



St. Thomas More Junior High School

School Council Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2024 @ 6:30 PM (In Person and TEAMS)

In-Person Attendees: Melissa Fraser, Lyndsay Boileau, Angie Gulevich, Latoya Cumberland, Kevin Myskiw, Domingo Barretto, Terry Harris (Ward 71)

Online Attendees: Kathy Borden

- 1) Call to Order (Melissa Fraser) @ 6:34 PM
 - Kim Felhauer is away, so Melissa and Lyndsay will co-chair the meeting today.
- 2) Opening Prayer (Kevin Myskiw)
- 3) Treaty Six Acknowledgement (Kevin Myskiw)
- 4) Approval of Minutes from February 26, 2024 (Melissa Fraser)

Motion to approve minutes: Domingo Barretto

Seconded: Latoya Cumberland

Motion passed – minutes from February 26, 2024 were approved

- 5) Principal's Report (Kevin Myskiw)
 - School Expenses

Kevin presented council with the final list of expenses after reviewing all receipts, and provided a digital and printed package of all invoices so that council can write cheques back to the school for reimbursement. These were all previously approved purchases. Council agrees to have cheques provided back to the school before the next meeting.

• Chromebooks	23,762.21
• Drama	399.12
• CNC Construction Cutter	3,492.09
• Music Instruments	7,600.00
• Scoreboard	1,747.52
• Yearbook Camera	1,421.38
• Comm Tech – Bitbox Coding Software	544.95
• Sensory Room	<u>4,347.24</u>
TOTAL	\$43,314.51

STM Treaty 6 Acknowledgement

- Working towards getting an STM specific Treaty acknowledgement.
 - Art students making artwork to accompany the acknowledgement

Student Led Conferences

- April 11, information has gone out to book.

Father Michael Mireau Day

- Grade 8s participated with Annunciation School and Father Francis

June Schedule

- Schedule has changed.
- Alberta Education – PATS finish on the 20th, and all finals will coincide with that schedule.

- Don't foresee enough people coming after that date to have any important events.
- It is typical that after last exam most kids will stop coming
- June 21st – encouraging students to attend to celebrate National Indigenous Day
- Advantage as students can start vacation a week early.
- Didn't want to hold awards ceremony after exams are complete as attendance may decline.
- Millenium Place June 14th
- School is open until the last day of school, and students can still attend.

Daily Schedule

- Each block will likely be extended by 1 minute
- Teachers enjoy having religion last block to reconnect with homeroom students, so this will likely continue
 - Does not apply to academy students, this is covered with their academy teachers.
 - Also works well with time required for academy.

Staffing Cycle

- Starting up now.
- Most teachers want to return which is positive.
- Kevin and Mike are staying for another year.

Early pre enrollment

- Trying to get more Ringette students
- Might have enough students for 6 homerooms (creating an additional homeroom). There is space to do so.
- There is appetite for academy students to participate in EAP
 - Hoping the numbers for Academy EAP will increase.
- **Parent Question:** Is this first year for elite?
 - No, only one student last year
 - Three students this year (gymnasts)
 - They take the afternoon to do training in their elite sport
 - High Schools typically are able to accommodate this scheduling as well, except Archbishop MacDonald.

Other Updates:

- Badminton has started
- Slopitch starting up – academy boys are excited
- April 8 total solar eclipse ~12:45 likely need to stay inside
- Ben Calf Robe Traditional Pow Wow - May 11

6) ECSD Trustee Report (Guest: Terry Harris)

- Thank you – to everyone on the school council/parent council it is very important for the division, school and students
- New Chief Superintendent
 - Lynnette Anderson onboard – national search led back to our own backyard. Nice to see as lots of work is done in succession management
 - Lynnette has lots of experience with the division and Alberta Education.
- New Chief Financial Officer

