



## School Council Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2022

Draft

**Members in Attendance:** J.Kossick (Chair), A.Ojeleye (Vice Chair), A.Lishingman (Treasurer), G.Atal (assistant Treasurer), R.Karmali (VP AFS), D.Miller (Secretary), P.Dang (Middle School Principal), E.Lund (Middle School Assistant Principal), P.Ryan (student teacher Middle School), S. (student teacher Middle School), M.Healy (Elementary School Principal), N.Neufeld (Elementary School teacher Rep.), Connie S. (parent)

Guests in Attendance: I.Gray (School Superintendent), J.Harman (High School Principal)

### Guests in Attendance:

**1.0 Call to Order:** 6:02 PM by J.Kossick

- Land Acknowledgement – M.Healy
- Purpose of School Council - J. Kossick

**2.0 Additions/Changes to the agenda:** No changes

**3.0 Approval of Minutes from:** October 12, 2022

Motion: A. Lishingman

Second: R. Karmali

Motion Carried/Motion Lost: **ALL** in favor \_\_\_ opposed \_\_\_abstain

**3.0 Student Council Report:** None to report

**4.0 Next Board Meeting:** November 14, 2022 @ 6:45 pm

Aurora AGM November 24, 2022 @ 7:00 pm

Policy Committee December 5, 2022 @ 4:00 pm

### 5.0 Guest Report:

**5.1 I.Grey** - Due November 30th and will be available on the website for all the parents to view. It is still in draft form for the Board to sign off. Taking a snapshot of how we can move forward with school strategies and priorities and how we can improve learning for the students.

Look at the results/trends for the following categories:

Student Growth and Achievement

Citizenship

Student Learning Engagement

Teaching and Leading

Learning Supports

Access to support and Services (SLS coordinator)

Governance

General Budget Finances

### 5.2 Mrs. Harman – High School Update:

1. High School Council, thanks to Jacquie Kossick for taking minutes. Aurora Community members can attend as a guest, but cannot vote. Links to the meeting are available on the School Website.

2. Opening still going well - now settled in



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- a. G10 CALM booked UAlberta, NAIT, Grant Mac, and Concordia to come talk to kids about university applications
  - b. Dr. Wozny is connecting our Health and Science Communications students with nursing and medical students who will speak about research practices and careers in medical research
  - c. As School Counsellor, I attended 2 UofA info sessions in October:  
Scholarships and Application process
  - d. Qualified as Level II (highest level) Advanced Placement School can administer AP exams (used for University credits) and SATs as well as offer AP courses. Canada rep met with Mr. Gray and Mrs. Harman to discuss the implementation of AP courses.
    - i. 3 teachers working on AP courses right now: AP Computer Principles and AP Capstone
    - ii. Will be offering AP classes next year to give grade 11 students 2 years to prepare instead of 1 year
  - e. Setting up Options Courses for 2nd semester
    - i. Grade 9's get 4 options instead of 3: adding coding as a new choice for January
    - ii. Grade 10's get 5 options instead of regular 3-4 as other High Schools. Provide prerequisites for taking further options in grade 11.
  - f. G 10 leadership school improvement ideas beginning
    - i. Collecting used books for tiny library for community
    - ii. Clothing drives
    - iii. Tutoring service with money donated to fund school fun activities (\$5 for ½ hr or \$10 for 1 hr)
    - iv. School Canteen supposed to start Monday - will have snacks for kids to purchase
  - g. Extracurricular Sports and clubs started
    - i. Intramural cornhole at lunch (bean bag toss) - thanks to AFS for purchasing cornhole equipment (\$3000)
    - ii. Volleyball club Thurs after school in Elementary School gym (Miss Harman leading)
    - iii. Basketball club Fri after school (Mr. Gray and Mrs. Harman leading)
    - iv. 1st Citadel theatre club play in Dec 8: A Christmas Carol
    - v. Attend Junior High debate tournament and trying to set up debate team: most jr high teams are parent-led; looking at more ideas for clubs being run by parents as seen at other schools
    - vi. Held a Pumpkin painting competition on Oct 31- thanks to Mme Bachand, competed for a large chocolate bar, all participants received a bag of Doritos
  - h. Student Council elections held
    - i. 4 Departments, each with 2 directors (a grade 9 and a grade 10 plus committee members)
    - ii. Currently working on Anti-Bullying day activities
3. Student Learning Supports: SLP, OT, Psychologist
- a. Looking at using high school funds to help with academic supports as well, such as a study-skills session for kids \*and\* parents



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- b. Asking parents what they would like to use as academic supports
- 4. Professional Development
  - a. November: Report Card Planning & Reviewing 1st quarter of year5. Recruitment planning has started for next! Need Elementary and Middle School parent support; looking for recruitment ideas such as brochures, lawn signs, talk to other parents about the school, newspaper ads, online advertising, get the word out about the High School.
- 6. Major Events
  - a. Remembrance Day ceremony was online - went well
  - b. Metis Week Bulletin Board to celebrate Metis Culture in Alberta
  - c. Anti-Bullying week
    - i. School Council is creating a bulletin board called "What Lifts You Up" - each student and teacher in the school is writing on feathers that will be used to create wings. The students can stand in front of it for selfies for Instagram, etc. Each feather is something that people in our lives do that make us feel good about ourselves or our lives (personalised): could be parents, friends, etc.
    - ii. Teachers sharing videos and talking about Bullying in class
    - iii. Virtual Book Fair with focus on anti-bullying books; proceeds to fund classroom libraries
    - iv. Year-round focus
  - d. AGM is next Thursday - will let other principals talk about that
  - e. Honour Roll will be in December
- 7. Please read the newsletter for more updates <https://www.auroraschool.ca/newsletters>

