

Chinook High School-School Council Minutes

October 11, 2023

Attendees:

Administrators and staff: Bill Forrester, Cam Hall, Mike Nightingale (Superintendent), Christine Light (Trustee)
Parents: Lisa Althouse, Edna Asem, Shannon Pratt, Christa Pike, Ryan Parker, Mandi Parker, Skye Curtis, Vanessa Steele, Viviana Lartiga, Karma Van Shaik, Tom Perks, Kara Granzow, Mike Shanks

1. **Call To Order – 7:01pm**
 - a. **Welcome & Introductions**
 - b. **Review Agenda:** Request to have agenda additions submitted to Bonnie in the office no later than one week prior to the meeting.
 - i. Chair stated that the Oct 3 sexual assault incident would not be discussed. Admin and council executive met before the meeting and decided that since it is an ongoing investigation, the matter would not be discussed. Parents expressed concern that they were not able to voice their concerns re: the incident and asked that a discussion about gender-based violence be added to the agenda.
 - ii. Added Discussion about gender-based violence in school settings and Newsletter question/request to Added Business.
 - c. **Review minutes from last meeting:** Minutes from previous meetings are posted on the school website. Viviana noted her name was spelled incorrectly and asked that School District be changed to School Division in the minutes to match verbiage division wide. She also requested to add in Section 3c that there was a discussion regarding clarification of parent engagement at Division School Council meetings.
2. **Business**
 - a. A council mission/vision questionnaire was distributed to all in attendance with a request to fill it out and bring it back or email responses to the chair so it can be discussed at the next meeting.
3. **Committees**
 - a. **Student Leadership:** No Student Liaison for School Council has been chosen yet, but one will be soon. Student Leadership runs as a class in different sections of the schedule with all grades represented. It continues to be a popular class choice, making the groups large. These students work with clubs in the school and help organize events & displays for various holidays & occasions (eg. Black History Month, Culture Club, Truth and Reconciliation Week, pep rallies, etc)
 - b. **Division School Council (Viviana)**
 - i. This year's council had their first meeting of the year on Oct 2. Parents volunteered to sit on various committees to help the Division. Parents were surveyed on parent learning session topics and it was requested that anyone else with ideas email them to Shelly Roest.
 - ii. Trustee Steed gave the Trustee Report. Trustees are continuing the Community Conversations events again this year and hope for lots of parents to come out and engage in discussions with Trustees. A schedule can be found on the Division website under Community Engagement.
 - iii. There is a survey for parents regarding the K-6 Curriculum.
 - iv. A Digital Wellness presentation will be held at the Yates on Nov 15.

c. Trustee Report (Christine)

- i. A School Boundary Committee is being formed to work on west side boundaries for elementary students ahead of the new school opening
- ii. World Teacher Day is Oct 6. Christine extended a huge thanks to all teachers and staff for their hard work and dedication to Leth 51 students.
- iii. Board is looking at policies & presentation that other boards in Alberta do to see if our practices and policies need to be changed at meetings. Looking for new avenues of community engagement and the best way to accommodate those who are attending meetings to express concerns to the board.
- iv. Chinook is one of 4 division schools that will be participating in a pilot project for vape detection in schools. Council engaged in a great discussion about how these detection devices will work, division policies around vaping in schools, how it affects other students, what happens when students are caught and active conversations that staff have with students about this issue.
- v. Next Board Meeting is October 24. The public portion is at 2:30pm and the public forum is at 5pm.

4. Administrative Reports

a. Principal Report (Bill)

- i. Currently the student population sits at approx. 1230 with students & families inquiring weekly about attending Chinook.
- ii. This has been a rough week at Chinook in regards to the Sexual Assault incident that happened on Oct 3. Parents are invited to contact admin with any questions or concerns they may have. All students and staff are working through the effects of this incident and have access to the Wellness Team as well as other counsellors working with the school.
- iii. Communication Week will happen the week before Parent/Teacher Interviews. Over that week advisors should be contacting families by phone and/or email to check in and see how things are going with students and families at this point in the school year. This is part of Chinook's refocus on communication with families.
- iv. The first Flex Friday of the year will happen Nov 3. There will be more communication about what it is, what it's for and how students can manage that day to get extra help and/or get caught up on assignments.

b. Admin/Teacher Report (Cam)

- i. Cam explained that part of his job is Athletics Director for Chinook. As the Athletics Director, he has been very involved in the aftermath of the Oct 3 incident with the Football team. Although this was a horrible incident that happened at the school, he stressed that it is not the culture of the school or school teams and that it was an isolated incident. As a school community, we need to hold space to all take a breath and support each other through it. As of right now, because the investigation is still ongoing, a decision about the remaining football season has not been made. For obvious reasons this incident has been the major topic of conversation, but Cam wanted to stress that there is still lots of great things happening at Chinook.
- ii. In Oct, Chinook, with CCH, will be hosting the Super South Volleyball Tournament. 16 teams are coming to compete.
- iii. Truth & Reconciliation Week was great with lots of elders donating time to educate and teach the school community about Indigenous history and culture.
- iv. Lots of concerts and events are coming up the rest of the semester. Please watch for announcements in the newsletter and school website.

5. School Council Budget Update

- a. No changes, no update

6. Added Business

- a. Parents and staff in attendance had a great conversation around gender-based violence in school settings. Division policies were discussed, as well as what both Chinook & the Division are doing going forward to make changes so this cannot happen again (discussions and programs to better communicate healthy shared spaces, etc). Support for those involved in the incident and for anyone in the school community who needs it was also discussed.
- b. Request to have links to school council agenda & minutes in the school newsletter.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:45pm

Minutes prepared by Lisa Althouse