

GPMS School Council
Monday, Jan. 17, 2022
6:30pm, Zoom Invite



2021-22 GPMS School Council Executive

Chair: Carrie Boschman

Vice-Chair: Jennifer Gordon

Treasurer: Arlene Anderson (trainee Jen Gordon)

Secretary: Vicki Hazelwood (trainee Jenn Prosser)

DSC Rep: Jamie Walburger, alternate Carrie Boschman

Call to order: 6:33pm

Present: Matt Brunner, Jenn Prosser, Darryl Christiansen, Catherine Thorsen, Mike Nightingale, Arlene Anderson, Annette Stevens, Lara Hall, Carrie Boschman, Allison Purcell, Jen Gordon, Jocelyn Smith, Brie Schindel, Lilli Banks

Approval of agenda: Arlene Anderson, Jen Gordon

Approval of minutes: Jen Gordon, Annette Stevens

1. ADMINISTRATION Reports

Darryl Christiansen (Principal – Grade 8 Administrator)

- a. Thank you, School Council – Staff appreciation lunch - December
Much appreciated by the staff, and a way to bring closure to the week. Thank you.
- b. January staffing information
Learning Commons facilitator on maternity leave, (victoria nestoronia) is in place to support the Learning Commons during this time.
- c. Division and School Protocols update – return to school summary
 - The week prior to students coming back, staff spent time to prepare for possible at-home learning if needed due to high absences or staff absence.
 - Had school-wide masking in place already, extended to the cohort classes as well.
 - Still haven't received at-home testing kits and PPE from the province yet. Expecting them this week and will be sent home with students as soon as they are received.
 - Requesting support from parents to sort the PPE supplies into groups.
Volunteers: Annette, Jocelyn Smith, Allison Purcell
 - Allison Purcell noted that she helped at another school, and they are sent as large bulk packs and then they need to be split into 10 masks per baggie. Noted it is quite a bit of work and requires more than a few hours.
 - Parents are doing well keeping sick kids home from school, and teachers are preparing for activities or support for the students as needed.
 - Lunch time splits and cohort eating are still in place.

- Daily tracking absences and communication with parents to track numbers day to day. Today there were more absences than there were last week.
- Brie: What are the teacher's expectations of children when absent? Darryl: It's very fluid from child to child, and from family to family. Communication from parents with teachers is very key, there isn't one expectation of students and families. It's an ongoing situation and has to be adapted.
- Admin team meeting regularly.

d. Co-curricular and activities update

- First week back, put a pause on some of the activities and clubs as well as activities outside of the school.
- This week will return to games between other schools with no fans, return to after school clubs, changing some club schedules to plan for more space between students and reviewing some of the lunch clubs that have students who meet who are outside the cohort groups.
- Reviewing these plans weekly and adjustments will be changing depending on the impact to GP and in the case of the impact with other schools.

- Q: how did you come to the decision to have after school clubs go ahead, but not lunch clubs.
A: Right now, the lunch clubs that are running in classrooms or smaller rooms, and have an eating component and the after school clubs are smaller groups or in the gym (bigger space) and there isn't an eating component.
Q: For basketball club, are the kids required to mask?
A: They are not required to mask for physical activities.

- Q: For spectators for extra-curricular, when is the decision expected to be made?
A: We'll be meeting again on Thursday and will be talking about that as well. There are multiple factors to ensure safety and comfort for everyone. Top priority is to be able to have students do those extra-curricular activities.
Q: Is that decision based on how other schools are doing regarding COVID outbreaks?
A: Those decisions will be made case by case depending on what is happening here at GP and what is happening at other schools. As long as we can continue to play and it doesn't impact over all operations, the ideal is to continue the opportunities as much as possible. All these factors are being reviewed constantly.
- Absences: spending most of the morning to track absences and reason for absence. So far, GP hasn't been highly impacted by staff absences so far. Any staff absences have been able to be filled.
- Mike Nightingale: District wide, in a non-Covid year 2.8 staff away due to illness. Last year, about 4.8 staff/day away due to illness. Right now, at about 8% away due to illness - characterize as challenging but manageable. Able to fill the majority of staff but having more challenges to fill teaching aids and specialized

teaching absences.

- e. Town Hall invite – Feb. 1 – 6:30-8:30PM – The Town Hall will be a virtual event through the Division Town Hall website and Microsoft Teams. The purpose of the meeting is to seek feedback to assist the Board of Trustees and Division in planning for the future. We are all partners in education who collectively support student learning. The two questions that the Trustees are seeking feedback on are as follows:

Question 1- In what ways have we successfully supported student learning?

Question 2 - Moving forward, what can the school division do to strengthen support of student learning?

- Looking for parents who are interested in being a representative of GP.
Carrie B will be attending. Allison P has another parent who is interested.

