

### School Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

**Time:** 6:00pm

**Location:** Online (Zoom)

**South Meadow Staff:**

Jennifer Harvey (Principal)

Marty Anevich (Vice Principal)

Andrew Zanatta (Teacher)

**School Council Members:**

Chair: Nicole Burton

Vice Chair: Cheryl Martinez

Treasurer: Atul Ajith Mathews

Secretary: Juliana Mrkobrada

Voting Members:

- Diana Miskovic
- Andrea Smith
- Natalia Njegovan
- Antonia Grmusa
- Terry-Ann Virtue
- Ruth Paul as
- Jennifer Agnew

**1. Welcome and Attendance**

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

Read by Cheryl Martinez

**3. Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

Mentioned by: Cheryl Martinez

Seconded by: Andrea Smith

#### 4. Principal's Report- Jen Harvey

- School population: 596, projected enrollment 2024-25 = 600, staffing process is beginning for 2024-25 school year
- School Annual Plan – runs Jan to Jan yearly, in the process of updating for new cycle and align with Board's Multi-Year Strategic Direction (MYSP).
- Our focus:
  - Reading – Direct instruction, Phonics, Science of Reading,
  - Math – High Impact Instructional Strategies,
  - Student Well Being – Gr 8 Girls group, tackling racial slurs, homophobia, xenophobia
- Sports & Clubs
  - Checkers Club
  - Indoor Girls/Boys Soccer
  - Junior Boys Basketball
  - Swim Team
  - Basketball Sr Girls & Boys
  - Crotchet club
  - Dance club
- December 14th - Aubrey Noronha – “Colour blind? Why being “Not Racist” is not enough anymore” came to South Meadow with great reviews from the staff and students. Kids are asking for him to come back
- Upcoming Events:
  - Packtivity – Feb 22
  - School Wide Social – March 7th – run by Student council/Mrs. Sirianni
  - Student council – class reps – having meetings, collecting student voice and planning fun events school wide, anti-bullying sub committee too
  - Commencement – June 20th – at the school – details will follow. We will be sending out survey's to parents and collecting student voice

#### Teacher's Report- Andrew Zannatta

- Sports/activities schedule for the remainder of the year will be released with the next Howler.
- Field trips for the end of year are being planned now.
- Black history month ongoing in classes.

### 5. Bioswale- Overview of project and updates- Nicole Burton

Waiting for final approval, will have another meeting once approved.

### 6. AST (Active School Travel) Update- Cheryl Martinez

Our goal is to get more students using travel modes that are active, safe, and sustainable. This means more children walking, wheeling (bicycle, scooter, skateboard, wheel chair) or taking the school bus or public transit for all or part way of their journey to and from school each day.

#### Past AST Events

- October was "I walk" month and we sent out information the walk week of October 16th - 19<sup>th</sup>
- Winter Walk day was the first Wednesday of February 7<sup>th</sup>

#### Coming Up AST Events

- Spring into Spring Month is April which is an annual celebration of the new season, encouraging participants to spend more time being active outdoors throughout the month of April.
- Earth Day is April 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Walk & Wheels Wednesdays in June For Walk & Wheels Wednesdays we would like to do the same as last year.
- Communication for each event will be sent out in advance to encourage participation. We will need to start collecting prizes for the student's participation and we will need to start a sub-committee. Please email the school council if you have anything you may be able to donate as prizes or would like to volunteer your time

### 7. Holiday Fundraiser Overview

The Dieleman Fundraising was able to squeeze us in at the last minute in November and we were excited to see the interest and support! Thank You to all that participated and to all that supported the participants! The Best Part of this fundraiser was that it was all online with no startup fees, which made it easy and profitable. All students were able to share their personalized link by email, text, or social media with friends and family. Friends and family were able to shop using their participant ID(personal link) which is emailed to them when they created an account.

This fundraiser was to help fund our Bioswale Community Engagement Project! There were great prizes to win! Top fundraising class got a Class Lunch Party and the top individual fundraiser got a fun filled basket with a \$100 gift card of their choice!

Our profit for this one week of fundraising was \$1685.11 with half coming from the top fundraising class. We hope to be able to do this fundraiser again with more notice and more time to fundraise in the future. We look forward to seeing the opportunities this fundraiser can bring to our school.

### 8. Parent Engagement Pro Grant Update

#### The Invisible Load

Our parents are navigating the complexities of modern parenthood, and sometimes need that reminder that they are not alone. Our kids, jobs, friends, and family rely on us, while we try to balance it all. It can all feel insurmountable, also known as: The Invisible Load. Mental Health Support + Wellness + Parent Networking + Community Building. We have sent our application to have a speaker along with an enjoyable night out with snacks and refreshments we are waiting on approval. If we cannot get the speaker we are waiting to hear from we will be looking for another speaker.

### 9. PIC Meeting Overview- Cheryl Martinez

Andrea and I attended the PIC meeting in January and we got a lot of great information from this meeting. Just to touch on a few...

1. We will be working on the Budget Goal Planning for 2024-2025 (October 2024 deadline)
2. Fundraiser ideas that are easy, big ROI (50%) and considerate of lower income households: - Krispy Kreme - Poinsettia (via terra greenhouses) - Mabel's Labels - Will look at for next year in a subcommittee
3. Eventbrite Events that risk high attendance can use Eventbrite (FREE). Attendees can RSVP to ensure we don't violate fire code in the gym. Will also help with planning as events can close 48 hours before and can be on a first come first serve basis to allow for better planning (i.e. if Child Minding is needed and capacity limits). Also - Consider outdoor events to avoid RSVP capacities.
4. Child Minding \$500 school council "parent engagement" fund has been used for child minding. Use Eventbrite for parents to register their kids who require childcare during adult-friendly events, information nights. ECE's can be paid to watch children with adequate notice given.
5. Throughout the year, have events that generate money to sustain parent engagement. IE Movie night- Looking to do a survey for regular events parents would like
6. Nutrition Exclusionary Days (10) - can be used for non-healthy promotion of foods. If we create parent engagement events in future ie. Movie Nights, we don't charge admission but we can sell candy, chips, confectionery.
7. Social Media - Facebook: South Meadow private group South Meadow Chats and we will be trying to make it more secure to be inline with school board policies. Create a social media subcommittee within the school council.
8. Hybrid council meetings - Consider broadcast + in person for those parents who cannot attend.
9. Multiculturalism, community building + inclusivity - Offer virtual school council meetings in other languages (free via microsoft teams sharepoint) we are looking into offering this. We would just need to know the languages in need.

**10. Donations:** - Can be made via cash online- Families may prefer donations if they cant volunteer their time

**11. Parent Engagement Pro Grant** we got many ideas and look forward to working on our event once approved.

**12.** We learned about more tools available to assist council (Which are FREE) and are looking into utilizing these tools

**13. Community in need support** - There is a grant available to students at the school that can provide up to \$200 to a student in need for things like coats, boots, food cards, ect. The student or family needs to communicate with the principal. HWDSB is planning a Kind event to support the grant funds this spring. There will be communication sent out to see which schools would like to be part of the pilot. It will be a 50-50 split of the proceeds going between the grant and the school.

### **10. Parent Café**

We are looking forward to the Parent Cafe again this year during the open house in May. We will be using a portion of our parent engagement money towards decor and the centerpiece giveaway, as well as food and beverages to sell. We will form a subcommittee to head this initiative.

### **11. Adjournment: 6:39 pm, Next Meeting April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 In-Person**