

MINUTES

SGCHS School Council

November 21, 2023 | *Meeting called to order by* Meg Dmytry at 19:03.

In Attendance

Meg Dmytry (Chair), Amy Smart (Vice Chair), Heather Donovan (Secretary), Tracy Lebel (Parent), Aileen Peterson (Grade 10 Coordinator), Cheryl Otto (Principal), Eric Cameron (Trustee), Roberta Lux (Staff).

Meeting Agenda

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions:** School Council President Meg Dmytry welcomed attendees at the opening of the meeting. All in attendance introduced themselves. School Principal Cheryl Otto welcomed and offered thanks to the new council executive.
- 2) **Approval of Agenda:** There was a consensus around the table to accept the presented Nov 21 agenda.
- 3) **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes were disseminated at the beginning of the meeting. Tracy Label moved to accept them and the motion was seconded by Amy Smart. Minutes approved- Meg Dmytry.
- 4) **Parkland School Board Report:** Presented by Eric Cameron. See attached.

A question was posed by Tracy Label regarding bus driver retention. She noted that there has been some unreliability with some routes thereby causing transportation challenges for parents. Eric Cameron explained that it is the responsibility of the contractor to train and retain their drivers. He discussed that the province in general is struggling to recruit drivers. He explained that the trustees help when and where they can but ultimately it is beyond their control.
- 5) **Canadian Parents for French Update:** No formal member was present however Tracy Label shared that they are hopeful that they will have an executive in the near future as they have garnered some new parental participation.
- 6) **Administration Report:** Presented by Principal Cheryl Otto. See attached. Cheryl also asked for feedback regarding Parent/Teacher Interviews. Parents had no immediate preference for in person or telephone but Tracy did state that virtual allows for both parents to attend even when one may work out of town. Cheryl asked if the parents would be willing to set up the virtual meeting; feedback said if parents wanted it, they would most likely be willing to set it up and forward the information to the teacher(s).
- 7) **Discussion Items:**
 - a. **Lunch Seating:** It was noted by Amy Smart that there seems to be limited seating for students during the lunch break. The question was asked why students are not permitted to stand around tables in the cafeteria with their friends. It was explained by Aileen Peterson that they require students to be seated in the cafeteria so they may be supervised appropriately. When so many students are standing, it becomes difficult for teachers to see what is going on. It was also explained that students sitting in the hallway to eat lunch is unsafe due to the limited width of the hallways. Cheryl Otto discussed that students may also eat in classrooms if a teacher is present and allows it. She shared that many teachers have their classrooms open at lunch for students to gather and eat together. It was noted that the cafeteria seating is at capacity.
 - b. **New Student Integration Peer Support:** It was queried by Meg Dmytry as to whether the school had students that could assist new students in learning where their classes are etc. Though Cheryl shared that students' schedules would not be the same to allow someone to walk with students to their classes that there could be other ways to assist new students to integrate. Amy Smart asked if

it was feasible to have a classroom designated for new kids to eat lunch. It would afford them the opportunity to meet other new kids. Kids could stay or leave as they felt comfortable. It was agreed by Aileen that this was a great idea and one that would be relatively easy to implement. It was also supported by Cheryl Otto and others present.

- c. Heather Donovan sought clarification as to how the school communicates with parents. Using Facebook as a communication tool more often was mentioned. Cheryl also explained how Power School setting can dictate what correspondence parents get from the school.

8) **Adjournment of Meeting.** The meeting was adjourned by Meg Dmytry at 20:13.

Next Meeting

January 23, 2024 at 19:00

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REPORTS AS SUBMITTED:

Trustee Administration

October/November 2023 Trustee School Council Report Submitted by E. Cameron

- On October 3 Trustees attended a luncheon at Memorial Composite High School to greet our delegation of administrators/facilitators from Shikaoi, Japan as part of the student exchange program with the Town of Stony Plain and their sister city, Shikaoi, Japan. The Foods Program at MCHS hosted the luncheon with a wonderful lunch (presentation and meal were really five star).

- **Board Meeting Highlights:**

Board Chair Report:

- a letter was received with a gift from the Shikaoi High School principal in thanks for hosting the October luncheon; he expressed hopes that children from both countries gain a greater global understanding from the experience.
- the City of Spruce Grove is seeking provincial support to include the Horizon Stage as part of the replacement of Spruce Grove Composite High School project.
- the grand opening of our new Westview School in Stony Plain will be held on November 27 at 9:30 with the Minister of Education in attendance.

Superintendent Report :

- our Facilities Department is busy wrapping up its many summer projects (was a very busy summer).

