

Sherwood Heights School Council Meeting

September 28th, 2021

The regular meeting of Sherwood Heights School Council was duly called and held on September 28th, 2021, virtually via Microsoft Teams.

In Attendance:

Executive: Ashley Frayn (Outgoing Chair), Jacquie Surgenor (Incoming Chair), Lesley Bowman (Incoming Vice-Chair)

Administration: Amit Mali (Principal), Tandy Atchison (Assistant Principal), Jess Miskiw (Assistant Principal), Jessica Moen (Family-School Liaison Worker)

Parents & Staff: 17 Parents & Staff

Community: Trina Boymook (Board Chair, EIPS)

1. Welcome & Introductions

- a. Ashley Frayn calls to order at 6:32 p.m.
- b. Welcome to new Administration: Amit Mali, Tandy Atchison, Jess Miskiw, Jessica Moen.
- c. Treaty Six Acknowledgement.

2. Review & Approval of Minutes from May 18th, 2021

MOTION: Sheena Singleton motions to accept May minutes as is, Nasreen Banman seconds.

OPPOSED: None

CARRIED

3. Approve Agenda, as is.

4. Summary of 2020/21 School Year

- a. Kudos to staff and students for maintaining a successful year, regardless of interruptions, lots of strength and resiliency demonstrated.
- b. Attention to improving culture and safety, focused council meetings with student interaction regarding concerns.
- c. Collaboration with RCMP and Saffron regarding safety and respect of all students in the school.
- d. Focus on sense of community with students in and out of school.

- e. Questions / comments
 - i. Will the RCMP / Saffron interactions continue this year?
 1. Conversations will continue regarding these opportunities.

5. Election of Council Executive

- a. Chair
 - i. Jacquie Surgenor, by acclamation.
- b. Vice Chair
 - i. Lesley Bowman, by acclamation.
- c. COSC Representative
 - i. Sheena Singleton, by acclamation.
- d. Secretary
 - i. Currently encumbered – Lorena Ellsworth
- e. Logos
 - i. Currently encumbered – Melanie Ryzuk
- f. Band
 - i. No volunteers.
- g. French
 - i. Fatou Moukoro, by acclamation.
- h. IMPACT
 - i. Sarah Witholt, by acclamation.
- i. Honors
 - i. Nancy Peters, by acclamation.

6. New Business

- a. Return to School – Amit Mali
 - i. Enrollment
 1. Up 25 students over spring projection, current total is about 650.
 2. Grade 9 programming started with 38-39 students per class, currently at more manageable numbers.
 3. Recognizing that some students did not get their preferred electives, staff are navigating as best as possible.
 - ii. Staffing
 1. Huge turnaround this year, unique for SWH (principal, two assistant principals, family-school liaison worker, business manager, registrar, library tech, six new teachers)
 2. Family-School Liaison Worker
 - a. A number of schools in EIPS already have this role, new to schools in Sherwood Park.

- b. Providing another layer of student support as well as family support.
- b. Student Mental Health – Amit Mali
 - i. Major point of emphasis for Trustees, Division and SWH staff.
- c. Beautification of School – Amit Mali
 - i. Ventilation Rehabilitation - \$1.5MM has been earmarked, construction will affect classroom space, staff room space. Bulk of work will be completed after school hours.
 - 1. Foyer has been completely redone; soft seating installed in main hallway on main floor.
 - 2. Will continue with areas outside of school as well: i.e.: additional benches, basketball hoops.
 - a. Potential to use Save On Foods fundraiser towards a list of “want” items with parent, student, and staff input. Tabled to next meeting.
 - ii. Friday newsletters from administration will offer an opportunity to inform parents of ongoing issues and celebrations.
 - 1. Recent TikTok challenge leading to vandalism in the bathrooms.
- d. Positive Referral Program – Amit Mali
 - i. New program at SWH – if students are caught helping out, staff can give them positive referral to add to a draw in the office. Prizes include donations from various businesses in the community.
- e. EIPS Trustee Elections – Jacquie Surgenor
 - i. www.elkislandelections.ca
- f. SWH Replacement Project – Jacquie Surgenor / Trina Boymook
 - i. www.ReplaceSherwoodHeights.ca
 - 1. Highlights from capital plans (dating back to early 1990s)
 - 2. Value Scoping Session
 - 3. Information on Call to Action
- g. Staff Recognition Idea – Jacquie Surgenor
 - i. Acknowledgment form that can be completed by parents or students to then be emailed to teacher, can be easily administered, will be sent out in Friday newsletters.