- Current CFO - James Gratten has been in the role for ~6 years and is retiring as of end of April.
- Lynnette did broad search and a new CFO, Chad Schultz, is starting April 1
 - Has lots of experience, he is a Chartered Accountant has worked with U of A, Ministries, is a previous Assistant Deputy Minister with Provincial Government
- Division Enrollment / School Enrollment
 - STM ~462 which is 89 – 90% utilization
 - Division is at 98% - which means it is fully utilized
 - Sweet spot is 85-95%
 - Division enrollment was up last Sept by 5.5% and now is up by 6.5%
 - Beginning of year there were 47,700 students now over 49,000 there is lots of pressure
 - ECSD has seen a 10% increase over 2 years
 - Edmonton is growing community, predicting about 6% increase next year, EPSB predicting the same
 - Will be the same for years to come.
 - Predictions that over the next 30-35 years Edmonton's population will be over 2 million and this will be a huge pressure on the education system.
 - City is changing zoning laws – densifying, now it is focussed on multifamily etc. rather than growing out - 15 min neighborhood idea
 - Need to be cognizant of development and renewal of schools in the inner core
- Budgets and Divisional Review
 - Not all the budget numbers are available yet.
 - This is typically reviewed in March after the budget announcement, however they have not received the numbers back from Alberta Education yet.
 - They will be getting further details by the end of March.
 - There was a 4.4% increase with enrollment growing at 6% so there is a shortfall
 - Funding is increased by a weighted moving average – based on 3 year cycle (current and prior 2 years)
 - Works if you are shrinking, if you are growing quickly leaves the division behind.
 - Currently unfunded for ~ 1700 students
- Capital – New Builds and Replacement schools
 - New High School in SW: Father Michael McCaffery scheduled to open this upcoming year.
 - St. Josephine Bakhita - K-9 in West Edmonton not far from Bishop David Motiuk
 - Sept 2026 new high school in Castledowns (Blessed Carlo Acutis)
 - Approved for 4 new schools in the most recent budget K-9 – potentially 2027 opening
 - Design approval for 2 more schools – potential 2028 opening
 - New builds won't completely satisfy the need
 - Capital plan will be on the agenda this week's board meeting
- Division and PAT results
 - Fortunate consistently nominated and won awards for best employer in Alberta - 9 years running top 80 employers in Alberta
 - Calgary Catholic also has been awarded.

- Important because when all those schools open they will need teachers and its important the Division is seen as an employer of choice
- Results
 - Exceeded provincial average on 13 of 14 metrics
 - 61 school divisions 4 make up 50% of students and teachers and budget Edmonton Catholic, Edmonton Public Calgary Catholic and Calgary Public
 - With respect to metro ECSD ranks #1 in 10 of 16 metrics and 2nd in 3 of 16 metrics, next is another division which is #1 in 5 metrics
 - This is a reflection on how effective the division is operating.
- Curriculum
 - Division will be looking at it closely
 - They will be doing deep dive with curriculum experts
 - This is currently for K-6, eventually will overlay to junior high and high school
- Advocacy
 - Trustees are very active in advocating for needs of the division
 - Don't advocate through the press
 - Have individual conversations in private
 - Approach is behind the scenes assertive but respectful
 - Trustee Harris provided a brochure on key items they are advocating for
- **Parent Question:** What does over/underutilized mean?
 - Anything under 85% is under utilized.
 - 85-105% is fully utilized
 - 85-95% is sweet spot
 - Over utilized means there are not enough schools
 - This is likely why the division got 4-6 approvals this year
 - Some schools are at 145% utilization and teachers are teaching in staff rooms, library, gymnasium etc. Impacts the learning of students
 - Any place that can house a teacher and student is being used. Seen schools using the foyer, stairwells.
 - EPSD has implemented a lottery system to get into schools
 - ECSD has taken the approach to move a cohort out.
 - e.g. Sept next year in grades 1-3 will go to another school until another school is built.
 - Under utilization impacts division ability to get new schools approved.
 - What is Weighted moving average?
 - Means 1700 students not funded – what does that mean. ECSD needs to work it out, which means resources are spread thinner.

7) Old Business (Melissa Fraser)

Community of School Councils

- March 6th at the learning centre of ECSD
- Mingle for 1/2 hour
- Board Presentations ½ hour
- Broke out into parent workshops
 - Presenters and workshop leads – positive vibe, great culture
 - Good representation
 - Got to meet new Chief Superintendent

- Open at first to council members, and was extended to all parent body due to extra room
 - 180 people registered – good turnout, but room for so many more
 - Our council could do a better job promoting – to get parents out and participating
 - Good networking for council members and parents as well

Parent Workshop

- \$500 grant
 - Gary Anika on April 29th – Topic: Understanding the Teenage Brain
 - Get parents together at school, parents can participate online if they choose
 - Want to start promoting it asap
 - Working on setting up an RSVP form on google, and will include what parents hope to get out of the session
 - This will help understand how many people to expect
 - Workshop last year – just under 20. Would like to get more participation
 - Working on determining ways to promote it.
 - Signage at the Demo of Learning – Teachers can promote
- **Parent Question:** Will the gym be open for kids?
 - If we can get more parents in, we will figure it out.
- Can send invite to students already enrolled for next year to get more participation and potentially more interest in council for next year.

8) New Business (Melissa Fraser)

- No new business to discuss

9) Open questions, comments, concerns from parent community

- How did it go removing bathroom doors?
 - Have not done it yet. Timing was not right with changes to staff that would support the removal of the doors.
 - Maybe late April/May
- Terry - Pipe Ceremony was lovely – Trustees, Superintendent and 4 elders attended.
 - Spoke about Indigenous culture and beliefs.

10) Next Meeting Date:

Monday, April 22, 2024 @ 6:30 pm

Monday, April 29, 2024 – Parent Workshop Understanding the Teenage Brain with Gary Anika

11) Adjournment @ 7:27 PM