- budget year 2022-2023 is wrapping up and budget 2023-2024 is being established (November is budget month).
- we still have some bussing challenges, but all eligible riders have been accommodated.
- the design team for the new SGCHS had its first meeting with the architect, which is very encouraging; we are still hoping for construction funding to be approved in the next provincial capital program announcement.
- the Superintendent travelled to our school (Athabasca Delta Community School) in Fort Chipewyan to discuss where we are at in the process to develop their own educational authority.
- food security is a major priority focus again this year in PSD.
- our Building Futures program is building 2 homes this year in conjunction with Coventry Homes (one for grade 10 students, one for grade 11/12 students).

Delegation:

-the Board received a delegation from the Spruce Grove Rotary Club explaining their “brown bag” lunch program which prepares 350 bag lunches twice per week to 18 schools sites. The program is funded through the division (grants), Spruce Grove and Stony Plain Rotary Clubs, President’s Choice Charity and St. Andrews Church, local grocers and many volunteers.

Reports:

- report on our submission to the province with our list of Modular Classroom priorities was given: Ecole Meridian Heights 4 new modulares, Copperhaven 2 new modulares, Blueberry 9 new replacement modulares, Muir Lake 6 new replacement modulares, Ecole Broxton Park 6 new replacement modulares.
- September enrolment numbers are in with our west end schools down 52 students, Stony Plain and area up 68 students, Spruce Grove up 8 students, Outreach up 83 students and Athabasca Delta Community School down 5 students.
- class sizes are holding up to what we had last year, but are seeing some large grade 9 classes in a few schools.
- curriculum implementation still has a high focus on Numeracy and Literacy with classroom support and extensive professional development for teachers. We have new curriculums this year: K-3 French Literature and Language Arts, K-3 Science, 4-6 Literature and Language arts, 4-6 Math.
- Athabasca Delta Community School in Fort Chipewyan staffing includes: 16.5 teacher/admin, 3 Educational Assistants, 1 Speech Language assistant, 2 cooks, 1 bus driver, and 1 division maintenance worker. Challenges include isolation, housing, cost of living, work environment and access to professional development.
- Student Conduct and Intervention report unfortunately shows an increase in cyber bullying, vaping, non-compliance/disrespect/inappropriate behavior, fighting/physical aggression. There is evidence to indicate some of this is still the result of social isolation during the Covid pandemic where positive interaction was restricted.
- our first parent engagement session of this school year will be held on November 22 at 6:30 in our newest school, Westview School, in Stony Plain.

This year’s Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week is November 20 – 24, 2023, with the theme “Where to Turn.” In recognition of this important week, Education has partnered with Children and Family Services to host a Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week Virtual Speaker Series.

I invite all students, staff and parents to tune in to the Virtual Speaker Series on Friday November 24 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. This virtual event will feature speakers Teddy Manywounds and Sheldon Kennedy, who will

share their unique stories and experiences with bullying behaviours. The speaker series will be followed by a live question and answer period – so come prepared with your questions!

Registration information for the live event can be found [here](#). For those who cannot tune in live, a recording will be posted at alberta.ca/bullying-awareness-week following the live event.

SGCHS School Council

Administrative Report

November 21, 2023

Awards Night



- Some changes were made and the evening was well attended and well received.

Band Concert

- Dec 11 at the Horizon Stage. Doors open at 6:30; concert starts at 7:00.

Drama

- Tickets are on sale for the Dec 7 and 8 evening productions of Finding Nemo.

Ed Plan

- Currently wrapping up our 3 year Ed Plan which focussed on Student Success through Problem Solving, Critical Thinking, Communication and Collaboration and Inclusion. Starting our 1 year extension where we will be focussing on the Systems and Structures we have in place to support Student Success.
- Student Forum is coming up tomorrow.

Extra-Curricular

- Cross Country Running, Football, Rugby, Volleyball have wrapped up.
- Basketball has started up.
- Hallowe'en Costume Contests for students and staff.
- Spirit Week before Fall Break—
- Crocks with Socks this Thursday.
- Mario Cart Tournament at Lunch all next week. Proceeds from the tournament will be given to Kinettes' Hamper Program
- Dec 21, Student Union Bell Schedule to support extended lunch

New School

- In the design stage with a Committee comprised of AB Ed, AB IS, PSD, and SGCHS staff members have met and toured various schools.
- Will house 1910 students.
- Built on existing lot.

Parent Teacher Interviews and Reporting

- PowerSchool is live so there is no printed report card at high school.
- We are halfway through semester one.
- Interviews are scheduled for this week and next; if you were not able to book an appointment with the teacher you needed, please email them to set up an alternate time for a phone call.

- Preference Inquiry: in person/phone?

Professional Development

- TCT Days on Nov 29 and Dec 20; Classes start at 10:00.
- PD Day on Dec 22

Surveys

- APORI comes out in January; we have traditionally had low response numbers 23-48 Parents over the last 5 years.
- Share a Thought PSD Survey this Fall saw only 18 Parent Responses.

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