

Dalhousie School Council

Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2023

We would like to acknowledge the traditional territories and oral practices of the Blackfoot Nations, which includes the Siksika, the Piikani and the Kainai. We also acknowledge the Tsuut'ina and Stoney Nakoda First Nations, the Métis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.

Call to order: 6:01pm

Adopt Agenda:

Kristen Stonehouse and Charleen Nickel

Thank you all for your kind support over the last three weeks as we have started another school year at Dalhousie. I am incredibly impressed with the school community. I absolutely loved the Welcome Back Assembly last Friday. A gym full of kids singing together, in Spanish, stirs the soul. Students, staff and parents have offered me a warm welcome that I really appreciate.

**Staffing**

I would like to thank Melissa specifically for her work. I know that she has absorbed a lot of the extra work that comes along when you have a new person in the job who doesn't really know the environment yet. Melissa knows the community very well and it's clear to me that your kids have been in excellent hands over the years that she has been at Dalhousie. The community will miss you, Melissa.

Melissa will be at Dalhousie until October 6. The new Assistant Principal will be in place by October 10. I will be in this position until that transition is complete, and the principal is in place, likely towards the end of October. I will hire the new Assistant Principal in conjunction with the Area Office.

We currently have 21 classes. The breakdown is this:

- Kindergarten: 88 students/4 classes
- Grade 1: 78 students/4 classes
- Grade 2: 78 students/4 classes
- Grade 3: 94 students/4 classes
- Grade 4: 79 students/3 classes
- Grade 5: 52 students/2 classes

We have 22 teachers on staff, 2 Education Assistants, 10 Lunch Supervisors, Lori and Karin in the office and Maryam in the Learning Commons. The teaching staff is comprised of 19 classroom teachers, the music teacher, the Assistant Principal and the Principal.

Our teaching staff:

Last Name	First Name	Position	Grade
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Alvarado	Amalia	Teacher	1
Carcamo	Jasmine	Teacher	1
Fuentes	Liliana	Teacher	1
Houde	Rachelle	Teacher	1
Canji	Nubia	Teacher	2
Mitchell	Katelyn	Teacher	2
Sala Toledo	Rodrigo	Teacher	2
Scott	Cory	Teacher	2
Achang	Galiana	Teacher	3
Outhet	Danielle	Learning Leader	3
Paredes	Patricia	Teacher	3
Wong	Jasmine	Teacher	3
Flores	Gabriel	Teacher	4
Sutherland	Jen	Learning Leader	4
Victoria	Veronica	Teacher	4
Dominguez	Paloma	Teacher	5
Liendo	Jeanne	Teacher	5
Fredette	Erika	Teacher	K
Tugle	Jennifer	Teacher	K
Primak	Olga	Teacher	Music
Agirreurreta Etxezarreta	Arantxa	Teacher	SVT
Oviedo Aceves	Carmela	Teacher	SVT
Forsyth	Melissa	Assistant Principal	
Fehr	Scott	Principal	

Our support staff:

Last Name	First Name	Position
Aleem	Fathema	Lunch Supervisor
Bashir	Rifat	Lunch Supervisor
Borda	Adriana	Education Assistant
Boychuk	Karin	Receptionist/Lunch Supervisor
Brown	Lacey	Lunch Supervisor
Bunes	Maria	Education Assistant
Burrage	Lori	Administrative Assistant
Carumba	Veronica	Lunch Supervisor
Castillo Castillo	Rubi	Lunch Supervisor
Hou	Fawen (Sam)	Facility Operator
Masroor	Zobaria	Lunch Supervisor
McRae	Jean	Lunch Supervisor
Mirza	Maryam	Library Assistant
Partridge	Kim	Lead Lunch

Sabir	Zainab	Lunch Supervisor
Wang	Zhiren	Facility Assistant

We may have some dollars available in our decentralized budget to increase our staff over the next couple of weeks. We are waiting for our registration numbers to stabilize. At that point we will make a decision about the use of our decentralized budget.

