

**Minutes of Calgary Girls Charter School School Council Meeting held on
Tuesday, June 11th, 2019 at 7:00pm
Lakeview Campus Learning Commons**

Attendees: Elizabeth W., Jennifer M., Shannon N., Zoey G., Lianne K., Amy C., Kristie C., Jon E., Janet W., Alanna N., Tracey M., Laura D., Lori O., Wunmi A.

Call to Order: Elizabeth W. called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

A. Welcome and Introductions

B. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Jenn M. moved the motion to approve the agenda for the June 11, 2019 meeting, seconded by Zoey G.

Motion carried. Agenda approved.

C. Approval of School Council meeting minutes of March 12th, 2019.

Motion: Jenn M. moved the motion to approve the minutes for the School council meeting held on March 12, seconded by Zoey G.

Motion carried. Minutes approved.

D. Student Presentation: Grade 6 Go Girls Mental Health Program

This was an Innovation project funded by the School council.

The project started off with a brainstorming session with students answering the following questions:

- What does big worries look like?
- What do people look like when they are having big worries?
- How can friends help?

During the session, there were discussions around perfectionism, positive mental health, study skills strategies, anxiety, as well as, videos and literature around these subjects to foster learning.

All of these culminated in a Mental Health symposium which held on May 14, 2019. The symposium hosted Mental health specialist, Dr. Allan Donsky, as well as, Art, Music, Nature and Animal therapists. The Therapists shared strategies and there were activities and workshops around exercise, yoga, mindfulness and crafts.

There was a debriefing session at the end, to discuss strategies and their practical applications.

Suggestion:

- Hold a repeat session involving the entire school as all grades will benefit.

- Organize a display table at BBQ event in September with information/resources for parents around helpful strategies/tips for students

In response, Elizabeth W. noted that there were plans to incorporate an online Mental Health resources center on the school's website.

E. Reports

i. Co-Chair –

Elizabeth W. conveyed her gratitude to volunteers for their hard work throughout the year and presented roses. In addition, gifts were presented to the outgoing executives (Amy C. And Lianne K.) for their contributions and support to the Executive team and the School Council in general.

ii. Superintendent – John Picard

John P. commended the school administration for the synergy demonstrated though this was only the first year of their tenure. The sense of trust, cohesion, congeniality always on display was notable and he remarked that this was based on shared values, strong belief in school and competence. His observations were further supported by the feedback from staff following the survey conducted via Survey Monkey, survey also highlighted potential growth areas.

Board Speak out: This Go girls activity was outstanding and look forward to having parents participate at future events. The school also rolled out new logo, name and website to embolden the mission, vision and values of the school.

Courtyard: The intention is for this to be a community space. The Board has been in discussions on the installation of an irrigation system for the courtyard, this is considered critical to sustaining the huge investment in the courtyard. Board is looking to partner with the school council on this.

iii. Principal's Report – Shannon N. (for Oliver F.)

Summary of Field Trips:

- Grade 4's & 5's to Central Memorial High School to watch Dear Edwina dress rehearsal
- Grade 5's were at Camp Horizon
- Grade 7's were at Camp Kindle
- Grade 7 were at Theatre Calgary
- Grade 7 band were at Alberta Band Festival which held at TransAlta Performing Arts Studio
- Grade 7 band and Jazz band performed at the BelAire campus
- Grade 8 & 9 bands were at the Calgary Performing Arts Festival at Mount Royal University
- Jazz Band performed at Central Memorial High School (prior to Dear Edwina)

Summary of Extra Curricular:

- Calgary Youth Science Fair at the Olympic Oval held on April 4th, 5th and 6th
 - 16 students participated submitting a total of 10 projects

- Gold medals were awarded to two (2) grade 6 students for their projects, 'Are Hornworms Social Creatures?' and 'How Vitamin D Affects our Health'
- Silver medals were awarded to two (2) grade 7 students for their projects: H2O Crisis, 'Water Conservation in Arid Climates' and 'Developing Brains and First Impressions'
- Speech Club attended the Law Day at the Calgary Courts which held on April 13th, six (6) students entered the debate competition and one of them placed 2nd in the Junior division
- Final Badminton tournament at the Sunridge Badminton Centre on April 29th, two (2) Grade 9 students were awarded bronze medals in the senior doubles division
- Dear Edwina production held on April 24th, 25th and 26th at Central Memorial High School, there were about 70 students participating in numerous roles
- Spring Band concert held at the Rosza Theatre of the U of C on May 15th
- Spring Choral Concert held at St. Stephen's Anglican on May 30th
- Track & Field meet held at Foothills Athletic Park on May 29th: Team of 47 students from CGCS in attendance
- Soccer tournament at Ecole Francophone D'Airdre (rescheduled for June 12th)

Summary of Guests to the school:

- Grade 6 – Discover Detection workshop (Evidence & Investigation)
- Grade 6 – Calgary Police Services (Evidence & Investigation)
- Grade 7 – Tanya Michailuck (senior environmental engineer)
- Grade 7 – Christa Cormack (structural engineer / SAIT instructor)
- Grade 7 – Cathy Poelzer (nurse)
- Grade 7 – Keri Metzler (real world math)
- Grade 8 - Natalie Alexandre (Go Girls – eating disorders)
- Grade 8 – Angela Dale (tech fashion & costume design)
- Grade 9 - Shaylene Scarlett-White Eagle (Reconciliation Workshop)
- Grade 9 – Thomas Mo (Fashion Revolution)
- Sessional musicians for band students
- Grade 6, 7 and band – Foothills Brass Quintet performance
- Grade 6 and 7 – Kyrsten Blair (dance & choreography) for PE
- Grade 8 and 9 – Muay Thai instructor for PE