Matt Brunner (Vice Principal – Grade 7 Administrator)

- a. Cell phone expectations – Jan 14th
- Cell phones have to stay in student lockers when brought to school. It's a school-wide decision. Not a punitive thing, just wanted to make a change and minimize distractions in classrooms and prioritize learning.
 - Kids can continue to use them at lunch time but need to be kept in lockers throughout the rest of the day.
 - Case by case accommodations for students if there are specific needs for a mobile device.
- b. Parent Teacher Interviews – Jan 27/28
- Portal open to book the parent teacher interviews.
 - Will send another reminder for parents to book times with the teachers.
 - Q: Will marks and comments be up to date before the interviews?
A: All marks are cumulative so there isn't an expectation or requirement to enter grades and comments before the parent-teacher interviews.
- c. Bussing update
- Had an issue with one of the routes before the holidays due to staff shortage. Southland has assured that the routes have been staffed back up, and so far the first week back no delays in the bussing.
 - Allison: Definitely lots of frustrations over the last few months with the S1 bus, but can see a greater improvement with the route and the staffing increase.

Catherine Thorsen (Vice Principal – Grade 6 Administrator)

- a. Assurance Plan Review – Learning Supports
- One of the things is working on understanding self-regulation and trauma informed practice.
 - Integrating lots of wellness points for staff and students.
 - Promoting and discussing: specific groups (demographics) within the school and how students relate. Try different strategies on how to address/support those groups. Doing work with Indigenous leads to increase knowledge building.
 - Participating in outside learning

- Grade 6: understanding and appreciating each other, learning supports through wellness.
 - Grade 7:
- b. Staff Professional Learning – Thinking Classrooms
- Working with Math teachers to engage with the ‘thinking classroom’ and are integrating practises in their classroom. The practise is being reflected by the students - a positive movement and reflection of that work.
- c. Wellness / Pink Shirt Day / Ordinary Heroes program
- Pink Shirt Day is coming up.
 - Continuing with the wellness lunch program.
 - Seeing an increased need for family hampers and access to the ‘loft’ (clothing supports).
- d. French Immersion free tutoring program for students after school. Starting next week and operating Mondays and Tuesdays.
- Q: Is it strictly an arts based tutoring?
- A: We are hoping they can do science and math based tutoring as well.
- Q: Is there opportunities to play games and have french conversation?
- A: right now, not an opportunity to do games. The highest need identified is social students homework support and that is where the focus is.

Administration – Feedback or Questions?

2. District School Council Report – Allison Purcell and Carrie Boschman

- Minutes available here: lethsd.ab.ca/download/378160
- Alberta School Council Assoc. (ASCA) conference on April 22nd and 23rd. AGM offered as a hybrid model. Lethbridge School Board provides one registration and \$250.00 for the conference and the AGM (virtually or in person)
- Parent questions and answers available in the superintendent report in the minutes (lethsd.ab.ca/download/378160)
- COVID update consistent with internal COVID update
- ICE speaker is Scott Armstrong this year. Students in grade 9, 10, 11, and 12 can apply for the ICE scholarships. Information and applications here: <https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/board/canada-150-ice-awards-scholarship-breakfast/scholarship-applications>
- Next parent learning session is on sleep and brain on the first Monday in March.
- School board members will be available in the public/community once per month for casual conversations with school board trustees. Once a month will be hosting “Community Conversations” in spaces outside of schools. Will be varying the times and locations each month. Open to all families/parents to engage. Information on where to find this information will be shared through the school council, the e-newsletter, Lethsd website and social media accounts.

- School calendar for the 2022-2023 school year has been approved.
- Board working on creating a multi-faith calendar to improve communication and supports for students to ensure respect for important holy dates for all.

3. Treasurer Report - Arlene

- \$1174.77 in account
- No upcoming expenses

4. ASCA Workshops / ASCE Grants - Carrie

- ASCA:

- \$500.00 grant available to the school council to host a workshop or several workshops presented to the school council.
- The workshops are to build capacity in our school council and become more educated on how to increase effectiveness, what school councils can do, the relationship between the school council and the trustees.
- Good opportunity to increase capacity as there is turn over next year.

- ASCE:

- ASCE is a school council engagement grant of \$500.00.
- Provides opportunity for parents to become more engaged
- Grant perimeters:
https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/uploads/images/edcfundingmanual20212022page104/1634076490-1280w_edcfundingmanual20212022page104.jpg
- This grant could be a good opportunity to provide french language learning supports for parents.
- Catherine Thorsen: A good opportunity to do in partnership with french organizations in Lethbridge. A previous program with french classes was done with both school boards and moved into the community through the french community centre.
- Could work with Agnes Davidson to combine funding and support families who have students in both schools.
- Would like to revisit this in March.
- The money has been delivered, and it does need to be spent by the end of the year or it has to be paid back.
- This grant is in addition to the ASCA funding. It is from Alberta Education, and not tied to ASCA.
- Darryl will check to see if that money has been added to his/school's budget line to confirm where that money is currently in holding.

5. Other

6. Next meeting dates – February 1 (Division Town Hall), March 21, April 25, May 16

Adjournment: 7:51pm

Tiger Society Meeting – next meeting March 21

- Will review staff ideas for future fundraising / Tiger society involvement