7. Information Reports

- a. Committee of School Councils (COSC) – Lesley Bowman
 - i. One of the oldest committees in the province, includes Trustee reports, Alberta Teachers Association (ATA) reports.
 - ii. Election, operational updates, COVID updates, Saffron series, AHS parent supports, EIPS operational guidelines, new curriculum
- b. Band
 - i. No update.
- c. Logos Report
 - i. October 5 – Logos Crossroads Bible Study will start – we are doing Youth Alpha led by Pastor Joe Battison from The Park Church
 - ii. 1st week of November – chapel led by Celebration Church
 - iii. There is a "Prayer Box" in the school office so that if anyone (staff, students, parents, or anyone else) would like us to pray for a need in their life, we will! There are little slips of paper on the outside of the box...just fill one out, pop it into the slot on the top, and we will pray for you!
 - iv. Prayer at the Pole: On September 15th, Logos staff, students, parents and others who joined us gathered around the school's flag pole to pray together for the current school year, students, staff, etc. We had a very good turnout with coffee and snacks afterward.
 - v. Bless The Staff: Logos donated a bouquet of flowers for the first staff meeting of the year as a "welcome back".
- d. French Immersion – Fatou Moukoro
 - i. No update.
- e. Family-School Liaison Worker – Jessica Moen
 - i. Role in the school is part of the counselling team with Jess Miskiw. Work on-on-one with students and with groups. A lot of interaction directly with families, helping via phone calls, [emails](#) and with resources within community (Boys & Girls Club, Family Services, RCMP).
 - ii. Involvement with Saffron and RCMP, already booked Grade 9s with four sessions specifically discussing gender norms, boundaries, clear communication, bystander intervention, conflict resolution.

- iii. School Resource Officers (SRO) back in the building in about two weeks. Will be able to work with families throughout all stages of school (possibly elementary through junior high through high school).
 - iv. Investigation another virtual parent night led by Saffron.
 - v. QR codes set up around the school for students to access immediate contact with in-school resources.
- f. Principal's Report – Amit Mali
- i. Covered in New Business.
 - ii. Questions / comments
 - 1. Thank you for providing the grade 7 students with school t-shirts!
 - 2. How are students placed into homerooms?
 - a. For grade 8 and 9, teachers and counsellors work together to define where there may be issues or conflict, and opportunities to keep students together or apart.
 - b. For grade 7, staff work with counsellors from the elementary schools to define positioning for students.
 - 3. Why are the French Immersion classes so far apart, physically, from each other?
 - a. Due to the layout of the school, silos are created within programs (French Immersion, Logos, IMPACT, Honors, etc.). Cohorting regulations are contributing to this. Staff are making an extra effort to avoid these silos; teachers are creating additional clubs and groups over lunch hour to offer students opportunities to mingle.
- g. Trustee Report – Trina Boymook
- i. The Board met over the summer to review the return to school guidelines. The Board held a special meeting on August 18th to consider masking protocols and again on September 2nd to address the quickly changing landscape around the rapid rate of COVID's presence in our communities. On September 15th, the province introduced masking requirements for schools. Over the weekend, updated health guidelines for schools were released. Parents have received an email outlining the changes to the protocols that EIPS has introduced in response to the

update. Extra measures have also been introduced for those schools declared as an outbreak school by AHS.

- ii. Just a reminder that the Board has invested \$1MM from reserves to address learning gaps as part of our COVID recovery plan over the next 2 years, as well as \$500K to enhance schools' social emotional supports. As a safety measure, the Board will maintain the cleaning and sanitizing protocols introduced last year as part of our response to COVID plan. \$2.1MM has been allocated to keep it in place.
- iii. The Board will be making an application to access some of the \$45MM that the Minister has made available to address learning achievement gaps for Grades 1-3.
- iv. At the September 2nd Special Meeting, the Board approved a motion to amend our division calendar to make September 30th a school closure day. This is in response to the Federal Government decision to provide a statutory holiday to reflect on Truth and Reconciliation.
- v. The Board of Trustees have sent the Minister of Education a copy of the work that was completed over the summer on draft K-6 curriculum. The letter outlines our concerns with the draft curriculum and provides detailed information on what we specifically would like to see be addressed before it is implemented in schools.
- vi. The Board held a special meeting on September 20th to address a projected student transportation budget shortfall by allocating up to \$325K from reserves. This commitment will allow us to maintain the level of routes that we budgeted for.
- vii. The first Committee of School Councils (COSC) meeting will be held on October 6 and will be virtual for the first meeting.
- viii. Questions / comments
 1. How is the Learning Achievement Gap being measured?
 - a. STAR (literacy) & MIPI (numeracy) are benchmark tools used for assessments.
 2. Is there a noticeable difference between pre-COVID and now?
 - a. Students are expected to achieve certain milestones each year, fewer students have been achieving these milestones over the past year. Learning interventions have been found to be not effective with online learning. This is one of the reasons, along with budget, why online learning is not offered this year.

3. What defines a school being in an outbreak status?
 - a. While AHS no longer reports individual COVID-19 cases to EIPS, the Division advises AHS and Alberta Education when there's an illness absentee rate of 10% or more. AHS then investigates and determines next steps. If an outbreak's declared, the school often adds temporary public-health measures to manage and control the outbreak. Possible measures can include cohorting, masking, physical distancing, gathering and extracurricular restrictions, enhanced cleaning, or at-home learning. Most of the COVID cases to date have been identified by the families, not by AHS.
 - b. The Division is advocating for AHS to resume contact tracing within the schools (to be completed by AHS, not the schools).

8. Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

- a. October 26, 2021
 - b. November 23, 2021
 - c. January 25, 2022
 - d. February 22, 2022
 - e. March 22, 2022
 - f. April 26, 2022
 - g. May 24, 2022
9. Jacquie Surgenor adjourns the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 26th, 2021, at 6:30pm, virtually via Microsoft Teams.

These minutes are submitted by Lorena Ellsworth, Secretary.

Adopted by Council in the meeting of October 26th, 2021.

Jacquie Surgenor, Chair