

Sherwood Heights Junior High School Council DRAFT Meeting Minutes for April 25, 2023

In Attendance

Executive: Jacquie Surgenor (Chair)

Administration: Amit Mali (Principal), Aaron Tuckwood (Assistant Principal), Taylor Burton (Assistant Principal)

Parents & Staff: Tasha Baker, Andrea Kardal, Debbie Klita, Melissa Manolescu, Jessica Moen

1. Welcome & Introductions

Jacquie Surgenor called the Sherwood Heights Junior High (SWH) School Council meeting to order at 6:33pm and provided the Treaty 6 Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of March 21, 2023 Minutes

By consensus.

3. Approval of Agenda

By consensus.

4. New Business

a. SWH Replacement Project Update

Jacquie shared these details on behalf of Elk Island Public Schools Board Chair Trina Boymook's monthly report.

The Board will be holding information nights in May and June to share the designs for the Sherwood Heights/Ecole Campbelltown replacement school. Today we have received news that the school has been approved for the \$250K playground grant.

b. Student/Family Mental Health

Taylor Burton and Jessica Moen shared the following information:

- Taylor, Jessica and Jacquie presented jointly about the Reset Room at the ASCA Conference in 2 formats – a plenary session and a breakout session. Both sessions were very well received.
- Information about our Reset Room is now available on the school website [www.sherwoodheights.org/reset-room].
- Taylor shared statistics for use of the Reset Room from March 26 to April 24 (14 days of school): 285 uses; 14% grade 7, 38% grade 8, 47% grade 9.
- Jessica and Constable Hani are currently talking with each grade 8 and 9 class about intimate images/internet safety.
- Damien Persaud, a staff member from Salisbury Composite High school, will be speaking with our grade 7 students about diversity, inclusion and celebrating different cultures.

- May 1-4 is Mental Health Week and the Leadership students are planning activities.
- Student Voice will be helping with building a list of library books to purchase with our Save on Foods funds. They have also initiated an idea for an Outdoor Reset Room (close to the indoor Reset Room) with items that could be moved when we have our new school building.

c. Staff Recognition Program [www.RecognizeSWH.ca]

A standing agenda item promoting the web form for submitting kudos to staff which can be utilized by either parents or students.

A tab has been created on the school website to facilitate submissions of appreciation to our hard working staff [www.sherwoodheights.org/http-www-recognizeswh-ca].

Thank you to our wonderful families for their support of our April informal potluck event! A sign-up list for food and drink has again been created on [Perfect Potluck](#) and shared on our Sherwood Heights Junior High Parents Connect Facebook page for the upcoming Wednesday, May 3 event.

d. French Immersion

A discussion about the future of the secondary French Immersion (FI) program at SWH occurred. Jacquie will share her notes with Trina Boymook this week.

e. Student Transportation

Jacquie shared these details on behalf of Trina's monthly report.

The Board will be moving forward with optional implementation of the new eligibility mileage for student transportation. For 2023-24, we will remain with walking distance and will have our software adjusted to calculate shortest driving distance in time for mandatory implementation in 2024-25. The Board is set to approve student transportation fees at our upcoming April 27 Special Board meeting. Once approved, parents will be notified of their eligibility standing and fees that will be associated with that. School and program of choice will remain as enhanced services as it is still not mandatory to transport students to school and program of choice.

f. Save On Foods Fundraiser

[www.sherwoodheights.org/home/news/post/save-on-foods-school-fundraiser]

A standing agenda item promoting the grocery shop fundraiser with Save on Foods Wye Road location only.

A Student Voice survey is currently available to students to make suggestions about new books for the school library. We will follow up at the May school council meeting to determine an allocation of funds towards the purchase of books before the end of the school year.

5. Information Reports

a. COSC Report

[\[www.eips.ca/parents/committee-of-school-councils-cosc\]](http://www.eips.ca/parents/committee-of-school-councils-cosc)

No report this month.

b. Principal's Report

Amit Mail shared the following information.

- SWH will find out the 2023-24 budget on Friday.
- Aaron has started building the timetable.
- Information night (formerly known as open house) was very successful. The school will also host a half day orientation in August for grade 7 students.
- Visits to grade 6 classes has happened at all feeder elementary schools.
- The Journée Internationale de la Francophonie event last month for our FI students was a success.
- The grade 9 FI trip to Montreal, Quebec City and Ottawa went very well with the exception of a departure delay. Even though the delay was beyond the tour company's responsibility, they compensated our student group with tickets to an Ottawa Senators hockey game. Jacquie will send a letter to EF Tours on behalf of school council thanking them for their help and generosity after the air travel delay.
- Track and field day for all students is May 2.
- Amit recently attended a student mental health conference which reaffirmed the SWH Reset Room concept by what he learned during the event. He recommends reading "Street Data: A Next-Generation Model for Equity, Pedagogy, and School Transformation" by Shane Sfir & Jamila Dugan.
- At the May 5 Professional Learning day, our staff will have a guest speaker to learn more about how they can improve tolerance/racism/diversity/inclusion at our school and how to have difficult conversations about these issues.

c. Trustee's Report

Jacquie shared the remainder of Trina's monthly report.

On April 13, EIPS held a French Immersion engagement session. An option was developed to generate a robust discussion among stakeholders that will inform the best path forward that will enhance the program, increase retention at the junior high and senior high levels, address anticipated enrolment pressures in Ardrossan and balance enrolment at the elementary level. Senior administration is currently compiling feedback received which will inform next steps. At this time, I'm not aware of any further public engagement dates. Information on next steps should be available in the next 2 weeks.

The Board approved budget assumptions and school fees at our April 20 Board meeting.

The Board has been busy over the last month working on our budget for 2023-24. Although there are specific areas of the budget which have experienced an increase, it has come as a result of repurposing funding from other areas. Due to the introduction of reserve caps, the Board is on track to deplete a large portion of our operating reserves in this current year in order to stay under the cap. It is expected that

there will be limited use of reserves in building next year's budget. The Board will be approving allocations to schools at a special meeting being held on April 27.

6. Adjournment

Jacquie adjourned the meeting at 7:50pm.