



# MINUTES-COUNCIL

## Foundations for the Future – North Middle School

November 21, 2019 5:30 pm

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### In Attendance

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#### Council

Terri Sartori, Chair  
Andrew Chu, Vice Chair  
Lea Ann Triska, Secretary  
Mei Yoong Cheah (Jennifer), Treasurer  
Shannon Middlemiss, Fundraising Coordinator  
Sarah Stilborn, Communications Coordinator

#### Staff

John Deines, Principal  
Josh Symonds, Associate Principal  
Mrs. McVeigh, Grade 5 Teacher

#### Guests

Jon Stilborn

#### Absent

Shabnam Afzali, Fun Lunch Coordinator  
Sawson Awad, Community Services Coordinator  
Marja Kuncic, Fun Lunch Coordinator  
Jyleen Wong, Parental Partnership Coordinator

Meeting called to order at 5:40 pm.

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## Approval of November Agenda

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### Approval of November agenda as distributed.

- **Motion - Terri Sartori**
- **Second - Lea Ann Triska**
- **Motion carried at 5:41 pm**

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## Approval of October Minutes

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### Approval of October minutes as distributed.

- **Motion - Terri Sartori**
- **Second - Shannon Middlemiss**
- **Motion carried at 5:40 pm**

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## Email Motion

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### Approval to spend \$300 to pay for the anti-bullying presentation on November 28.

#### Amendment to motion: Parents and students from other campuses will be invited subject to administration approval.

- **Motion - Shannon Middlemiss**
- **Amendment to motion – Andrew Chu**
- **Second – Sarah Stilborn (the first email to reply “in favor”)**
- **Motion carried by email on November 2, 2019.**

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## Chair Update

**Terri**

- A bathroom in the school was recently vandalized. The culprits have been identified and the incident has been dealt with.
- Students participating in phys-ed are to leave their uniforms in gym bags on the stage. Each class has a “spotter” to check that clothing isn’t left in the change rooms where it may be interfered with.
- There has been good response to the anti-bullying lecture being hosted at NMS on Thursday, November 28. Anti-bullying advocate, Tad Milmine, will be sharing his story through his Bullying Ends Here presentation.
- Invitations were extended to the other campuses with a warning to elementary school parents indicating that the subject matter isn’t suitable for children younger than grade 6 level.
- Chairs and a microphone will be set up Thursday in the gym after wrestling practice is finished.

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## Teacher Representative Report

**Mrs. McVeigh**

- Me to We Club completed We Are Silent Day. Students who wished to participate took a vow of silence for the day to represent people in the world whose voices aren’t heard.

- Jacket Racket clothing donation drive was well supported.
- Veterans Food Bank drive collected lots of donations.
- Lots of good letters were written by students and delivered to veterans living in a local care facility. The letters were well received.
- Randy Bottle was in to speak with 2 - grade 5 classes. His way of story telling, with the help of virtual reality goggles making books come to life, is very engaging and inspiring and captured the students' attention. He left copies of his books with the school. Hopefully, he is able to return soon to speak with more classes.
- A fire drill was held today and evacuation plans are being practiced.

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### **Fundraising Report**

**Shannon**

- Our Deal Deck campaign is complete, although there remain some small details left to settle upon reconciling the sales and funds collected.
- Having so many payment options (cash/online/school website/Deal Deck platform) complicated the work.
- Approximately \$1253 was earned in profit.
- We must be sensitive to the economic environment when deciding whether or not to run another fundraiser. We must identify a need. There are many options available to us when we are ready to run another campaign.
- We can consider running Fundscrip as an ongoing campaign.

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### **Treasurer's Report**

**Jennifer**

- A small discrepancy has been found with Deal deck. We are still in the process of reconciling sales and funds collected.
- Since Rosso Coffee has not deposited our cheque, the outstanding funds have been turned back to our account as a donation.
- The apple fundraiser is finalized and raised over \$800. This has become a popular fundraiser with other schools and groups.
- The current cash forecast is approximately \$5500. A Hydration station is estimated to cost around \$2500-3000. Other expenses we have historically funded are teacher/bus driver appreciation initiatives and the grade 8 grad photo booth.
- Ms. Charles submitted a request for \$270 to purchase gift card prizes in support of the poster contest she runs during anti-bullying week. A decision on funding will be made by email as Council did not have quorum at this meeting.