### **Morning Entry**

I imagine there may be some questions regarding the morning entry routine. I don't want to repeat what has already been stated in emails to parents. Our perception currently is that it is going smoothly. If you have questions, we would be happy to answer them now.

### **Input Requested: Change to Lunch Shifts**

We are considering a change to the organization of our lunch hour and would like your feedback. The outcome we need to achieve is adequate supervision both inside and outside, specifically two supervisors on the playground at all times. This change would not impact instructional hours. It would impact the time some kids eat. We would like to have all Grade 1 – 5 students go out to play for the first half of lunch, and then eat the second half of lunch. Kindergarten would eat first, and play second. Eight of our Lunch Supervisors would supervise the Grade 1 – 5 students, two supervisors would look after our Kindergarten students. Kindergarten students would eat from 12:30 – 12:55, then play outside until 1:17. Grades 1 – 5 students would play outside from 12:30 – 12:55, then eat from 12:55 – 1:17.

Rationale: It is currently very difficult to supervise the students eating lunch (inside the school) with fewer than six supervisors. This is because of the layout of the school and the classrooms. This leaves only four for outside. If we have two supervisors on the playground at all times, it is not possible to supervise adequately the rest of the supervision area with only two supervisors. We will also have more eyes on students during the transition from playing to eating because supervisors will not be pulled in different directions for the transition period halfway through lunch. One way traffic is easier to supervise than two-way traffic. In this scenario, 380 Grade 1 – 5 students would be supervised by 8 lunch supervisors. For Grade 1 – 5, this is an acceptable supervision ratio (47.5:1) in an unstructured setting with good sight lines. This will also allow us to have two supervisors supervising two classes that are in close proximity during the eating period.

Please share your thoughts via phone or email.

Question from parent – What temperature do the kids go straight inside the school at?

Answer - -20 as a guideline, rainy days, strong winds or smokey days with 7 or higher level.

Question – What has been communicated to the kids about this new routine?

Answer – Teachers have been reviewing this in class with the kids.

Question – Is this new morning routine set in stone or a trial?

Answer – No, not set in stone. Please call the office for further explanation on why this was put into place.

### **Chinook Learning Services | Continuing Education | Spanish for Parents - Level 1 | Fall 2023**

By helping parents, we help our CBE learners. Chinook Learning Services offers courses specifically designed for parents and caregivers of CBE Spanish Bilingual students. For Fall 2023, Chinook Learning Services is once again offering Spanish for Parents – Level 1 classes. This eight-week course will help parents of bilingual students learn or refresh their Spanish language skills, build their network of bilingual parents and support their children’s learning at home. This course would also be beneficial for any Support Staff who are interested in learning along with parents!

Chinook Learning Services has successfully offered [Spanish-For-Parents-Level-1](#) in the past.

Check out the course reviews at [Course-Review-Spanish-For-Parents-Level-1](#).

### **New Curriculum Implementation**

Starting in September 2023, we will implement new K to 3 Science Curriculum. All K to 6 students in the province will be learning the new English Language Arts and Literature and Mathematics curriculums. Our professional development plan will be focused on supporting teachers through the implementation of these programs as well as continuing work on our School Development Plan. We will update you in October regarding our School Development Plan.

### **Dalhousie Happenings and Events**

September 8: Welcome Back Assembly – absolutely phenomenal!

September 15: Conference Manager opens Friday, September 15, 7:00 a.m. for Meet the Teacher.

September 15: Terry Fox Presentation in the gym for students

September 20: Terry Fox Run

- Assembly at 1:45
- Parents are welcome to join outside at 2:00.

September 21 – 22: Meet the Teacher.

- Thursday from 5:00 – 7:00 and Friday from 9:00 – 1:00
- Ten-minute slots
- Thanks to your generosity, teachers will eat together at 4:15 on Thursday.

September 28: Orange Shirt Day

September 29: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - NO SCHOOL

Adjournment – 7:10pm

Next meeting - TBD