### **6.0 Elementary School Principal Report and Key Events of the Upcoming School Year: Reported By M.Healy:**

- Rough week, dealing with stress and and feeling of loss
- Elementary lost a student - family supported
- Mr. Gray and teachers attended the funeral
- Brought in Marina Cook from Pilgrim Hospice to read to the students and talk about grieving and loss
- Created a box
- Staffing update: Christina Little resigned her EA position in late October, as she got a position closer to home. Position is posted, currently Ashton is supporting students and teachers.
- Soccer Camp in October, kids had a great time, weather cooperated; partnership with the high school to help with children and coach. Really proud of them and they will receive a certificate thanking them for their support.
- Remembrance Day went to a virtual assembly- due to a spike in absences due to illnesses; grade 4 students read the Land Acknowledgements; recited a poem; Kingsway Legion provided poppies and stickers for the students.
- Our attendance is back to normal rate



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- Bullying Awareness Week and Metis Week; teachers have many activities planned for the students to reinforce their commitment to being a welcoming school.
- Food Bank Drive - handed in 1 full box of food; extended till winter break in December
- Healthy Hunger - EDO delivery went very late, and had some disappointed and hungry students, they were given snacks to tie them over; the company has offered to do a complimentary lunch on December 2 for those students that had ordered on Oct 28; Hot lunch will be open for others to order as well.
- Testing online CAT 4 and CAT 5 will be between May 22 - June 2; teachers will be providing more information; children need to be in school to write the test, helps teachers plan, and inform parents of students status and achievement
- Parent teacher conference and book fair was a success
- Mr. Block, School Counsellor set up a table with information, talked to parents, and provided brochures on anxiety and organization.
- December - Kindergarten Information Night, for parents coming into the school; 200-300 parents are invited, but does not guarantee an admission.
- CUB Program enjoyed doing activities, children decorated poppies and posted them around the school, children developing friendships; Mme Marko-Kwasny doing a great job with the students.
- Mr Block has been working very hard supporting teachers and students during the past month.
- Excitement about a research by Andrea Antoniak, she is with the UofA and will be partnering with us to assess test anxiety with students in grades 3-8; consent going out after winter break; hoping for parental consent to get a larger sample for her thesis for her Master in Psychology; she will be sharing the results and develop strategies that will benefit the children.
- PD day works on culture with the teachers; Erin Block brain architecture, trauma and brain development and creates awareness for teachers to help understand what children are dealing with.
- Gentle reminder- for parents to dress children for the weather; be mindful of children waiting at the park after school, be mindful of the weather and the darkness, no supervision provided after school; children can become quite anxious when parents are no on time.
- Mrs. Powell (grad has been on leave since November 7 and will be back on December 12.

### **7.0 Middle School Principal Report and Key Events of the Upcoming School Year:**

**Reported by: P.Dang**

**Past:**

- Remembrance Day went well with a virtual ceremony, Guest speaker was Lt. (Navy) Keith Diakiw, AB native.



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- November PD day spent time discussing research, direction of the school district, and what an Aurora student looks like. All three schools were present in the Learning Commons,

- New Secretary, Amber Roesler. Susan Mallory is on an indefinite medical leave.

- Madame Jacqueline Tomkow is on medical leave until after the holidays. Maxine Horstemieir is covering her classes until then.

Future:

- Bear Den activity this coming Friday, November 18 Anti-Bullying focus this week and Friday activities, kids working to be kind and when to say “no” to bullying.

- Report Cards now moved to Dec 2 instead of Nov 25 as planned.

- Dec 13 awards ceremony, virtual.

- Dec 15 fun day in the afternoon

- Dec 16 PD day

- Jan 9 return to school

- January 9 is the deadline for nominating a great teacher for the Prime Minister’s Teaching Award. Parents or students can nominate a teacher, it is a process however it is an honor.

- Yearbooks will arrive by the holidays

- If you know anyone that would like to help with lunch supervision at the High School please contact Mrs. Harman or Mrs. Bali.

### 8.0 New Business:

#### 8.1 December 15 - Elementary Winter Dance

Gives opportunity for parents and children to interact with each other; there will be a DJ, sponsored by AFS; there will be a concession run by the teachers (water), loonie/toonie; asking parents to preregister, no drop ins; family night, parents will need to stay with their children; hoping to fill the gym with little ones; there is not cost; looking for a good turnout; encourage engagement in our community, 6:00-7:30 (still might change).

#### 8.2 Kindergarten

Waitlist is about 615 kids

Plan is to add 40 more spots for 2023/2024 school year Classroom is ready - old kindergarten classroom, current EA room

Renovations planned to increase hand washing stations ½ day classes are planned as they are more successfully attended Looking at transportation options

**9.0 Announcement:** None

**10.0 Topics tables for next meeting:** None

**11.0 Next meeting:** January 18, 2023 @ 6:00 PM thru Google Meet

**12.0 Meeting Adjourned** 7:34 PM by J. Kossick