

Virtual School Council Meeting – January 5, 2021

1. Call to order at 6:32 pm

Virtual Attendees: Cathy Giesbrecht, Monique Aultman, Suzanne Morton, Lori Beerwart, Michelle MacKay, Joan Crockett, Helen Jamieson, Mary Addison, Francine Savinkoff, Jenny Benke, Elena Barmintseva, Lisa Pasichnyk

2. Welcome, Acknowledgment and Prayer

ESSMY acknowledges that it is gathering on the original lands of the Cree, those of Treaty 6, and on the homeland of the Metis Nation. Thank you Creator.

3. Review of the Agenda

4. Approval of December 1, 2020 Minutes, as presented:

Proposed by Lori Beerwart

Seconded by Suzanne Morton

5. Chairperson Report – Suzanne Morton

Nothing to report

6. Trustee Report – Joan Crockett

Happy New Year! I would like to wish each member of our GSACRD family with the very best as we begin the New Year, with hope, faith, love, positivity, and kindness. During another transition in this pandemic, GSACRD is very thankful for the dedication of teachers, support staff, parents and everyone for their continued work required to make learning possible.

Budget Update:

Budget was approved May 29, 2020 and reflects the new assurance and funding model. The model features reduced instructional grants, student weighted moving average, and significant changes in specialized learning and PUF supports. An additional \$1.98 funding allowance from the federal government has been committed towards online learning, staffing, professional development, technology equipment and PPE supplies. Schools have been provided with additional EA supports to address extra needs in schools, online supports, or additional assistance with identified learning gaps. With the continuing of the COVID – 19 pandemic, some expenditures like travel, some PD, and classroom resources will likely not occur and additional savings may be realized.

GSACRD Education Foundation held their 50/50 draw December 3, 2020 with a lucky winner receiving \$7125 dollars. We thank everyone for their support.

Staff Appreciation:

The Board of trustees approved the direction of the Ad Hoc Staff Appreciation Committee to approve funds to be taken from Trustees budgets to recognize our amazing staff members who have worked tirelessly to care for students and each other during this once in a lifetime pandemic.

Superintendent Evaluation:

The Board approved the recommended process discussed in camera for the evaluation of the superintendent and the Board.

General Election October 18, 2021:

The Board passed a motion for Administration to enter into an agreement with the 3 municipalities of St Albert, Morinville and Legal to conduct the school board elections. The Board motioned to recommend Iva Paulik to act as Returning Office for GSACRD and that Rena Yakemchuk act as Substitute Returning Officer in the October Municipal Elections.

School Calendar:

December 8, 2020 a survey for the upcoming school calendar was sent to staff and parents. 1000 community members responded as well as 240 staff. We look forward to a draft of the calendar in the New Year.

Next Committee of the Whole meeting - January 11, 2021 at 7 pm.

Next Regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, January 25, 2021 at 3:30 pm.

The meeting will be livestreamed to the community and open to the public.

7. Administrator Report – Cathy Giesbrecht

Feedback: Monique and I will be speaking with all grade 7 and 8 students this spring to get their feedback about things that they would like to see in our school for next year. We did this last year and got great information from our students. We will be asking students for their feedback on class configurations again. This was successful last year - although very time consuming, we feel it was worth it. This goes to parents so that they can participate in this process with their child - but keep in mind that class configurations don't change each time friendships change. We encourage students to choose very carefully. We hope to extend this process to our feeder schools - EMP and EFJ. We didn't do that last year, because we always relied on teachers dividing students into classes, but we have heard from students that having someone that they consider a 'go to' person in their class makes a huge difference in their confidence going into a new school.

We are looking toward working with the elementary students to work on transitioning to junior high. It is made a bit more difficult due to COVID and the fact that we are not able to have them visit. We have some swag that we will be sending their way, and we look forward to being able to chat with them and make connections and answer questions.

We are working and planning for a virtual open house this year. Not our first choice, as we got a lot of positive feedback from our Open House last year, but we are working with a videographer to help us showcase our areas of strength to be able to have a strong online presence. It will be on March 4th at 7:00pm.

We thank SACHS who offered to purchase hoodies for their future Skyhawks in grade 8 and 9. All students were given the opportunity to choose a style and color and they will be distributed when they arrive.

School Calendars 2021-22 and 2022-23 Review:
Fall Break remains as well as Friday PD days
Calendars still need to be approved by the Board

8. Unfinished/Business Arising

2020-2021 Yearbook: In the past, our yearbook was 64 pages and a hardcover for a price of \$40. Josten's has said the bulk of the price is the hard cover. Due to a lack of activities this year, Council members voiced they prefer the 40 pages in a hardcover to minimize the cost for families. The 40 page hardcover will be priced at \$28.

9. Next Meeting: February 2, 2021

10. Adjourned 7:35 pm