

**Minutes of Calgary Girls Charter School Council Meeting held on Tuesday,  
November 26th, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.  
Lakeview Campus Learning Commons**

**Attendees:** Nicola R., Stacey M., Mary-Beth W., Christine J., Kristie C., Dani S., Pam D., Raina W., Jennifer M., Elizabeth W., Jon E., Wunmi A.

**Call to Order:** Elizabeth W. called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

**A. Welcome and Introductions**

**B. Approval of Agenda**

Motion: Jennifer M. moved the motion to approve the agenda for the meeting, seconded by Christine J.

Motion carried. Agenda approved.

**C. Approval of School Council meeting minutes of September 17, 2019.**

Motion: Jennifer M. moved the motion to approve the minutes of the School council meeting held on September 17, 2019, seconded by Nicola R.

Motion carried. Minutes approved.

**D. Reports:**

• **Co-Chair Report – Elizabeth W.**

Elizabeth W. gave a brief on the panelists at tomorrow's Technology panel engagement. Parents were encouraged to attend the event which starts at 7:00pm

• **Teacher Liaison Report – Dani S. (on behalf of Zoey G.)**

There has been increased intentionality to incorporate the Go-girls curriculum into the educational curriculum, report is focused on these aspects:

**Bel Aire Residency with Chantal Chagnon:** The Residency program will focus on the Indigenous community and the students are fortunate to have Chantal who is a well-respected member of the Indigenous community and a strong female activist working with them.

On Friday, the students were involved with experiential learning around the medicine wheel, the role of plants in healing and the importance of connecting with the land.

The School admin is hopeful that the grant application submitted for the program will be successful so this opportunity can be extended to both campuses on a long-term basis.

**Grade 5:** Focus the past week has been on mindfulness and self-regulation. Students have been learning about the key players in the brain that controls perception of

environmental stimuli and response to the environment. As students begin exploring friendships and other important relationships, the intention is to draw on this knowledge to better understand the reasons behind reactions and how to change those reactions to be more mindful of personal needs as well as the feelings of others.

**Grade 6:** The students worked on a unit regarding Women's suffrage, discussions were held on changes to government, the role of women in these changes, when women got the right to vote in nations across the world and other restrictions women face worldwide. Each student was tasked with interviewing an elderly woman from their family or community to explore opinions on women's rights and work was presented to the class. The amazing presentations were diverse, exploring places such as Iraq, Pakistan, Nairobi as well as past and present perspectives.

**Grade 7:** Focus has been on developing an understanding of self and an appreciation of how identity relies on and complements the community.

**Grade 9:** Students just rounded up an amazing series of workshops with Inquiring Minds, a program created by the University of Calgary to help young people destigmatize and talk about mental health. Current discussions are focused on exploring important terms in the Go-girls curriculum like, privilege, power hierarchies, social currency, divide and conquer. Students have created visual representations of these terms and are completing tasks to better reflect on and apply these terms to real-life situations.

- **Superintendent's Report – Pam D.**

There was a brief review of the Annual Education Results Report (AERR) draft which also incorporates statistics on the PAT results. Report will be made public before January 6<sup>th</sup>. There was also a presentation to highlight activities engaged in since taking up position in August 2019:

- Increasing Learning: becoming knowledgeable in as many areas as possible
- Relationship building: understanding the unique dynamics of the different stakeholders, internal and external to the school community
- Capacity Building including providing information/advice as appropriate to Board, Staff, Admin and School council (parents presentations, ASCA resources)
- Board work
- Governance
  - o Following up on the matters that the board needs to do be compliant with as it relates to the Education Act and upcoming legislation
  - o Ensuring Teacher, Leadership and Superintendent quality standards
- Ensuring alignment of Legislation, Charter Regulation, Charter, Policy and administrative procedures
- Working on the Annual Education Results Report (AERR) & 3-Year Education plan, (meeting with Alberta Education Field Manager to discuss this)
- Budget

- **Principal's Report – Dani Sever**

The Administrative team has been working with staff and students to set the direction for learning, reviewing the results from the PATs and crafting strategies for the Educational plan for the next 3 years, 2019-2022. There are plans to set up a leadership team which will comprise of staff and students across the grades to review and build a comprehensive strategy for more robust Student support services, professional learning related to curriculum, social & emotional learning and student intake/registration.

**Staff Development:** Staff have identified a few focus areas for Professional learning. Capacity building has already started with participation in several professional learning opportunities over the last two (2) months.

