

École McTavish School Council  
Minutes  
Monthly Council Meeting  
November 12, 2015

Attendees:	Lorna Spargo	Scott Barr	Kristy Sturge
	James Hayward	Judy Ferré	Heather Dupont
	Bridgette Rose	Joanne Dubuc	Carolyn Harris
	Dharmesh Trivedi	Ram Etwaroo	

1. Convene: 7:02

2. Agenda

Motion #1	To approve minutes and agenda.		
	Moved by: Kristy Sturge	Seconded by: Heather Dupont	
	Vote: All in favour	Motion: Carried	

3. Standing Items

a. Annual Plan: we will develop this at a later date.

4. Old Business

- a. Crosswalk sign update: Kristy is continuing to call the RMWB for updates. In response to our original letter, the RMWB added reflective tape to the crosswalk signposts to highlight them. We are requesting flashing lights around the sign. Right now the city is conducting another study to see if it is necessary.
- b. Option selection process: in the spring the students are asked to fill out their preference form online. As the forms come in they are put into a binder in the order in which they are received. The options are determined on a first come first served basis that the options are divided. The administrators go through the binder and compile the options class lists. Unfortunately not all students fill out their forms and are given options where space is available. The administrators realize that this is not a perfect process but they work hard to try and ensure that each student gets into one of their top six choices.
- c. Tutorial/extra help options on PLF's: Council asked if tutoring or extra help provided on PLF's was a possibility for our school. Scott said he would look into how Westwood is currently running their PLF program and look at how it could feasibly work for McTavish.
- d. PTI procedure: there were some complaints about PTI's being scheduled. Some said they were unaware of the schedule, some said it was not enough time, while others wanted to add another day to PTI's. Overall, the teachers appreciate having the PTI's scheduled because they can be better prepared and the time limit helps everyone focus on getting to the point. They also believe that they see more parents. It was pointed out that PTI's are not the time to be dealing with large issues, but a time to touch base and see if further meetings are needed. Scott stated that they are going to advertise PTI's

earlier; however, the scheduling will not be opened till a week before. Staff can be reached at any time if there is a concern to set up an individual appointment.

The majority of the feedback has been VERY positive. Parents have commented that they are in to see their teachers on time and are leaving the school when they expected to leave.

The School Council did not feel that a new system should be explored as this worked well for most parents who commented.

5. New Business

- a. School AERR/PAT results: the school did amazingly well and they've examined their data and created a list of strategies to continue with as well as to improve.
- b. District AERR: the district looks at the statistics for all the schools and has their own report and goals/strategies to continue to improve.
- c. Board 3 year goals: we were asked to give our input on the district's AERR in the form of 3 goals we think the district should adopt or where you would like to see the district put in more effort. Feedback will be given to Lorna to pass along.
- d. School Fees: the Minister of Education is looking into school fees so the Alberta School Council Association (as the voice of parents, through School Councils) is asking what Alberta parents pay and for what. We discussed school fees vs District fees. To further this discussion, Ram is going to ask the district about our school fees (what are they and what are they for), and then share the information with us.
- e. Bussing: both Fort McMurray Districts are running a deficit on bussing. Alberta Education funds bussing for those living outside a 2.4km radius from the school. Because our District has concerns about students as young as Kindergarten and grade one walking 1-2.3 km to school (especially in -25), they currently offer bussing to those students. There is no bussing grant for these students so the District has had to take funds from operations. Given the current financial situation, the district is looking at options, one of which is a flat rate for everyone.

6. Reports

a. Principal

-Volleyball finished up with our teams representing the school amazingly well. Three banners were brought home and two silver medals!

-Staff are sending weekly emails to parents. A few are still figuring it out but should all be up and running in the next few weeks

-AERR completed and will share with school council

-Had grade 7 youth conference. Thanks to Mr. Hayward's work.

-Amazing Remembrance Day assembly

-School review has continued and we are excited to see the results

- This weekend we have 4 staff at the CTF conference and we look forward to seeing how we can shift our options even more
- The Wiz is now cast and now dates are on the calendar
- Basketball tryouts start next week, grade 9 Monday, grade 8 Tuesday, grade 7 Wednesday
- Reminder that the doors may not open in the mornings until 8am unless there is a school event
- Check out the new clothing website found on the school website

#### Future Dates

Nov. 20 - PTI time in lieu day- no school

Nov. 26 - report cards go home

Nov. 27 - PLF #5

Dec. 5 - McTavish Winter Market

Dec. 6 - PLF #6

Dec. 10 - Christmas Concert @ 7:30

Dec 11/12 - First Basketball Tournament

Dec. 18 - Star Wars: The Force Awakens comes out....and a PLF day

- b. Chair: nothing to report at this time
- c. Networks: Ram showed us a sheet of Healthy Fundraising Ideas
- d. ASCA (Alberta School Councils Association) [www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca](http://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca)  
WELCOME!! Jacquie Hansen, new ASCA Executive Director, effective November 5, 2015.

- 7. Meeting dates:
  - Thursday, January 14, 2016
  - Thursday, February 4, 2016
  - Thursday, March 10, 2016
  - Thursday, April 14, 2016 Resolutions decisions
  - Thursday, May 12, 2016
  - Thursday, June 9, 2016 AGM

- 8. Adjourn 8:13