

# MINUTES

## Your School Council minutes

---

Nov 23rd, 2023/6:00 pm | *Meeting called to order by* Shelby Smigelski

---

### In Attendance

---

Aileen Wagner – School Trustee, Ward One

Cherie Lovsund – Principal

Sharon Shave - Secretary

Shelby Smigelski - President

Andrea Barkhouse – Vice President

Colleen Hardy

Lynn How

---

### Welcome & Introductions

---

Shelby called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

---

### Review of Agenda and Approval of Minutes

---

Shelby Smigelski asked for approval from the October minutes and approval of the November agenda. Andrea Barkhouse approved and Lynn How seconded. It was mentioned by Colleen Hardy that we did not have a quorum so we were unable to vote on anything this meeting.

The meeting was then turned over to Aileen Wagner for a board update. Please click [here](#) for Aileen's report.

---

### Principal's Report

---

Mrs. Lovsund shared an update with regard to what is happening at Duffield School

- **Stakeholder Engagement Evening – November 22 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm – Follow Up**
  - Cherie expressed her gratitude for Shelby Smigelski attending and being a representative of the west end. Some of the discussion was around the sense of community when being in a smaller setting vs the bigger schools and the advantages of being in a smaller setting.

- **Classroom Learning - Assessments**

- We have made it through assessments and the teachers are now looking at what are next steps to meet the needs of our students. So much great work happens as Cherie walks through the hallways and is pleased with the progress the staff is making with the students.

- **Student Leadership – Their Voice**

- We are happy that student participation has taken off in a big way. In the past we have only had 5-6 kids sign up. This time we had around 24 kids and they had lots of ideas, i.e.: art club for grades 3-5 & 6-9, games all through the bus transfer i.e. hopscotch. They all came up with good ideas. It is powerful to have their voice to speak for the students. As a side note to this, we have had some conflict on the playground so this is a good way on how we can do things differently and engage the kids in some different noon hour activities. We need more things for kids to do so the student leadership is taking this on. We are doing board games at lunch time, we have a club for Dungeons and Dragons, Mr. Mac is doing a rock band club with some very cool music like drumming and electric guitars. Ms. Nesbitt is doing a jazz band. A lot of new and exciting things are happening!

We gave out our 1st award for most points for our color teams. They were treated to sundaes. The Leadership group took the lead on this and they mentioned to Mrs. Lovsund that everyone worked really hard so the rest of the teams were treated to freezes.

- **Attendance**

- We have been having a lot of conversations about attendance. There are a lot of kids that are not attending on a regular basis. This isn't just a Duffield issue but School Division wide, and even throughout Canada. We are looking at different ways to improve attendance. Our breakfast café program is helping, we are trying to mimic Starbucks! Every Monday morning Ms. Lovsund reviews the attendance report and looks at who has been away more than 20%. We will be looking at those kids individually and see how we can help to improve their attendance.

- **Mental Health Wellness**

- We have a lot of students with a lot of needs. This has become much more admin time spent in a mini counseling role, kids with a lot of what they need to get off their chest a place that they can feel safe.

- **Duffield Alberta Education Assurance Measurement Report**

- Mrs. Lovsund shared the results of the report with the PAC. The report talks about Duffield specifically, such things as student growth and achievement, PAT results and how engaged are our students. These results are collected from the Gr 4 & Gr 7 students, parents and our staff as well. We were able to collect some good data which Mrs. Lovsund will add into her results report and she will share those combined results. Unfortunately, because we did not have a response of 7 or more from the parents, that information has been suppressed. We have data from the student and staff but we may need to look at how we can engage our parents' feedback in a different way. Citizenship is an area where we are lower than we should be. Some kids are feeling that there is some unkindness. How can we approach this? How can we help kids to build resilience? We have a big focus on this. We have seen growth in Academics so that's something we will continue and are very proud of.

- **Elder in-Residence Program**

- Elder Violet wasn't available in September so we had Elder Phillip visit with us. He is great with the kids wanting to get outdoors, learning about trees, nature, that connection to Mother Earth. Elder Violet was with us in November and she had mentioned that all she has ever wanted was documentation of her life. So, we started this last year and are documenting her visits/stories.

Cherie then opened it up to questions, Shelby asked if they could discuss strategies on how we can engage the community more and get more people into the building. Such suggestions were made about possibly putting on a potluck, spring concert or even an art/talent show.

---

- **New Business**

---

- **No New Business**

---

### Adjournment & Next Meeting Date

---

Shelby Smigelski adjourned the meeting @ 6:34 pm

Next Meeting: January 23, 2024