

## **DRBS School Council Meeting Minutes**

**April 15, 2025**

Meeting called to order at 6:49 p.m.

Attendees in person: Jamie-Lynn Leci; Evelyne Lamontagne; Jacqui Lund; Nick Berdusco; Jenn Lowry; Miguel Urrutia; Marcia Goss; Anne Nicholls; Johanna Tugbo; Nicole Leung; Lauren Ing; Carrie Plesuk; Diana Lasso, Andrea Suarez.

Virtual attendees: Natasha Monk; Chris Kozelj; Kristen; Sadaf Burhan; Lin Cheng; Faranak Panani; Abi Ahmed.

A grade 2 student from Ms. Goss' class presented the Land Acknowledgement.

### **Grade 2 Teacher's Presentation**

The presentation covered several key activities in Grade 2:

#### **Artist in Residence Program:**

- Puppet residency
- Students created puppets about Acadians
- Integrated with Nova Scotia curriculum
- Used visual journals and performed plays

#### **Art Project:**

- Studied Maud Lewis, a Nova Scotian artist
- Created artwork inspired by her style and Nova Scotia landscapes

#### **Literacy Groups:**

- Conducted spelling assessments
- Grouped students based on reading and spelling skills
- Small group instruction with multiple teachers
- Focus on skill development such as suffixes

#### **Fish and Schools Program:**

- Raising rainbow trout from eggs
- Students observe life cycle stages
- Learning about fish care and conservation
- Viewing Bow Habitat webinars
- Plan to release fish on May 29th

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- Earth Day

- Poetry Month
- Community Unity event
- Hats on for Mental Health Day
- Coding class (new to the curriculum) 10 week program in the spring - Grade 5 buddies to help

#### **Social Studies:**

- Studying Canadian communities
- Currently learning about Saskatchewan
- Comparing geography, weather, animals, and culture

**Motion** to approve the previous meeting School Council Minutes and agenda for this meeting made by Jamie-Lynn and seconded by Jacqui. Motion carried.

#### **Principal's Update**

##### **Budget:**

- The school is maintaining a status quo budget
- Currently at 615 students, budgeting for 585 students
- Expecting minimal staff changes
- Experienced about 15-17 new students since spring break

##### **Bell Times Changes:**

- Starting time will shift from 8:30 AM to 8:43 AM
- This change is due to new provincial transportation planning changes
- The school will have multiple buses next year instead of one
- Release times remain 3:10 PM Monday-Thursday, and Friday early dismissal is at 12:33 PM.
- The school needs to adjust schedules to maintain required instructional minutes
- Lunch periods and recess times will likely be modified,

##### **Key Considerations:**

- Transportation scheduling is complex
- The school wants to maintain children's free play time
- Budget and scheduling are being managed to ensure student requirements for learning are met, and different ways to accommodate this are being discussed - more info should be available in June

#### **Chair's Update**

**Tyler Smith**

**Motion** to continue with plan to hire Paul Davis next year for a tech presentation for parents vs. join an Olympic Heights event with Tyler Smith this year made by Jamie Lynn. 11/17 voted to proceed. Motion carried.

### **Recordings of the meetings**

Meeting recordings on Teams need to be deleted after 30 days, which is beneficial for the council from a legal standpoint. Keeping recordings long-term could lead to complications, especially if the council were involved in legal proceedings, as reviewing them could result in significant legal costs. Additionally, there may be school policies related to recording meetings. Going forward, if recordings are desired, proper notice and consent must be given. Going forward, meetings will not be recorded unless otherwise noted.

### **Succession Planning in Bylaws**

Jacqui Lund proposed a bylaw amendment to include the Past Chair as a member of the Executive Committee. This will help meet quorum and provide additional signing authority.

**Motion** to approve the past Chair being part of the executive made by Jamie-Lynn and seconded by Jacqui. Motion carried.

The succession policy was reviewed, emphasizing the automatic succession of the Vice Chair to the Chair position and the ability to appoint council members to vacant roles.

Jamie-Lynn Leci will update the bylaws to include the past chair as part of the executive committee and send out the updated bylaws with the special resolution language for the AGM. Vote will be in May at the AGM.

### **Identifying Council Vacancies**

Miguel Urrutia, Sadaf Burhan, Nicole Leung and Lin Cheng confirmed that they will not be continuing in their roles for the 2025–2026 school year. This will be confirmed at the AGM when available positions will be announced for potential volunteers.

Grade 6 Farewell events are planned by the parents, if desired. This event is separate from the SDA and the school. The event receives \$500 from the council, if someone plans something. So far, nothing seems to be in the works.

### **Yearbook Coordinator update**

Johanna proposed three potential themes:

- "Journey to the Stars" - focusing on space, astronauts, and student exploration
- "The Future is Now" - highlighting science, technology, and innovations
- "Eco Tech" - showcasing sustainability, green technology, and environmental efforts

The Yearbook Coordinator is seeking input and feedback on these themes and is currently in week three of planning the yearbook, aiming for completion in July. Yearbooks will be distributed in September so that end-of-year activities can be captured.

**Photo collection strategy:**

- Collect existing photos from field trips, student photography club
- Take portraits of students who missed school photos
- Aim to get teacher review of photos by mid-June

**Important considerations:**

- Obtain photo consent from parents (Evelyne will send a reverse consent form to parents in the next few weeks)
- Ensure photos are taken on school devices instead of personal phones
- Verify data storage is in compliance with privacy regulations, and is stored in Canada.

**Other discussion****Kindergarten Orientation and Welcome Package:**

The Council discussed the first Friday in June (June 6th) for an upcoming orientation, but budget and confirmation details are still pending. Welcome package needs to be prepared potentially as early as two weeks before June 6, depending on printing requirements.

**Expense Reimbursement:**

Miguel was instructed to fill out monthly expense reports for reimbursable expenses (i.e. the school sign), which will be signed off by Jamie-Lynn.

The board discussed the potential of creating a new board role, "Signage Manager"

What should be next message on the sign be: book fair dates? Yet to be confirmed.

Meeting adjourned at 8: 16 pm.