

**DRAFT**  
**Gateway Christian School**  
**School Council Minutes**

Virtual Meeting held via ZOOM

**March 23, 2021, 7:30pm**

**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, Miranda Moltzhan (teacher representative), Alyson McColl, Andrea Korevaar, Justayne Wilkening, Minette van Zyl, Jeanette Martel, Stephanie, Denee and Mike Nelson, Stacyann Tingling.

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Kimberly White called the meeting to attendance at 7:34 with welcome and introductions. All attendees introduced themselves and how many /ages their of their children attending GCS.

### **2. Prayer**

Kimberly White opened with prayer

### **3. Land Acknowledgment**

Kimberly White led with the above land acknowledgement..

### **4. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes: January 26, 2021**

Mike Nelson motioned to adopt the agenda and minutes.

Natalie Ford seconded the motion.

Agenda and minutes of January 26, 2021 adopted by the majority.

### **5. Alberta School Councils Association Resolutions**

#### **[2021 ASCA Proposed Resolutions](#)**

This is how we make our voice heard with the Alberta Government. Please join us in voting for/against these resolutions. They will be discussed and voted on by School Council Representatives across Alberta at the ASCA Annual General Meeting in April.

ASCA Alberta School Councils Associations, all AB school councils are members. We have the opportunity to vote and it will be communicated to the AB government. Please refer to attached documents.

### **P21-01: Continued Support and Advancement of Technology Funding to Support all Levels of Learning Throughout Alberta Schools**

Question: Andrea Korevaar asked if technology is funded, would funding be taken away from other places like students supports.

Answer: Mrs. Lehman answered that there is no clear answer at the moment, but the money would all come from one pot. If voted against, it wouldn't even be considered.

Kimberly White commented: This is just us as parents informing the Alberta Government what we would deem as important to consider, not prioritizing anything.

Vote: Is this a good resolution to set forth with the Alberta Government : Majority voted for this motion.

Vote" Majority vote on taking out the word "force".

### **P21-02: Acknowledgement of CoSc/DSC in the Alberta Education Act.**

Wendy Fath stated that they could yield a fair bit of political power.

Stephanie: does this take away from parent power in the smaller school councils? Does this give the districts/trustees more power from the parents. Would that not count as a double vote?

Kimberly White answered that it would just be another vote added. Unclear about the details. We could table it and get more information to vote on it later. Wendy Fath will be doing some follow up and present at the next meeting. How would this change the amount of say we have as an individual school council vs city wide vs provincial.

Motion made to table this until the next meeting made by Stephanie.

Natalie Ford seconded this motion.

Majority voted for this motion.

### **P21-03: Restore PUF (Program Unit Funding) to schools ages 2.5 to 5.5.**

Mike Nelson asked: How do families find out about resources that would be available to them.

Geanette Lehman answered: Needs are communicated to the schools from other institutions like pre-k's or e.g. Aspire. Return of PUF funding would definitely be helpful for the schools and allocating more resources to kids.

Vote: Majority voted for this motion.

#### **P21-04: Transportation – Maximum Time Limit Students can be on the Bus**

Discussion around the issue of practicality and funding for the resolution.

Vote: Majority voted against this motion

#### **P21-05: Renewal of Alberta Curriculum**

Discussion around the issue of parental and public input in the designing of the curriculum both for and against.

Vote: Majority voted against this motion

#### **P21-06: Addressing Barriers to Student-centred Public Education**

Discussion around whether this resolution is redundant and that there are already processes in place to address barriers.

Vote: Majority voted against this motion.

#### **P21-07: Respect for ASCA's Bylaws, Values, and Members**

Geannette Lehman: A charter school is a school that is a public school that offers something that none of the others in the district can offer. They have more autonomy.

Gateway is an alternative school, not a charter school. We do not have our own board.

GCS is part of Red Deer Public Schools. We are a public school open to everyone.

Charter schools will still be teaching the Alberta Curriculum.

Alyson McColl: Charter schools are fully public, it would feel like Gateway but they have more autonomy.

Kimberly White: They are asking, as parents, to be allowed into ASCA.

Vote: Majority voted for this motion

#### **P21-08: Education Stakeholder Organizations Financial and Governance Accountability**

Kimberly White read the motion:

Vote: Majority voted for this motion

#### **P21-09: Equal Opportunity of Access to All Public School**

Kimberly White read the motion

Geannette: Our district is set up in different catchment areas, unless it's an alternative school or school of choice. If postal codes were published it would not be reflective of the catchment area. It's not clear.

Kimberly White: I do not want my postal code to be visible to others.

Wendy Fath: Is concerned with the direction in which schooling is going. There could be a tendency for it to become elitist if schools get to pick who can attend their school. Are they trying to set it up to get more funding for their special interest schools leaving the other's behind.

Kimberly White: It sounds like the schools could not pick and choose, but that the families could.

Stephanie: Would this not take away from the autonomy of the specialised route.

Vote: Majority voted to vote now vs vote being tabled and taking questions back to ASCA.

Vote: Majority vote against.

### **P21-10: Achieving Universal Public Education**

Discussion regarding confusing nature of proposal. It seems like charter schools want the resources but not the accountability. Feels like there is a strong political agenda from the charter schools.

Vote: Majority voted against this motion.

### **P21-11: Allocating Public Funds to Public Education**

Discussion regarding proposed resolution:

Kimberly White: We could have en masse kids leaving those schools and then we would need to pay 100% funding vs partial funding.

Stephanie: There needs to be options for parents to choose private schools.

Geannette: GCS roots started as a private school. GCS is part of the Prairie Schools, and as a Christian School we would not feel good voting against our partner schools. And yes, our waitlist would likely just be going up.

Justayne: Those kids will still require funding regardless of where they go.

Vote: Majority voted against.

### **A21-01**

ASCA needs to revise policies. Kimberly went over them briefly.

Majority agreed to vote for all the policies reviewed.

### **A21-02**

ASCA wants to add "assurance" to the title of the policy which requires a revision.

Majority voted for reviewing this at the next meeting.

## **6. Reports:**

### **a. City Wide School Council Meetings**

March 09, 2021. Principal of Annie L Gaetz went over what they do.  
COVID update. Stage 2, no significant impact (in regards to changes) on schools.

### **b. RDPSD Public Trustee Meetings**

Lots of controversial comments. March 10, 2021 and they will not be changing their mind. They will not have a Pride week, but they will be having a diversity week. Much discussion about being respectful to all groups and our schools are welcome to all. Sexual orientation and gender identity policy will be reviewed. Hunting Hills will receive a large pot of money for updating. GCS also a priority for modernization.

## **7. Parent Questions**

There were no parent questions.

## **8. Adjournment**

Kimberly White adjourned the meeting at 9:03pm thanking everyone for attending the meeting. The next meeting will be held April 27, 2021 via Zoom.

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### **Upcoming 2020/2021 Schedule**

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

- April 27, 2021
- May 25, 2021 - Budget and Ed/Plan

#### **City Wide School Council Meetings 7pm**

- May 12, 2021 Aspen Heights

#### **School Board Meetings (Central Office 1pm)**

- April 14, 2021
- May 12, 2021
- June 9, 2021

#### **Alberta School Council Association Conference and AGM**

- April 23 - 25, 2021