

Meeting Minutes

Gateway Christian School

School Council Meeting on November 22, 2022

The School Council is an advisory council to the School Principal and the elected Board of Trustees with respect to matters pertaining to the school.

As we gather tonight, let us remember that we live, play, work and worship on Treaty Six territory to the North of the Red Deer River and Treaty Seven territory to the South of the Red Deer River. We acknowledge and give thanks to the many First Nations, Metis and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries. May we live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship with its people.

Attendance: Stephanie Vanderleek, Susie Heinrichs, Andrea Korevaar, Miranda Moltzahn, Geannette Lehman, Matt Gould, Cathy Mottus-Landry, Carolyn Stolte, Wendy Fath, Karyna Dening, Cherilyn Strom, Stephanie Stutheit, Jamie Siler, Nate Siler, Jenna VanderVeen, Curtis Poier, Carolyn Anderson, Lauren Visser, Heidi Rew. David Prins, Les Martel, Dan Steenbergen, Vanessa Mutch, Karalee Andrus, Jordan Cavanaugh, Dan Ouwehand, Caryn Ouwehand

Meeting called to order at 6:30

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Stephanie VanderLeek
 - a. Council introductions: Stephanie VanderLeek (chair), Susie Heinrichs (Vice chair), Andrea Korevaar (secretary), Miranda Moltzahn (teacher rep), Geannette Lehman (principal)
 - b. Matt Gould, school board trustee introduction
 - c. 1 John 4:9-12 read by Stephanie
2. **Prayer:** Geannette Lehman
3. **Land Acknowledgment:** Read by Stephanie VanderLeek
4. **Adoption of Agenda:** Stephanie VanderLeek
MOTION: Carolyn Stolte, Second Cathy Mottus-Landry
5. **Adoption of Minutes from October 18, 2022:** Stephanie VanderLeek
MOTION: Wendy Fath to adopt minutes as amended (add that motion is carried) Second: Curtis Poier
6. **Reports:**
 - a) **Society Update: Carolyn Stolte**
 - i) Didn't have a society meeting last time because council meeting ran long
 - ii) Met last week:
 - iii) Society: works to fulfill GCS mission
 - 1) Prayer champion -community member paired with a GCS staff
 - 2) Prayer in the park -Wed or Fri morning after drop off
 - 3) Prayer box in the library
 - 4) Fundraising events for: Co-impact team, equity fund for field trips
 - (a) Table talks: A form was handed out asking all present: Are you willing to help? What are your ideas?

- 5) Dec 15th -Christmas event at the school is happening! Treats, hot chocolate, and events or activities in each classroom.

b) Principal Report: Geannette Lehman

- i) Grade teams will send a monthly report to parents to share what students are learning and doing.
- ii) Portables: The waterline has been dealt with so they will be connected to the building when they are brought in! Not sure when they're coming. It was supposed to be Oct/Nov, but maybe it will be the spring.
- iii) Community Christmas event on Dec 15th as indicated by Carolyn
- iv) Basketball tryouts today and hockey season underway
- v) Fundraising for Co-impact - \$3300 for each student, \$3500 for leaders -Pays for flight and place to stay. About half goes to the projects themselves that they will participate in.
- vi) Results report:
 - 1) reflects input from parents, teachers and students
 - 2) GCS report numbers declined in several areas, but it's important to know that only 3.2-5% of parents took the survey. Surveys were done right after COVID closures so people were not in a great place.
 - 3) Literary, Numeracy, FNMI, Citizenship results were reported on
 - 4) GCS Response to address numbers that have gone down: school "open" again focusing on community events, increased encouragement for parents to be involved, grade levels will give monthly reports,
 - 5) Conversation was had about how we will get more parents to do the surveys?
 - (a) We are over-surveyed towards the end of the year.
 - (b) Matt Gould gave input: The school board is trying. Things are happening but we don't always hear about it. They need to hear from parents too. Encouraging parents to give feedback.

c) Literacy and Numeracy Interventions report: Stephanie Stutheit

- i) In September all Gr 2 & 3 students were assessed with CC3 and LeNs. And then follows up with a workbook assessment
 - 1) Based on results, each student is put into a zone:
 - (a) Green zone: at grade level,
 - (b) Yellow zone: slightly below,
 - (c) Red zone: significantly below
 - 2) Red zone kids are put into small working groups for 30 minutes/day in numeracy basics and/or literacy. Use games to practice concepts.

d) Worship Coordinator Update: Cherilyn Strom

- i) After last month's meeting it was decided that we need a worship report. Since fall of 2020 there has been worship.
- ii) Prior to covid: divisions would have their worship in the gym, other divisions do their own worship in their classroom

- iii) Currently: Mrs. Strom creates a plan for worship for all divisions. They've looked at "what is worship?" Throughlines, parts of the Christian calendar: these are things that are common language in the school. Kids don't even realize when it's always happening.
 - 1) Presentation of throughline postcards are done in classrooms now because many students prefer it that way and all those people in the gym were over fire code. Mrs. Strom still purposefully creates a video presentation for each division
- iv) Buddies
- v) Special days worship with everyone in the gym -parents aren't invited every week because worship looks differently each week. Good for students to learn that worship can be done in many ways

e) City Wide School Council Report: Stephanie VanderLeek

- i) <https://rdpsd.ab.ca/page/313/student-services>
- ii) Oct minutes has Policy 21 feedback link that is still open
- iii) Nicola will give Student Services presentation in the new year
- iv) District is working towards 1:1 ratio of chromebooks to students
- v) Brightspace is starting at GCS. It will be rolled out to parents in the new year
- vi) Smile cookies check: \$52000 to the district for Reading College
- vii) RDPSD school absences are being reported again due to significant illness rates.

7. Field Trips -Geannette Lehman

- a. Last council meeting a question came up: Why aren't our kids going on field trips when other schools are?
- b. There is a budget for field trips and they are happening. However, they are more limited than they have been in the past due to budgets and rising costs.
- c. Teachers work to plan field trips that align with curriculum and throughlines as much as possible
- d. Some examples of field trips that are happening or are planned: Rec Ed classes regularly go to a variety of locations for activities, swimming lessons are happening in the New Year, the Grade 4 field trip to the Waste Management Facility was planned and then had to be canceled by the plant (due to weather), Gr 6 will go to the Legislature, Kinders to Safety city, etc
- e. Transportation and bussing also become a problem
- f. Council hopes to participate in fundraising to subsidize field trip costs

8. Calendar of Events Planning Table Talk

- a. During the last council meeting we talked about putting a larger portion of our \$ towards community events.
- b. Dec 12: Joe social media presentation on how to engage with our kids on safe use of social media
- c. Dec 15: Community Christmas event: Each class will host an event
 - i. A discussion was had about what GCS council should do: Live nativity scene, deliver cards, caroling...
 - ii. GCS will lead a group carol at the end of the evening outside
 - iii. Society will sell popcorn and hot chocolate for Co-Impact
- d. A parent survey will come out in Dec for event ideas for council. Please respond.

Festival of trees tickets given to two families by random selection.

9. **Adjournment** at 7:49

Gateway Christian School Council contact email: gcs-schoolcouncil@rdpsd.ab.ca

Upcoming 2022/2023 School Council Meetings Schedule

- January 17, 2023
- March 21, 2023 Vote on ASCA resolutions
- April 18, 2023
- May 16, 2023 Budget and Education Plan

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