys sent out to parents of grade 4, 7 and 10 students. Typically, FFCA has done really well.
- Board Update (Randall)
 - Elections finished. Matching up people with positions. This will be finalized in February.
 - Unsung Hero scholarship now has \$50,000 in the fund. Considering setting up a second scholarship.
 - Minister of Health was supposed to be at SMS today and SWE on January 27.
 - High school project ongoing but can't say much about it at this time.
- All the silent auction items are at Jamie's house in storage. Should we do an online auction? All sales would go directly into 25th anniversary account, paying off any debts first.
 - Plan to run around the end of February/beginning of March

New Business

- To better accommodate society and council members' schedules, meetings will be held on Tuesdays for the balance of this school year and will start at 6:00 pm and 6:15 pm respectively.
- Remaining meeting dates this school year: Feb 18, March 17, April 14, May 19 AGM, June 18 transition

- Goal One – Agendas and minutes will be uploaded to the campus website. Council information will be included in the school’s e-newsletter.
- Goal Two – Plan council AGM to run right before the grade 5 orientation, as per last year. We will communicate information on the roles in advance of AGM.
- Goal Three – There has been no new development regarding the vaping info session SMS is planning to host.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Next meeting is February 18, 2020

Goals (as set at the June 13, 2019 meeting)

1. Improve communication to parents by using Edsby, the school newsletters, and emails.
2. Increase parental involvement by a specific percentage by the end of the year.
3. Increase community outreach by hosting one event per term.