

**Mountain Park School Council Meeting**  
**Monday, February 10, 2025**  
**Teams Meeting Minutes (Virtual)**

**In attendance:** L. Taylor, A. Takla, S. Lyons, John B., Belinda M., Alnisha M, Andrea S., Janell H., Ian W., Caroline D., Angela D.

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm.

**Land Acknowledgment – Angela Takla**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

**2. Motion put forward by Belinda to approve the meeting agenda that had been distributed, seconded by John, motion approved**

**3. Motion put forward by John to approve the minutes of the Dec. 16 meeting seconded by Belinda; motion approved**

**4. Literacy Spotlight – Scott Lyons**

As the School Development Plan contains an emphasis on Literacy, the Literacy Learning Leader Scott Lyons joined the meeting to share an overview.

- Example approaches to improve literacy include starting classes with a brief ‘Activator’ exercise
  - These exercises are set up to ensure students of all ability levels can participate
  - Activator Exercises have been effective to get the classes settled and focused for learning
- Including Literacy in the School Development plan has been beneficial and has brought clarity and focus. All school disciplines are engaged in supporting literacy at suitable opportunities.
- To measure progress, data is collected at different times over the school year including “Words Their Way Decoding” 3x/yr, MAZE Reading comprehension and fluency for silent reading, and a CORE vocabulary screening 2x/yr. Assessments have an additional benefit of helping the students to see their own progress over time which serves as a motivator.
- A key strategy is “Collective Teacher Efficacy” which ensures that literacy concepts are reinforced at suitable opportunities in all classes (not just in English Language Arts), for example reading a passage regarding a math concept can cover both the core mathematical topic but also provide literacy practice
- An additional approach that has been effective is “Differentiated Task Design” which builds engagement with students as it provides a variety of means to demonstrate their knowledge

**5. School Update – A. Takla**

- A “SWAT Team” from the school attended a symposium at Mount Royal University on Jan. 28th including all middle schools in CBE. Participants were selected from Gr. 8 and 9, which enables some continuity from year to year as Gr. 8’s can return while in Gr. 9.

- Semester 2 started Jan. 28th following report card issuance.
- Extra-curricular events continue
  - Volleyball season has begun including the school hosting a volleyball tournament for 12 different school teams from across CBE. Many thanks to all the volunteer organizers from the staff who made this event a success!
  - “Annie” rehearsals continue ahead of the spring performances
  - Youth-Link occurs the 1st week of March
- Key upcoming dates include:
  - Parent-teacher interviews in March. Calgary Hitmen “Be Brave” game, in connection with Pink Shirt Day to focus on Anti-Bullying / Healthy Relationships
  - Outdoor School with Camp Kiwanis in April (parent info meeting Feb. 27)
- Planning for next year is already underway with the school staff, the outlook is for approx. 560 students at the school next year. There will be a New Student Open House on April 10 for incoming Grade 6’s and other students who will be new to the school

#### **6. Vice-Chair’s Report – Belinda**

Funding is available for this year via a grant from the Alberta School Council Engagement program. Several potential options have been identified. It could be possible to engage with one external presenter across multiple sessions, or have several different presenters.

#### **7. Treasurer’s Report – John**

John shared an update on the current account balances. All funds that have been approved have been allocated and cheques issued. Healthy Hunger cheques have been deposited and in future will be handled via electronic deposit. Funding has been released for the contribution to the band / event banner.

Motion put forward by Belinda to conclude the meeting at 7:29pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Angela; motion approved