

MidSun School Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Recorder (1): Jess W

Attendees (9): Kristine C, Jamie C, Deanne W-F, Danny Y, Mona S, Heidi G, Jeanne F, Kayla D, Randy E

Staff Attendees (4): Charlene Kushniruk (Principal), Jenn Grant (Assistant Principal), Joe Sturgeon (Principal, Centennial High School), Chris Hanson (Grade 9 Learning Leader)

Meeting called to order on Teams at 6:31pm

Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Introductions

Motion made by Jamie C to approve the MidSun School Council Meeting agenda for March 18, 2025. Seconded by Deanne W-F. Carried.

Motion made by Jeanne F to approve the MidSun School Council meeting minutes from February 25, 2025. Seconded by Deanne W-F. Carried.

1. Special Presentation: Centennial High School Principal (Joe Sturgeon)
 - A. Joe Sturgeon presented the group with a wide array of information about Centennial High School and the transition for students from junior high. He noted that MidSun students are generally well prepared, come from a good culture/community and typically adjust well. MidSun students lead the charge in academics and athletics.
 - B. Joe noted that he likes to develop good characters and sees himself as an open book/straight-shooter who answers honestly and openly. Joe has 26 years of experience as high school social studies teacher. He is passionate about athletics and fine arts, has an extensive history with trauma informed practices and has been very involved with supporting school communities in difficult times. He noted that he has never resented the fact that he gets to go to work.
 - C. Joe's presentation continued mentioning that high school offers something for everyone. Some kids need to enter high school and just breathe without the extracurricular activities, some thrive with them. Centennial has over 1760 students so there are a lot of options and different opportunities to get involved. With the size of the school, there is also a lot of freedom. The campus is open so students can leave at lunch. Some students find it hard to maintain academic and athletics if friends are using freedom. Joe finds that the biggest adjustment for new students is the freedom.
 - D. Joe also described some other issues and problems that occur in all high schools, but he and his team strive to keep promote a fun, enjoyable and safe space. A few parents asked about specific characteristics that help students

succeed in high school and how to best prepare students for the competitive athletics programs.

2. Special Presentation: Grade 9 Learning Update (Chris Hanson)

- A. Chris spoke briefly about his team who he described as a very cohesive group who make it easy for each other and show up consistently for the students. He mentioned that there are multiple field trips on the horizon, such as: Theatre Calgary and Calaway Park. There will also be a river watch trip which is a new opportunity to do water sampling and go through water treatment plant to learn how the city manages water. Another exciting field trip will include an opportunity to go to SAIT and learn from corporate leaders about interview skills, budgeting and other practical experience.
- B. Students are meeting the curriculum guidelines and are on track for PATs. Learning leaders are giving students lots of time in class to process and learn. The students have been using the digital program and have ample opportunity to feel comfortable, run through lots of practice questions, skills-sets, mental math and dissecting word problems.
- C. Jenn G and Chris H also spoke about the upcoming SALTS sailing trip. A parent asked if this opportunity will be available for the incoming G9s in 2026. Jenn G said that it is an option and that the cost (\$2600/student) which could be offset by fundraising initiatives.

3. Charlene K and Jenn G shared an administration update to the meeting attendees which included various topics:

- A. Blue Pod tour postponed, and parent teacher interviews moved online due to strike. Charlene K provided an update:
 - (i) The CBE reached a tentative collective agreement with CUPE Local 40 on March 17. Since the strike began on Feb. 24, the CBE has continued to bargain with CUPE Local 40 to reach an agreement.
 - (ii) Next Steps in Bargaining - The tentative agreement remains subject to ratification by the CUPE Local 40 membership. CUPE Local 40 members will begin voting on the tentative agreement tonight, with results expected to be released on Wednesday, March 19.
 - (iii) The agreement must also be ratified by the CBE's Board of Trustees before it can take effect. If the agreement is ratified, CUPE Local 40 staff will return to work on Friday, March. 21. CUPE Local 40 has also indicated that picket lines have been suspended at CBE schools and workplaces.
- B. Charlene K also reminded the group about School Engagement, AER and CBE student surveys (email reminders will follow).
- C. High School registration ongoing. MidSun Open House for feeder schools will be April 10 with school visits on April 7, 9 and 10.

D. Upcoming events:

- (i) Parent Teacher Interviews March 20 and 21
- (ii) Spring Break March 24 - 28
- (iii) April 2 and 3 - G8 Virtual Field Trip to Human Rights Museum
- (iv) April 2 - G9 Blithe Spirit Play
- (v) April 10 - Open House
- (vi) April 15 - 17 - Frozen Jr at Centennial (5pm)
- (vii) April 16 - G7 and G8 - Valour Canada
- (viii) April 18 - Good Friday - No School
- (ix) April 21 - NID

E. Lastly, over spring break the gym floors will be refinished and video surveillance team will be at the school for installation on March 19. Stay tuned for a parent Q&A info.

4. Chair Update (Kristine C)

- A. Kristine C requested volunteers to help at the Parent Council table on April 10 during the Open House for feeder schools. She also noted that there will be yellow flyers circulated to each student about parent council, the 50/50 fundraiser (which is live) as well as a link to signup for the upcoming casino fundraiser.

5. Key Communicator Update (Jenine S)

- A. No update.

6. New Business / Open Table (Kristine C)

- A. No further business to discuss.

Meeting adjourned: 7:37pm

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 6:30pm