

Gateway Christian School Council
Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2024

The School Council is an advisory council to the School Principal and the elected Board of Trustees with respect to matters pertaining to the School.

Attendance: Geannette Lehman, Cathay Mottus-Landry, Julie Cavanaugh, Alisha Wiens, Stephanie Stutheit, Kerrie-Ann Dalstra, Karen Wiebe, Cherilyn Strom, Gerhard Louwrens, Dustin Mountain, Heather Hankins, Crista Snider, Christina Billings, Maryna Zayats, Sarah Lewis, Carolyn Anderson, Jenessa Parker, Sandra Pellegrin, Lauren Visser, Trish Robichaud, Melissa Kooiker, Cory Kloss, & Valentin Mingalev.

1. Welcome and Introductions - Julie Cavanaugh

- Meeting called to order at 6:31PM

2. Prayer and Land Acknowledgment - Julie Cavanaugh

3. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: Cathy Mottus-Landry, Second - Karen Wiebe

4. Adoption of Minutes from May 21, 2024

MOTION: Kerrie-Ann Dalstra, Second - Julie Cavanaugh

5. Adoption of financial statements from 2023-2024

MOTION: Kerrie-Ann Dalstra, Second - Karen Wiebe

6. Reports:

a) Principal Report - Geannette Lehman

- 35 graduates from 23/24, we started this year with 772 students, 57 staff.
- We had an Open House for students at the end of August, and our Meet the Teacher BBQ is on Thursday night.
- Running Club started (90 kids from grade 4-8), Toonies for Terry run at the school, the Dawe run, and the start to volleyball season. Thankful for coaches who volunteer!
- 176 students in our high school program. They will be attending a retreat next week.
- Our theme this year is Walking in God's Faithfulness.
 - Q: Has the high school retreat happened annually or is this new? A: It was annual before Covid and we are trying to renew that.

b) Society Update - Cherilyn Strom

- The society is a group of support and encouragement for this school and their Christian Alternativeness within RDPSD.

c) Review of updated Student Technology/ Cell Phone Policy (reviewing what was sent home to all parents at the beginning of the year) - Geannette Lehman

7. Overview of School Council's role, as well as topics and events for the coming year - Julie Cavanaugh

- Our role is to have a set Board of parents to listen to both parents and administration.
- To contact the school council, please email gcs-schoolcouncil@rdpsd.ab.ca.
- We reviewed the survey results from last year. The top areas requested were information on technology and on mental health.
- School Council will host a parent night regarding technology on November 5th. There will be a night in the new year regarding mental health.
- The October School Council meeting will focus on the elementary years and also a short presentation on Brightspace.
- December 11th is set aside for a Christmas concert to be held at Crossroads.
 - Motion for food sign up - Crista Snider, Second - Heather Hankins
- ASCA - Alberta School Council Association - they govern all school councils in Alberta. The things we vote on go to a governing body that they forward to the government.

8. Questions

- Q: Is there a place where we can see how the fundraising money is spent in our school?
A: We attempt to communicate regarding how parents can indicate where they were like their donations to be directed (eg: last year funds for field trips vs worship equipment)
- Q: Will there ever be a future parking plan in place? A: We don't own the parking lot we use. We work really hard to create a positive relationship with the neighbourhood. We will continue to work with the District at communications and creative solutions.

9. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 7:38PM
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Future Meeting Dates:

October 22, 2024

November 19, 2024

January 21, 2025

March 18, 2025

April 15, 2025

May 20, 2025 - AGM