

Draft
Gateway Christian School
School Council Minutes

Virtual Meeting held via ZOOM
January 26, 2021

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: Kimberly White, Natalie Ford, Wendy Fath, Geannette Lehman, Elani Kruger, Chris Kooman, Miranda Moltzhan (teacher representative), Alyson McColl, Andrea Korevaar, Justayne Wilkening, Jason Dalstra.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Kimberly called the meeting to attendance at 19:32 with welcome and introductions

2. Prayer

Kimberly opened with prayer

3. Land Acknowledgment

Kimberly led with the above land acknowledgement.

4. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes: November 24, 2020

Wendy Fath motioned to adopt the agenda and minutes.

Miranda seconded the motion.

Agenda and minutes from November 24, 2020 adopted unanimously.

[November 24, 2020 Draft Minutes](#)

5. Supporting students:

Kimberly White shared information on parent support sessions by Central Alberta Regional Consortium. Webinars are live. Can go to CLARC website for reference carped.ab.ca

Use the filter: parents

a. Strategies for Parents (how you can help your kids)

Chris Kooman presented on how to access google classroom for parents. How to keep up with the work teachers are posting. Teachers continue to post work, even though it's not online learning. Two good things to look at: stream and classroom.

Stream is anything that can be posted. Any teachers teaching can post there or kids can post too. Links, you tube etc.

Most effective place to look: Classwork. More organised and simpler access to specific teacher's subject / classes.

Student can turn in an assignment without actually doing the work.

Embedded into the header of each classroom is a link for that teacher's google meet. Quick functionality. You will have access only to the classrooms your kids are connected to.

Teacher's goal this year was to keep google classroom online up to date in case a class/ child needs to isolate.

Chris Kooman opened the floor for questions. Are parents finding this helpful? Barriers would be access to wifi and a stable internet connection.

Alyson McColl asked: How do you track that your kid actually completed a task when handed in?

Answer: Documents that were handed in can still be edited. You can go in and physically look at the document.

Miranda Moltzahn: In elementary the teachers will help the kids when documents weren't handed in.

Wendy Fath asked a question: As a parent of a middle schooler, classroom works really well. Can look through all of the assignments and you can get an understanding of what your child is working on. How has it been for teachers? Is it a huge amount of more work?

Miranda Moltzahn answered: It's more work, but it's valuable for parents because parents can now access work that was done in class, Especially kids that miss days can catch up easily with their parents' help. Finds google classroom very valuable.

b. Strategies for Students (study skills and school supports)

How to support students in their study habits.

Geannette Lehman shared information on parent study tips:

So much of what we do now (even not in COVID times) so much of what we do is on technology. Parents asked what they can do to support studying at home. Geanette Lehman has a document available

1. Create a good place to study
2. Schedule daily homework time
3. Make a list and get organised
4. Work on assignments
5. Keep track of your success

Goal setting:

Make specific and realistic/ attainable goals. Write them down and keep them where you can see them.

Do weekly goal setting. Assignments and personal goals. Help them find that balance.

Break down goals. How, when, where, how much time would you need?

Seek help when needed. GCS has a community liaison worker, LAT's and guidance counsellors, admin team, staff. Ask for help, reach out if extra support is needed.

These are a few helpful reminders. Full document can be shared.

Questions:

Wendy Fath asked: How are options working?

Chris Kooman and Geannette Lehman answered: Typically kids would be mixed in options, but at CGS co-horts will not be mixed this year. Now all kids have to take all classes and they rotate. Everyone in the same homeroom will be in the same option. Not all options are available to all students. Where possible, teachers will go to students, students don't move around where able

Wendy Fath commented: The way GCS has managed the co-horts has been such an effective and well thought through idea. Commended admin on their excellent planning.

6. Reports:

a. City Wide School Council Meetings

January was cancelled.

b. RDPSD Public Trustee Meetings

Kimberly White has been unable to attend. Anyone can attend. Every second Wednesday of the month 1pm. This meeting was facility maintenance plans. \$5.9 million was spent in Red Deer. Also capital maintenance and renewal money \$4.1 million spent.

Student services report: Mental health and wellness, early learning.

Look at Red Deer website under Trustee Meetings highlights.

GCS has received a new fire alarm system. Also maintenance updates in little gym.

7. Appreciation letters

Wendy Fath suggested to send out thank you letters to CGS staff and admin and Chad Erickson. Letters are linked below.

[Letter to RDPSD](#)

[Letter to Gateway School](#)

No feedback provided other than thanking Wendy Fath for taking the effort to write those letters.

Word cloud for teacher appreciation made.

Motion to send these letters made by Andrea Korevaar.

Natalie seconded motion.

Motion approved by vote. All in favour.

7. Parent Questions

Natalie Ford: Are parents supposed to wear a mask when parents are picking kids up on school property outside?

Geannette Lehman:: No, not if you're no closer than 2m from other people. A lot of parents are wearing masks because of them coming in close contact with others or because of personal choice.

8. Adjournment

Kimberly White adjourned the meeting at 20:25 thanking everyone for attending the meeting.
Next meeting is February 23, 2021

Upcoming 2020/2021 Schedule

School Council Meetings (Zoom Meetings starting at 7:30pm)

- March 23, 2021 - ASCA Resolutions
- April 27, 2021
- May 25, 2021 - Budget and Ed/Plan

City Wide School Council Meetings 7pm

- March 10, 2021 Annie L Gaetz
- May 12, 2021 Aspen Heights

School Board Meetings (Central Office 1pm)

- February 10, 2021
- March 10, 2021
- April 14, 2021
- May 12, 2021
- June 9, 2021

Alberta School Council Association Conference and AGM

- April 23 - 25, 2021