- Posters are displayed in the hallways and are voted on by students. Many posters are quite thought provoking and could be shared in the school newsletter or website.
- Ms. Charles may be asked to speak to Council to discuss the program.
- Approximately \$1885 has been raised through fun lunch orders. There was an error made with the pricing on September's menu items, but all is now corrected and we should expect to see payments from Healthy Hunger soon.
- A motion to purchase meals for staff at January learning conferences will be circulated by email.

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### **Fun Lunch Report**

**Shabnam and Marja**

- The upcoming fun lunch provider is Tim Hortons. Unfortunately, the chain recently recalled their chicken soup, thus affecting orders for next week's fun lunch day. Tim Hortons has already contacted all families impacted by this recall, but Council will follow up with families as well and provide instructions on how to amend orders for their children so that no one misses out on lunch that day.

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### **Communications Report**

**Sarah**

- No update.

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### **Community Partnership Report**

**Sawsan**

- No update.

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### **Parental Partnership Report**

**Jyleen**

- No update.

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### **Principal's Report**

**Mr. Deines and Mr. Symonds**

- There was a Board meeting yesterday at which the year's budget was approved. A number of cuts must be made, however, no jobs will be eliminated at this time. Details of the cuts have been shared with staff and will be communicated to parents at a later date. The Board is being very transparent about finances.
- The Remembrance Day ceremony went well.
- Grade 6 vaccinations were completed before break. The library was used as the vaccination clinic. The day ran efficiently thanks in part to the experienced staff from the health unit.

- The bi-annual TAAPCS conference was held in Calgary at the end of October. All FFCA staff attended.
- Grade 5 teachers provided breakfast for the staff on the Oct 28 PD day.
- Staff room upgrades are mostly complete. Now all staff can gather in it at together as a group. This has had a positive effect on staff morale.

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## ASC Meeting Update

Terri

- High School Update
  - Soft copy of the high school information will be sent out. Would like feedback.
  - This year will be combining NMS and SMS for a large part of a day. In the evening there will be an information session for their parents talking about what differentiates the FFCA HS. Beginning in November they will begin offering tours once a month while school is in session. The dates will be on their website and communicated with grade 8 families.
  - They will be focusing in the "FFCA advantage," a distinct programming including character and leadership.
  - Have robust robotics, outdoor education and fine art programs. However, due to academics they may not have the opportunity to take options for all 4 years, particularly if they chose multiple science programs.
  - Suggestion to say that FFCA HS is more of an investment than an advantage. Feel that the word advantage may have been overused lately.
  - Recently have lost fewer students over the summer. Unsure of the reason but may be related to parents getting used to the distance, great provincial test results or use of social media, particularly Instagram.
  - Scholarship program – thank you for the support. Each year they are modifying it based on our feedback. Currently have 17 scholarships:
    - Guidelines will be sent out after this meeting – let them know if there is any feedback and review the criteria for your specific scholarships
    - Proposing 1 more scholarship - dedication
    - From November presentation to February, schools to confirm support with the HS. The HS will then post the criteria on Feb 4.
    - Applications will be available on April 30 and will be due on May 19. The HS will filter out those that don't qualify and will send council the rest by May 24. The HS would like the name of the winner and a presenter.

- Fundraising and planning for 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration
  - Posters for Luau Event to distribute to campuses. January 18 at 6pm. This will also be provided digitally for Edsby.
    - Hula dancers will be at 6:45 (perform and teach)
    - Dinner and band to follow (Poke bowls with choice of meat)
    - Event Brite – tiered pricing so those that purchase first will get a savings.
    - Alcohol will be at cost. Drinks will be \$4 (\$2 is breaking even). Will have Blue Hawaiian and Mai Tai signature drinks.
    - Band will be on from 8:30-11:30.
    - Sales will go live on Tuesday.
    - Check with school for volunteers (set-up, clean-up)
    - Request for prizes for silent auction from the parents (preferably by Christmas if possible). Jamie to look into a letter for those that need it.
  - Suggestion to add another fun lunch with money going to 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Raymond has a contact at Boston Pizza that might be able to help. Boston Pizza also has a program to submit receipts.
  - Proposal (in principle) for a “Fun Day” to celebrate FFCA’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 18, 2022 at Prince’s Island Park or a similar outdoor venue.
  - “The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee” with the following Terms of Reference:
    - *Committee Membership*
      - *Chaired by a member of a ASC to be selected at the January ASC meeting*
      - *7 other voting members, each appointed by each School Council*
      - *A board representative at the board’s choosing (ex-officio, non-voting member)*
      - *An administrative Representative at the Superintendents choosing (ex-officio, non-voting member)*
      - *The president of each student leadership council/students’ union (ex-officio, non-voting member)*
      - *Alumni (ex-officio, non-voting member)*
    - *Mandate*
      - *To report back to ASC by March ASC meeting with the following to be voted upon by ASC:*
        - *Refine details of the attached proposal for a celebration of FFCA’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sunday, September 18, 2022 at Prince’s Island Park, including any date or venue changes or alternatively creating an educational day*
        - *Budget*
        - *Milestone/project plan*
- NWE
  - Fundscrip beginning on Friday

- Just had their casino 2 nights ago. The last couple of times they had last minute cancellations. They have no back-ups. Is it possible to create a list from all campuses to cover the last minute cancellations?
- SWE
  - Family swim at Canyon Meadows. 22 families attended.
  - Online fundraiser was down to \$2,300.
  - Currently doing Rosso fundraiser.
  - Movie night will be Secret Life of Pets 2 on November 29. They are auctioning off select seating.
  - Skating event at the end of January and will be including SEE.
  - Up to 52% parental partnership (2030 hours).
- SEE
  - \$6,725 for in lieu
  - Monster Mash dance raised \$686 for foodbank.
  - WestJet raffle raised \$10,000. One of the council members won the trip.
  - SEE awarded \$5,000 from Staples and purchased laminator and color printer.
- Report from Superintendent
  - Budget – had to submit a budget with nothing from province. They weren't expecting mid-year reductions. The good news is that they went to zero based budget last year and were in a good place. Schools lost 3 grants: class size, classroom improvement, reduction in school fees for parents. 2 out of the 3 were never given to charter schools. The impact worked out to \$1.7 million. There was a one-time 700,000 grant given back. This year need to find \$1 million and next year will need to find an additional \$700,000. The amounts are frozen so will not get anything more in subsequent budgets even though costs increase. Revised budget to be submitted in 2 days. They will be protecting staffing as a priority. Currently 93% of budget is staffing due to the tenure of the teachers.
  - ATA and government looking at binding arbitration regarding 2% rollback. This doesn't directly impact FFCA as not part of ATA but does influence. Decision will be made in January. If an increase is awarded, this may be up to the board to find or a rollback could be legislated.
  - New auditors as bought by US company. FFCA has received budgeting award 11 years in a row.
  - High school update – budget decreased from 1000 students to 650. Currently have 850 students. Submitted request for additional funding and approved up to 1000 again. Decision to ask AB infrastructure to manage the project and at the same time CBE expressed interest to sell the land. So far, they have not submitted this in a written request. Working on MOU to hammer out the details of the project. We just sent out a number of change requests to the MOU. Timelines are getting tight as want to start construction in June.

- Choice in Education Act – unsure of what this legislation will look like. Meeting with TAAPCS and Education Minister later this week. There is an online survey that was sent out.
- Waitlist is being updated to new lottery system. Currently over 15,000 and counting, up from 13,000.
- TAAPCS conference was a great success. Meredith Poole was recognized this year.
- Board elections upcoming. Results will be known by December 11.
- Meeting to look for areas of reduction. Provided shortlist to administration and allowed them some discretion to look for other items that made sense.

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### **New Business**

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- No update.

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### **Review of Goals**

**Andrew**

- Goal One – no update
- Goal Two – no update
- Goal Three – On November 28, NMS is hosting an anti-bullying advocate to speak to families.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Next meeting is January 16, 2020.

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### **Goals (as set at the June 13, 2019 meeting)**

1. Improve communication to parents by using Edsby, the school newsletters, and emails.
2. Increase parental involvement by a specific percentage by the end of the year.
3. Increase community outreach by hosting one event per term.