

# DRAFT

École McTavish School Council  
Monthly Council Meeting Minutes  
November 10, 2016

**Council:** Chair: Lorna Spargo ([lspargo@shaw.ca](mailto:lspargo@shaw.ca))  
Vice-chair: Kristy Sturge Secretary: Judy Ferré  
Networks: Upul Gamage Member @ Large: Karina Webb  
Solange Maher Tiko Bielecki  
Principal: Scott Barr

**Attendees:** Deena Warren Kristy Sturge Tiko Bielecki  
Desiree Dakin Lorna Spargo Upul Gamage  
Judy Ferré Rachel Powelson Uylander Jack  
James Hayward Suzanne Chmilar  
Karina Webb Scott Barr

1. **Convene:** 7:29 pm.

2. **Agenda:**

|           |                                |                           |
|-----------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Motion #1 | To approve minutes and agenda. |                           |
|           | Moved by: Kristy Sturge        | Seconded by: Deena Warren |
|           | Vote: All in favour            | Motion: Carried           |

3. **Standing Items:**

a. Annual Plan: defer

4. **Old Business:**

- a. Reconfiguration Discussion (Westwood perspective):
- Westwood is concerned that keeping grade 10 at McTavish would provide no peer support for those few who do move to other schools.
  - Some McTavish staff worry that with this year's stressful startup and uncertain year end, it might not be best for students.
- b. 2015-2016 report cards: the term 2 report cards are the final report card for last year
- c. Transit Problems? **Contact Erin Sharkey (780) 747-2044 ext. 210**

5. **New Business:**

- a. Awards Program Proposed Changes:
- Honours with Distinction recipients outweigh Honours recipients
  - For Honours with Distinction, would like to raise qualifying percent to 90% instead of 85%
  - For Honours, would like to change qualifying percent to 80% - 89%
  - Still looking for input from Student Council
  - Changes may happen for this academic year
  - This aligns with the practice at other levels of education
- b. AERR (Alberta Education Review Report)
- We reviewed the report which will be available to the public when complete
  - We will create a School Council Annual Plan reflecting the efforts highlighted in this document
  - We had a discussion about how the grade 7 Alberta Education survey relates to the AERR.
    - Did you know that only a VERY small percentage of parents fills this out each year?
    - Did you know that marking "I don't know" counts as a negative on the document?

- Did you know that if you have questions that might help clarify your answers, your Principal and your School Council Chair are more than willing to provide information?
  - When these grade 7 surveys come out, the School Council and the Principal will open up the school for an evening and provide you with the background information you may be looking for.

6. **Reports:**

a. Principal

- Volleyball wrapped up, 2 City Championships, 1 Silver, 1 Bronze in the four categories. Proud of all our athletes and how they represent the school, and even more proud of all the volunteer coaches
- Remembrance Day ceremony was great today. We welcomed Boreal to our ceremony
- Picture retakes day is Monday, November 14
- Power Schools will work for attendance for now, but not marks as of yet. No date on rest opening up
- Our school was selected to get Solar Panels for our high school. Could be between \$250 000 and \$700 000 for the school.
- Academic awards are ordered and lists will go up next week for students to check
- PTI went well. Busy but cleared out by 8:50. Only complaints were from people who didn't book times.
- Chromebooks are in! 88 of them.
- Crosswalk is lit up, which will be great for winter hours
- Accountability pillar results - later, but some issues
- Ms. Arner returns Tuesday, Mr. Organ is taking over VP, Ms. Houston is taking over Mr. Organ,
- The survey will be done with students in the next month or so.
- Upcoming Dates:
  - November 14 - Retakes day
  - November 25 - Day in Lieu for PTIs
  - December 1 - Report cards go home
  - December 5 - Term 2 starts
  - December 8 - Christmas Concert at 7 PM
  - Dec 16 - last day before break (Star Wars: Rogue One comes out!)
  - Dec 17 - Jan. 2 Break!
  - Jan. 3 - Classes resume

b. Chair

- Curriculum Survey: District Office, located downtown, is opening up their doors to answer questions while you fill out your survey on Wednesday November 16, 2016 from 7pm - 9pm. Please contact Lorna, at [lspargo@shaw.ca](mailto:lspargo@shaw.ca) to let her know you'll be coming down.

c. Networks

- The Joint Networks meeting on November 7 was a presentation done by ASCA showing the differences between the Parent Association and the School Council, and the importance of collaboration between School Council and the Administration for an effective school.
  - The Role of school council is to advise or support the principal when making decisions in the best interest of the students in the school.
  - Parents should not use the school council meetings to discuss personal questions/concerns related to any personnel in the school or school district.
  - School council does not have the legal authority to make decisions on behalf of the school, the principal has to consider many perspectives when making decisions based on the input/advice from the school council; therefore, parents should be aware that, not every request made through school council can be implemented by the principal. Finally, the principal is responsible for the decisions made on behalf of the school.

- School council can perform duties as requested by the principal; further, any events or activities organized by the school council on the school premises should have principal's permission before implementation.
- Few tips for increasing parents participation in the school councils.
  - Publish the detailed agenda minimum one week before the meeting date
  - Provide opportunity for parent participation by asking questions, new suggestions related to best interest of the students in the school.
  - Publish the confirmed minutes in the school web ASAP.
- Networks meetings are held at the District Office on Hardin Street. All Joint Networks meetings are open to all parents. They serve dinner at 5:30 and the meeting begins at 6pm. The meetings usually run for 2 hours. There are two more Joint Networks meetings left this school year: February 6, 2017 and May 8, 2017. Contact Lorna at [lspargo@shaw.ca](mailto:lspargo@shaw.ca) if you'd like to attend.
- There has been a request that we have a question period at the school council meetings. Please forward all questions to Lorna Spargo, School Council chair, before meeting date so the questions can be put on the agenda. [lspargo@shaw.ca](mailto:lspargo@shaw.ca)
- d. ASCA (Alberta School Councils Association) [www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca](http://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca)
  - AGM: April 29-30, 2017

7. **Meeting dates:**  
Thursday, January 12, 2017  
Thursday, February 9, 2017  
Thursday, March 16, 2017  
Thursday, April 20, 2017  
Thursday, May 11, 2017  
Thursday, June 8, 2017 (AGM)

8. **Adjourn 9:07**