

MEETING MINUTES

SKTA PARENT COUNCIL

Date: October 12, 2023

Call To Order: 6:36 PM

Meeting called to order by: Chair – Chris Postill

IN ATTENDANCE

Ryan O’Gorman

Sherry Gagne

Lauren Brenneis

Jillian Pitman

Jenell Desrosier

Jackie Mackey

Shanalee Brenneis

Chris Postill

Stacey Knievel

Glenda Smith

Megan Dettling

Dalainya Bruinsma

Jamie Hayward

Karra Krywko

Jane Brodeur

Noreen Radford (Trustee)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the September meeting were approved by Stacy and seconded by Jillian

REPORTS

Teacher Report: Jane Brodeur (Kindergarten)

- Children spend most of their time in the classroom
- Jane shared photos of the students in their various activities
- Their day follows a schedule, with items moving visually on a magnetic board from green to red
 - Play with table tubs, which contain games and toys for teaching specific concepts
 - This gives some opportunity for one-on-one time between Jane and students
 - Prayer and song – includes actions that children love
 - Share and care time
 - Movement – typically freeze dance or Simon Says
 - Literacy work as a whole group
 - Jane follows UFLI for letter sounds and names
 - Children use sky writing as well as printing exercises
 - Parents will notice improvement through the year

- Free center play and snack
 - Sometimes this is their Gym or Library time
 - Some students will bring table tubs out again
 - This continues to be intentional activities focusing on gross motor skills and finger strength
- Clean-up
- Story and read-aloud
 - This time gives students a time to practice rhyming and phonetic sounds (using the Heggerty system)
- Pack up and outdoor play
- Jane has found that the students have responded very well to the linear calendar, and love to view upcoming events and count off days until certain events.
- Questions:
 - Will Kindergarten use the outdoor classroom?
 - Not likely; the use of visual boundaries are important, and these are not as obvious at the outdoor classroom. Jane uses zones with students while outdoors like the playground and the sidewalk around the grassy area by the Kinder door.
 - How will the transition to Progressive be for the students? Will it be straight, one day to the next, or will it be gradual?
 - It will be straight, the day after spring break
 - Will there be SLP with the Progressive class
 - Yes
 - Other notes on Progressive:
 - There will be a different teacher, since Jane will continue with the half-day students
 - The exact details of which classroom will be used, and how often the two classes will interact, are still unknown.
 - Do other schools run Progressive Kindergarten?
 - Not that they (Ryan or Sherri) know. Notre Dame has the Nature Kindergarten.
 - Could we have the Nature Kindergarten at SKTA?
 - Not at this time, but if interest is high there can be a conversation
 - The program has minimum enrollment requirement, so the school can only offer it if there is enough interest.

Trustee Report: Noreen Redford

- Notes from Noreen to come
- Trustees are an advocate for the schools in the Ward, and assist in getting grants and funding
- Noreen is looking for her replacement. Spread the word
- New Chair and Vice Chair were elected
- Focus is currently on Legal since Jr. High has low enrollment

Admin Report: Sherri Gagne and Ryan O'Gorman

- Handout provided with the agenda for those in attendance
 - Look for further details in the weekly Bison Bugle
- Father Trini has laryngitis, so the Living Rosary event for students has been postponed
- Parents should expect grades updated and posted to PowerSchool Parent Portal approximately every two weeks
 - Contact the School office if Parents are having issues with logging in
- Reading Groups were discussed
 - Assessments were made throughout September
 - Based on results, students were broken into 8 groups of 8 or 9 students
 - All students in the school are included
 - There are groups for all reading levels
 - Groups focus on phonetic reading exercises
 - There is an independent reading group of students at or above their grade reading level

- Three assessments will be made throughout the year
- Students will move through groups as needed
- Fundraising Wishlist from Staff was presented
 - This was discussed in detail with the Friends of SKTA fundraising council, and will be included in their report
 - #1 on the list is a sunshade or cover for the outdoor classroom
 - This space is used a lot and a cover would help extend the times it can be used
 - This space seems to help students remain engaged
 - However, it can be hard to see papers with the harsh sun or reflection from the snow
 - Could the school or Friends look at sponsorship or donations?

NEW BUSINESS

- What are some things that a council can do?
 - \$500 grant can be used for
 - Parent engagement
 - Speakers
 - Courses
 - Alberta School Council Association conference
 - Pair with Primeau or Notre Dame?
- Can we have a liaison to attend other school's council meetings
 - Chair Chris Postill will often be attending these meetings
 - Can other parents also attend?
 - Quarterly sit in?
 - This will spread information on what other councils are doing and allow us to share what we are doing
 - Possible share events with the greater community
- Should we find a Nutritionist to come in and provide a presentation for parents?
- Would there be interest in a Parent presented Career day?
 - Ryan stated this would be teacher specific if they would want some parents in to present to the students
 - A school-wide presentation may have some interest, possibly at Monday Assembly

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is on November 16th, 6:30 PM

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM