



211 McKnight Blvd NE
Calgary, Alberta T2E 5S7

MINUTES

FFCA North Middle School Society Minutes

Date / time Nov 13, 2023 6:00 pm

Attendees

Society

Ummul Banin, Chair
Nicole Chen, Secretary
Marina Lakhani, Volunteer Coordinator
Connie Kimber, Volunteer Coordinator (online)
Sanjib Karmaker, Treasurer

Staff Doug Lamb, Principal

Absent

Zenita Lalani, Vice-Chair
Jim Poirier, Assistant Principal

Parents

Minh Banga

Approval of Agenda

- Motion to approve the November agenda as presented:
Motion – Ummul
Second – Minh

- Motion to approve the November agenda as presented-carried.

Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the October minutes as presented:

Motion – Ummul

Second – Sanjib

- Motion to approve the October minutes as presented-carried.



Society Oct Minutes

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Volunteer Coordinator/Parental Partnership

- 45 parents ultimately joined the volunteer pool for our October casino. There were some challenges on the second day due to weather (severe). We were initially short on the 2nd day, but by the end we made the quota. Some volunteers offered to do double duty.
- Marina and Connie set up a gmail account to help streamline communications. When we had put out the SOS communications there was a large influx of emails.
- Suggestions to improve the volunteer process:
 - Strengthen communication that a volunteer shift will commence in all-weather scenarios
 - If there is less than 12 hours of notification than please provide an alternate for us
 - Consider paying a stipend to volunteers (check with AGLC guidelines, but it is believed this is permissible)
 - Stress that volunteers must confirm their shifts via the confirmation emails, and contact must be made if you cannot make a shift (some volunteers just didn't show up for their scheduled shifts with no notice).
 - Society gmail and passwords will be shared.
 - Have the numbers for the casino advisors available in the Casino package (the advisor was missing in the morning on Sunday).

Treasurer Update

- We have a balance of \$29,065.16



Nov 2023 Society

- See attached report from Nov:
- \$2,278.50 be supplied to cover 50% of the cost of the VRCORE Education program as approved at the October meeting is outstanding.
- \$20,954.71 for the purchase of 30 Chromebooks covered on 2023 Nov 3.
- \$173.45 is owed for the additional food consumed at the Casino that is on top of the paid Casino Advisor fees of \$2,445.46.

Administration Update

- **Action Item: Doug will look for the Casino Package that was dropped off at the school mailbox(?) end of October**
- Thank you kindly for all of the effort put in to the casino and the approval of the Chromebooks.

Chair Update

- **Electronic motion made on 2023 November 3-Motion made to purchase 30 Chromebooks and cart with a price of up to \$21000 (invoice was for \$20, 954.71). Seconded by Ummul. Motion carried.** Points of discussion included:
 - Chromebooks are a core learning resource for the school.
 - Chromebooks are not eligible for funding from other sources. Both NWE and SMS confirmed via emails to the NMS Society that they fund their Chromebooks through their Societies and it is one of the primary functions of their casino.
 - We have just completed a casino and will receive a disbursement within 2-3 months of October, 2023. NMS could make purchases within their budget with Society to pay back later. The Society budget at present was large enough to pay for 30 Chromebooks and the VRCORE fieldtrip approved at the last meeting. As the budget going forward is unknown due to the need to wait for the disbursement from October, 2023, Society was not comfortable approving any additional funds at this time.
 - Society would like to see a spreadsheet detailing the school's allotment of Chromebooks, when they are out of warranty, when they were purchased, when they need to be replaced. As per an email from Doug Lamb on November 1st, Ms Chin does have a tech inventory and FFCA NMS has the following:
 - 1 cart of iPads
 - 7 carts, each with 25-30 Chromebooks of varying ages
 - 3 carts of Chromebooks have expired warranties
 - 1 cart is in need of servicing due to power/charging issues

- There is a strong desire that we look at funding fieldtrips and additional tech that enriches student learning and use Society funds to that aim.
- Chromebooks are being used in part for electronic PAT and PAT preparation (Provincial Achievement Testing).
- Not all students have access to personal Chromebooks, and it is not a guarantee how many will be brought to school/are useable on any given day. The FFCA board and Alberta Education do not require students to supply their own Chromebook. That being said, we are aware many students do have their own device. The current ratio of device to students is about 0.5.
- The Chromebooks were going up in price by 5% on November 6 so a motion was put through to purchase a set of 30 now based on prepared invoice quotes. There was varying level of comfort related to buying now or later. The purchase of 30 Chromebook would be an additional \$1000 if the purchase was delayed. There was comfort to absorb the cost of the price increase if the Society wasn't comfortable moving forward.
- Doug confirmed that the school could use at minimum 30 Chromebooks and a cart, but the ideal ask is for an additional 30 and a second cart.
- During the meeting we discussed that it was a challenge having a short notice about the price increase from Grand & Toy. This felt like a rush. There was a question posed to push Grand & Toy about their pricing as other vendors appear to be dropping prices. For the next set of quotes it would be ideal to hear from many vendors what they'd charge.
- Campus plans for student activities and asks: Ummul discussed that it is imperative to involve the kids in additional learning opportunities such as fieldtrips.
- Next Casino would be in approximately 18 months. We don't have a lot of say for which specific days the casino will be hosted.

Adjournment/Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 pm.

Next meeting: December 6th or 7th (an email will be circulated. ASC is on December 4th).