



AMS School Advisory Council

MINUTES

October 30, 2019 @ 7:00

Present: Gina Miller, School Advisory Chair Laurie Kradvill
Tara Barabe, Teacher Penny Wihnan
Keri Gust, Principal Stephanie Werner, Teacher
Jill Miller, Support Staff Natasha Bunn, Youth Hub
Jenna Bentley, Family School Liaison Worker
Scott Mastel, Addictions Counselling
Dillan Zora, Student

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. Gust asked all present to introduce themselves.

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

A Motion was made by Mrs. Wihnan , seconded by Mrs. Miller to adopt the Agenda.
CARRIED.

3. **Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting - September 25, 2019**

A Motion was made by Mrs. Wihnan, seconded by Mrs. Miller, to adopt the September Minutes. **CARRIED.**

4. **Reports**

A. **Financial**

The balance in the School Advisory account as of October 30, 2019, is \$2,477.16. School Advisory members had approved the support of English Language Learner awards for our Awards Evening on October 23. Each grade level was supported with a tie occurring in Grade 9; therefore, four awards were supported instead of three. The total amount of awards sponsored by School Advisory was \$225 (\$25 for Grade 7, \$50 for Grade 8, and 2 x \$75 for Grade 9).

B. **Chair**

Mrs. Miller and Ms. Gust met last week. Mrs. Miller has incredible ideas on creating Agendas as well as ideas on how to get more people out to meetings. A discussion took place about having a day-time school advisory meeting, perhaps something for 2020. A suggestion was made about having a survey go out through social media about moving the meeting.

Mrs. Miller asked about the length of time to eat lunch. Ms. Gust explained how the lunch hour works with the first approximate 15 minutes to each lunch (a variety of locations are available for students), and the second approximate 15 minutes for active time (again a variety of locations available to students).

C. Teacher Representative

D. Administration

I. Social Emotional Team Introduction

Jami-Loy Heller, School Counsellor

Ms. Gust gave an introduction of Jami-Loy Heller and her role with our students. Mrs. Heller attempts to mediate between students and to help with their peer issues. She also helps facilitate students to regulate so that they can achieve a state of learning. Mrs. Heller also organizes and facilitates the Health curriculum. She works side by side organizing other resource people for our students.

Jenna Bentley, Family School Liaison Worker

Jenna provided an informational pamphlet to members regarding her role at AMS. Summed up, she is bridges a connection between school and family; connects families to outside agencies and resources; provides one-on-one and group support for students; and a valuable resource for students, families, and staff. She has been connected with this school for 15 years. She was previously assigned to our school in her role as Mental Health Consultant with Alberta Health Services. In September of 2018, Jenna began working for the school district and was assigned to AMS full time in the role of FSLW. She works in collaboration with our AMS school counsellor, Mrs. Heller, to triage student needs and also facilitate the Student Centre which provides a safe and calming environment to teach students the skill of self-regulation. Referrals can come from administration, teachers, parents and community partners in which Mrs. Heller screens to determine appropriateness and consider additional community resources. Jenna requires written consent from a parent or guardian in order to work with a student. She then completes an assessment by collecting relevant information from that student as well as his/her parent or guardian. Goals are created surrounding social/emotional and/or mental health-related issues as well as attendance. She works with the student and family to identify and break down barriers for students who struggle with attendance. Referral to community agencies may also be recommended to support the student and/or the family in reaching their goals. Jenna meets with students during their school day and is trained in risk and threat assessment. Students with behavioural issues within the school and community may also have a connection with Jenna or she may be consulted with by teachers and administration to develop appropriate interventions.

Cst. Marie Guerard and Cst. Keegan Clarke - School Resource Officers

Constable Marie (and Constable Keegan) are part of the social emotional team. Their role is much larger than the perception of handing out tickets and arresting people. She feels that her job is to educate, warn, and guide students and their relationships with teachers, parents, families. They will attend Risk Threat Assessment to provide support.

Kayla Rigby - Success Coach (MyPlace)

Ms. Gust provided an introduction to our new Success Coach, Kayla Rigby. She describes Kayla as humble and outgoing, combined with a large amount of experience. Although Kayla is new to AMS this year, she has quickly created many activities and connection with our students as well as staff, always looking for new ways to get involved with the school. She also works part-time at the McMan Inn Between Youth Shelter and has, therefore, gained invaluable experience.

Scott Mastel - Addictions Counsellor

Scott has been with us for 4 years with a main focus on addictions counselling. He provides these services at 5 schools in total. Scott advises that his role is to provide education, assessment, and treatment. He is very knowledgeable about substance abuse as well as vaping and can provide education for a student or even for someone in their life that he/she cares about. In addition to individual counselling, referrals can be made to residential treatment. Scott's services can be accessed either at the provincial building or at the school. Student referrals come through Mrs. Heller or the school administration team, followed by parent permission. Under addiction umbrella, there would be process addictions (i.e. video games/screen time).

Natasha Bunn - Youth Hub

Natasha advises that she comes every Wednesday to meet with students. She works from McMann and there are three employees that are funded by Medicine Hat Community Housing. She can assist students looking for jobs, families looking for food bank support, and can connect them with mental health supports and resources if necessary. Natasha also advises that she and her team can go into homes to get families connected with needed support.

E. Student Voice at AMS - Dillan Zora

I. Yearbook

Dillan introduced himself as the editor and chief of this year's school yearbook. After working on last year's yearbook, he has discovered that this is his passion and loves every aspect of it. Dillan's goal for the 2019-2020 yearbook is to have every student in the yearbook a minimum of 3 times. The other student who is actively involved in yearbook is Sonak Saha. You will find Sonak behind the camera as well as building the yearbook.

II. Monthly Newsletter

Dillan feels that parents need more information about events at the school through the perspective of the student's eye. Dillan is currently working on a newsletter. When asked of the parents present, it was determined that parents would prefer to receive this newsletter through email.

5. **New Business**

A. Creation of a Wishlist for teachers

A discussion took place about a wishlist for teachers. Both Mrs. Barabe and Ms. Werner would consider this offer and try to gather some feedback.

B. New picture of AMS School Advisory

A picture of this year's advisory group will be postponed until more members can attend.

C. December - no Advisory meeting - any initiatives to become involved with

I. Silent auction

II. Raffle off student art

III. Food Bank Donations

IV. Sell cookies that the Foods 7/8 make?

As there's no Christmas concert, perhaps a showcase evening with raffles of student art or projects. Also, there's the possibility of using the ½ day in December as the showcase day.

6. **Next meeting** - Wednesday, November 27, 2019

7. **Adjournment** - Meeting adjourned by 8:12 PM

Upcoming Dates

- October 31 - Halloween Dress Up Day
- Nov 6: Section 2 ends for electives
- Nov 7: Section 3 begins for electives
- Nov 8: Remembrance Day Assembly @ 10:30
- Nov 11: No School
- Nov 13: World Kindness Day
- Nov 15: School Photo Retakes
- Nov 20: National Child Day
- Nov 21: Printed progress reports sent home
- Nov 22: PD Day @ AMS - no school for students
- Nov 27: School Council @ 7:00pm
- Dec 10: Section 3 ends for electives
- Dec 11: Section 4 begins for electives
- Dec 12: Pep Rally: Modified bell times
- Dec 13: PD Day @ AMS - no school for students
- Dec 17: Grade 9 immunizations
- Dec 20: Locker clean-up/ Early dismissal