



Gateway Drive School Council
Meeting Minutes
September 20th, 2023 6:30pm

Attendance

Sheena Grinwis	Jen Thomas	Tasha Trebell
Natalie Leeming	Janna Roberts	Natalie Schlee
Lisa Petryschuk	Catherine Thurston	Shannon Hause
Michelle	Nadine Sims	Jane
Ashley Schadenberg	Dinara Banev	Meghan Lewis
Nicole Carnegie	Natasha LeBlanc	Marc Esposito
Jillian Dempsey	Shannon	Imesia Ewan

Meeting began with introductions around the room, as we have quite a few new members. Welcome everyone! We are excited for another great school year.

Chair Update

- Natalie has sent out an email to council members with School Council Bylaws for members to review and familiarize themselves with. Please submit any questions regarding bylaws to the school council email by our next meeting in October.
- Council will document financial and other decisions agreed upon at meetings
- Proposed an election to confirm roles within council and briefly discussed the duties involved in each role. Unanimous decision that roles will all stay the same.
Council Chair - Natalie Leeming
Treasurer - Janna Roberts
Secretary - Tasha Trebell

Principal Update

- Teachers participated in a Literacy workshop for the first PA Day of the school year (plans for PA Days throughout the school year must be shared)
- No reorganizing of classrooms was necessary this year
- We are flying the Survivors flag for the rest of the month of September. We will be recognizing the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Sept. 30th) on Friday, the 29th by encouraging students and staff to wear orange shirts.
- The Terry Fox walk will be held on the 22nd this year. JK/SK students will remain on site, and grades 1-8 with signed off site permission forms will walk around the block. Donations can be made via the link sent by email to families, or Linda will also accept Toonies for Terry.
- Our school has been assigned an Early Reading Teacher for grade 1 and 2 students, to provide additional reading supports where needed.
- Our Open House will be on the 28th from 5:30 to 7:00pm. The Scholastic book fair will be set up in the library for the entire week of the 25th, and open to families the night of the open house.
- Picture Day is scheduled for October 2nd with Edge Imaging.

- Pizza and milk orders are open on School Cash Online for the term of October 13th to February 9th. If anyone has concerns about paying in a lump sum, please contact Linda to work out staggered payments.
- Mr. Mather will be starting up our music program for intermediate students. Proposed using some of The Learning Foundation funds to cover the cost of tuning up the instruments. Currently waiting on a quote.
- Discussed what The Learning Foundation is for parents who were unfamiliar with it. Also discussed how to advertise for fundraising efforts in the future so people are aware how funds will be allocated (Greening, other school initiatives, etc.)
- Thank you to Meghan, Nicole, Tasha and Sara for cleaning up and doing some planting in Mackenzie's Classroom at the front entrance to the school.
- Tasha will continue to change the messages on the sign at the front of the school.

Treasurer Update

- We have 3 separate accounts
 1. School Generated account
 2. The Learning Foundation (offers tax receipts for donations)
 3. Board budget account (can cover extra expenses for school operations)
- Account Balance is \$12,760, most of which is earmarked for the next phase of the greening/playground project
- We can apply for a \$5000 grant if the project will be completed within the school year
- Question came up wondering if we have an updated quote for phase 2 (Sheena to look into)
- For discussion at a later date, it was suggested that we set some fundraising and budgeting goals for the year.
- Reminder that we must always have some cash in our account to cover incidentals and any other expenses that may arise.

Discussion Items

- Looking into replacing the school's hockey helmets for future events, as the ones we have are all expired. Possibly look into donations (Play it Again sports?). We could also maybe ask the board if it is possible to borrow helmets for any events that require them.
- Natalie and Sheena are planning to meet two weeks prior to each School Council meeting to ensure cohesiveness and open communication throughout the school community
- Inquiry about lead flushing, and when the Board will have testing results updated on the UGDSB website (Sheena to inquire).
- Concern about a shelter possibly being occupied within the forested area at the park which is used often by the school. Natalie instructed anyone who is concerned to call Bylaw and not approach the area.

Events & Fundraising

- Last year we formed sub committees for some of our events as a way to hold people accountable for tasks involved in events. Natalie will send out an email if anyone is interested in joining a committee
 1. Fundraising Committee
 2. Communications Committee
 3. Greening/Community Garden Committee

- Mosborough Market will be donating pumpkins once again this year for our pumpkin sale at the Open House. We will be selling the pumpkins for a suggested donation of between \$2 to \$5 based on sizing. Pumpkins will be set up near the Community Garden so we will be able to promote the Gardening Committee.
- We will have a School Council table set up at the Open House to advertise our initiatives this year.
- Signage at Gateway

-Natalie put forth motion to access funds from the Parent Involvement Committee to use for a Gateway Gator banner/back drop that can be used during events, to build school spirit, etc. Ashley seconded, and there were no issues or concerns raised from anyone else in the room, everyone was in favour.

- We will be drafting a letter to inform parents about the Upper Grand Learning Foundation, and inform families that it is an ongoing fundraising initiative which can be accessed at any time should someone wish to make a donation.
- The Halloween Dance-a-thon is coming up soon (date TBD)
- Spiritwear fundraiser will be happening this fall as well (date and company to be used TBD)
- Our Krispy Kreme fundraiser is upcoming, with Nicole picking up the donuts on November 29th (start date TBD). We have purchased them for \$7 a dozen, to be sold for \$15 a dozen, and a projected profit of \$4000.
- We have made the decision to not move forward with the Fresh From the Farm fundraiser
- Another upcoming event will be the Holiday Market, which will be discussed in more detail once a Fundraising sub committee meeting is scheduled
- More discussions to be held in upcoming meetings about events we can hold in the future that focus more on community building as opposed to fundraising initiatives.

Garden Update

- We are looking for more volunteers for the Gardening Committee
- Sheena and Natalie will send out information about the committee to draw interest among the school community

**Our next meeting will be Wednesday October 18th, 2023.
New members are always welcome!**