School Events:

- Grade 6 & 9 students participated in the Student Vote. This coincided with the provincial government elections, students learned about the government, the electoral process, researched the parties and platforms, discussed relevant issues and cast ballots for the official election candidates. Results were shared with the media for broadcast and publication following the closing of the polls.
- Grade 9 Inquiring Minds program to reduce stigma and increase awareness around mental wellness
- A grade 7 student facilitated the collection of 884 books donated to the Alberta Children's Hospital on behalf of CGCS (her goal was 500)
- Open House held on May 2nd
- Board Speak Out held on May 7th with discussions on the new CGCS Vision, Mission and Values
- School Dance held on May 9th

- Grade 6 Mental Wellness Day held on May 14th
- New Family Orientation held on May 15th
- Lakeview Variety Show held on June 3rd

Grade 9 Graduation Ceremony:

- Preparation has been ongoing:
 - Confidence poses complete
 - Legacy gift (clay tile work) complete; in process of being mounted
 - Legacy speeches complete (all students wrote reflective pieces on their time at the school; those interested in speaking stepped forward and 4 were chosen by peers and leadership team)
 - Teacher's graduation dedications are complete
 - Graduation photos have been taken
 - Arrangements for Graduation lunch on June 26th prior to the ceremony
 - Dress rehearsal for ceremony to take place on June 24th

Professional Development (Staff):

- Connecting Women's Studies with our work at the school (3rd session) by Joe Kadi, U of C, Gender Studies
- Teaching Mathematics by Olive Chapman, U of C, Mathematics
 - Staff meetings and individual/group work with teachers
 - Supporting teachers in conceptual understanding of mathematics as a discipline
 - Supporting teachers in planning for task design and assessment
- Indigenous Education by Shannon Loutitt, ATA (Working Together Program Consultant)

School Council:

- Courtyard Project
 - Concrete pathway has been poured
 - Plumbing for irrigation component of project is up next
 - Preparing for the landscaping (grade 9 students will be involved)
- Ongoing: scholastic, lunch programs, fresh fruit program

Registration

- Re-registration for returning students basically complete
- Registration for new students is ongoing with tours for prospective families almost daily

Report Cards:

- Teachers in process of gathering final assessment data
- Report cards to go home on June 26th

PAT's:

- Grade 6's begin end of this week, to be completed early next week • Grade 9's begin next week and end the following week
- Schedule:

- Grade 6 – ELA Part B on June 13th
 - Grade 6 – Science on June 14th
 - Grade 6 – Social Studies on June 17th
 - Grade 6 – Math on June 18th
 - Grade 9 – ELA Part B on June 17th
 - Grade 9 – Science on June 18th
 - Grade 9 – Social Studies on June 20th
 - Grade 9 – Math on June 24th
- *Grade 6 & 9 ELA Part A completed in May

End of Term Activities:

- June 25th: School Community Run and Rhythmic Wishes
- June 26th:
 - Noon hour dismissal (for grades 4-8)
 - Graduation ceremony to hold at First Assembly starting at 1:30pm

iv. Teacher Liaison Report – Zoey G.

Summary of Innovation projects funded by School Council

Grade 4s (Classroom Libraries): Students are working to research, analyze, purchase and use classroom libraries to build literacy. This library will continue to inspire grade 4s in the future.

Grade 5s (Indigenous Education): Students visited Weaselhead and spent time engaging with the land and building community.

Grade 6s (Go Girls Mental Health Program): Shared their wonderful work earlier this evening

Grade 7s (Sharing Indigenous Culture): Pursued creative ideas to share Indigenous culture with hoop dancing and drumming as the current focus

Grade 8s (Art Pieces): Sculpting, firing, painting, warping, weaving clay looms. Innovation funds helped to provide all the materials needed for these incredible projects. Girls are incredibly proud of their work. Girls designed with concepts from across the curriculum and from the entire year

Grade 9s (River Watch field study): Students went on a rafting trip for this field study where they learned about water quality and made connections to environmental chemistry and social studies.

Dear Edwina: recorded the largest turnout ever, the most number of kids ever to audition and the largest cast ever.

Fine Art: a video of the girls during Bruce Horak’s performance of, ‘Assassinating Thomson’ was played, his artwork which was painted in the course of the performance was also on display at the meeting.

The school community is excited to have Foothills Brass join us for a performance tomorrow, Wednesday, June 12. Grade 8s and 9s that play brass instruments will also be performing alongside the group.

PE: Instructors and students appreciate the jerseys. Athletes looked great and were so excited to have team wear. The soccer tournament is tomorrow, Wednesday, June 12 and it's been a great addition to the sport opportunities for students.

v. Financial Report – Lianne K.

Lianne K. gave a summary of the funds raised for the current school year as well as the total expenditure resulting in a positive balance on the account.

The school administration submitted a wish list which included some of the items below, in addition, the Board was looking to collaborate with the School Council on the irrigation system for the courtyard:

- Courtyard Irrigation system
- Dishwasher
- Art supplies
- Table & Six (6) chairs for learning commons
- Three (3) replacement couches for hallways
- Library resources
- Online Encyclopedia subscription
- IXL subscription
- Robotics materials
- Art room equipment

Motion: Lianne K. moved the motion to spend the remaining balance on the account (after deduction of the customary balance b/f in to the next school year to fund initial expenses, prior to receipt of incoming fundraising funds). Monies to be allocated by administration as desired following deduction of the funds for the irrigation system.

All in favour. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm

Date of next School Council Meeting - Tuesday September 17th, 2019.