A Staff professional learning advisory committee has been set up to plan direction for staff learning throughout the year and staff needs on a go forward basis.

Staff have also finished their individual professional growth plans for the year with meetings held with each staff member, this will continue throughout the year.

The Staff book club has begun, meetings hold monthly to explore topics related to gender and girls' education. So far, the club has discussed Lean in by Sheryl Sandberg and Chapter 15 (Raising Strong Empowered Girls) of Middle School Matters by Phylliss L. Fagell. The book recommendation for January is, Unentangled: Guiding Teenage Girls through Seven Transitions to Adulthood.

The Grade 8 & 9 team will be getting math support throughout the year, the team is currently working with Dean Kokanos, a High school math learning leader from Lester B. Pearson (CBE) in this regard, support will also involve exploring topics related to math education in girls.

**Artist in Residence opportunity at the Bel Air Campus:** addressed in the Teacher's report.

**Student Leadership:** The Administrative team will also be focused on leadership and team building. The process will involve drawing up a vision to address how leadership will look like for each grade level and for the entire school community.

Reviewed with the Grade 9 leadership class, project ideas developed for community engagement and improvement. Some of the plans include, reviving the legacy garden, coordinating a literacy week to encourage encouragement in reading and writing, a Stem week. The students will be involved in planning out the details for the execution of selected idea(s). The intention is also to provide similar opportunities for other students across the grade levels.

**Student Intake and Registration for 2020/21:** The School admin along with the Superintendent have also been reviewing the intake plan over the last month, the application form and intake process has been revamped, resources have been identified

that will showcase the programming at the school. The strategy will also involve more teachers, students and parents' participation and engagement with prospective families.

There was a question on the possibility of expanding beyond Grades 4-9, as prospective students may not be keen on leaving their current schools. Response was that, when Charter was written, the focus was on the most challenging time for girls, which was identified as Grades 6-9.

**School council support:** School council was applauded for their contributions to the following:

- Grant application support for Artist in Residence
- Providing funding for resources to enhance student programming
- Furniture for the Learning commons
- Maker space tools and resources
- Living wall project

Some highlights of the PAT results were discussed including the high participation rates relative to the Province. School admin team has been studying trends and have arrived on areas of focus going forward.

**Suggestion:**

Consider incorporating statistics in Marketing and Intake process

- **Financial Report – Jon E**

Statement of financial activities till date under Appendix A.

**Highlights:**

- School BBQ event came under budget
- Apple fundraising raised \$2,009.40 which will fund the Fresh fruit program at both campuses
- **Committee Report – Jennifer M./ Elizabeth W.**
- **Fun Lunch/Healthy Hunger:** lunches are all booked till the end of the year. Providers include Subway, Edo, Mucho Burrito, Little Caesar's and McDonalds on select days. Feedback is required on the offerings and what students would like to see included. Major challenge is finding volunteers to keep program running.

**Suggestions:**

- Consider running the program once a monthly rather than on a weekly basis.
- Consider Fun snack option, may be a better fundraising opportunity, while putting in perspective plastic packaging which may constitute increased waste
- McDonald's as an option, may not be a healthy one
- **Feed the Teacher:** Teachers are very appreciative of this gesture. Next event holds on December 12<sup>th</sup> and volunteers can now sign up

- **Used Uniform sales:** The first sale for the school year held on November 14<sup>th</sup>. There was a good turnout. The expenses for washing the uniforms was \$164 with a profit of \$3,158.16. There is still a good stock of uniforms which will be put up for sale during the Spring event
- **Fundraising (Apples):** This was successful, 221 cases of apples were purchased, which provided about \$2,000 to help fund the Fresh fruit program at both campuses for the school year
- **Direct donation campaign:** Campaign is still ongoing but will end on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Donations till date is \$3,220, goal is \$12,000
- **Dance:** Fall dance held on October 10<sup>th</sup>
- **Back to School BBQ:** About 500 people attended, council planned for 700. New offerings this year included, Halal meat, free range meat, vegan options, garnishing. Elizabeth W. is putting together a binder that will incorporate all the details for future planning. Leftover food was donated to a charity organization. Main complaint was that some of the burgers were cold
  - **Suggestion:**
    - Consider renting chaffing dishes next year to keep food warm
- **Skate Party:** This is a family event and its scheduled to hold on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Oranges, hot chocolate and candy canes will be available as refreshment.

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm**

Next School Council Meeting: **Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> 2020**

