

DRBS School Council Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:48pm

Attendees: (in person) Jacqui Lund, Lauren Ing, Nick Berdusco, Evelyne Lamontagne, Kim Howden, Debbie Hercun, Rhonda Hoggard, Esther Bakshi, Theresa Phan, Chris Kozelj, Lin Cheng and (online) Natasha Monk, Nicole Leung, Diana Lasso, Sadaf Burhan, Karen Wotton, Johanna Tugbo and Miguel Urrutia.

Jacqui Lund presented the Land Acknowledgement.

Motion to approve the previous School Council meeting minutes by Jacqui Lund and seconded by Theresa Phan. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the agenda for this meeting by Jacqui Lund and seconded by Theresa Phan. Motion carried.

Grade 1 Teacher's Presentation

- The Grade 1 presenting teachers included Debbie Hercun, Rhonda Hoggard, and Esther Bakshi. The teachers discussed their literacy approach, which focuses on explicit letter-sound instruction and using decodable books to help students start reading.
- The teachers described a comprehension task involving creating leaf creatures and using rich vocabulary words, which they used to measure growth in vocabulary and descriptive language.
- The teachers shared examples of their lessons in social studies, including learnings on Terry Fox, Métis culture, and a field trip to the SAM (Stampede) center.
- Three Left Feet dance residency has been incorporated into their curriculum, with Lana leading the students.
- In science, the students explored topics that included seasonal changes, the scientific method, and changes in matter through hands-on experiments.
- In math, the focus is to start with foundations and then build on those to teach more advanced math skills like addition and subtraction. Games are utilized to make math fun and engaging for the grade 1 students.

The presentation highlighted the variety of engaging, multi-sensory learning experiences the teachers provide for the grade 1 students across the subject areas.

Principal's Update

Our school will begin collecting donations for Catherine Nicholls Gunn School's Christmas Store. This initiative involves gathering gently used household items, holiday decorations, clothing, books, toys, and more. The donated items will be used to create a Christmas store at Catherine Nicholls Gunn School, where children can "shop" for gifts for their families.

Our school will also support the "Totes for Hope" initiative, which provides supplies to the Alex Foundation, a local youth and mental health center. Rather than asking students to fill the totes,

the school has specified the donation items according to grade level (e.g., Grade 2 brings toothbrushes, Grade 3 brings socks, etc.).

The winter concert will be held on different days for different grade levels - Grade 1-2 on Tuesday, Grade 3-4 on Wednesday, and Grade 5-6 on Thursday.

The new playground equipment, including the Gaga ball pit, has been a big hit with the kids.

With increased enrollment, our school hired additional support for literacy and math, focusing on Grades 2 and 3, with the largest classes. Carolyn Bell provides support each morning to smaller groups for targeted instruction from Monday to Thursday.

Our school's Book Fair was highly successful, generating over \$9,000 in book sales. As a result, the school will receive approximately \$4,200 worth of books from Scholastic. The school aims to prioritize purchasing more dual-language books.

The principal reminds parents to adhere to the parking and no-stopping regulations at the school and within the surrounding neighbourhood. Please ensure that neighbours' driveways are not blocked and use the designated areas outside the bus loop for picking up and dropping off children.

Chair Update

There will not be a December council meeting. The next meeting will be on January 14, 2025.

Hug n' Go Coordinator Update

Sandwich board signs are coming soon to the drop-off area.

The council discussed strategies to promote and recruit more volunteers for the Hug and Go drop-off program.

Jacket Racket Update

The council discussed the logistics for dropping off donations. Lin will handle the drop-off, and Sadaf will provide her with the details on the location and contact person.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49pm.