

**Sherwood Heights Junior High School Council  
DRAFT Meeting Minutes for October 25, 2022**

**In Attendance**

Executive: Jacquie Surgenor (Chair)

Administration: Amit Mali (Principal), Jess Miskiw (Assistant Principal)

Community: Trina Boymook (Elk Island Public Schools [EIPS] Board Chair)

Parents & Staff: Michelle Johnson, Cara Kern, Debbie Klita, Erin Malec, Michael Schnell

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

Jacquie Surgenor called the Sherwood Heights Junior High (SWH) School Council meeting to order at 6:30pm and provided the Treaty 6 Acknowledgement.

**2. Approval of September 20, 2022 Minutes**

By consensus.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

By consensus.

**4. New Business**

**a. October 6<sup>th</sup> Wellness Conference**

Jess Miskiw gave a summary and showed a short video of photos from the first-of-its-kind full day conference-style event that our students attended on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Students signed up for multiple sessions on a wide variety of health and wellness-related topics presented by staff and thirty community partners. Jess said student attendance and behaviour were both great, a good indication of success. Students were also asked to complete a follow-up survey which showed 66% of respondents rated the event with a score of 8 out of 10 or higher, and approximately 80% rated it at 7 out of 10 or higher.

**b. Student Mental Health**

Jess shared the use of the reset room since the start of the school year is less than last year perhaps because most students have settled back into school well. This is a great trend to see.

November 14-18 is Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week during which students will learn more about this topic as it is tied into the framework of the Indigenous Seven Sacred Teachings.

### **c. School Council Engagement Grant**

Jacquie shared that each EIPS school council receives a \$500 provincial government Alberta School Council Engagement Grant to be used towards a professional development type of experience between parents and their school. This will need to occur before June 30, 2023. Last year, the division school councils pooled their grant money towards 3 different speaker sessions available to all families.

### **d. Parent Engagement**

Jacquie led a discussion around the following questions:

- How do parents expect to be engaged at the junior high level?
- How do we define parent engagement?
- What expectations do parents have in terms of engagement?

Feedback:

- School-level engagement may look different than division-level.
- The annual provincial grade 7 assurance survey questions are sometimes difficult to interpret by parents so results may not be as informative as hoped for.
- Find more places where parents currently don't have a voice but want to have the chance to have a voice beyond a survey that only provides "yes/no" questions.
- Approach parents in person on parent-student-teacher interview nights with the chance to provide feedback on a specific question or issue.
- Keep newsletter content as current as possible.
- Host/attend parent information nights that present the same content students would have received from outside presenters to help with shared language at home.

This topic will be an on-going effort throughout the school year.

### **e. Save On Foods Fundraiser**

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

SWH has partnered over the past few years with Save on Foods Wye Road location only with their grocery shop fundraiser. After shopping at the Wye Road location, families can send in their original receipts to the school office and Save on Foods will provide 5% of all eligible receipt totals as a donation to our school.

School council, Mrs. Alexander's leadership students, and Candace Lyles [SWH Business Manager] have teamed up to administer the program this year. The leadership students have put posters around the school and the weekly school newsletter has an article to also help promote the fundraiser. Jacquie recently dropped off about \$24,000 worth of receipts for which we will earn 5% of the total amount eligible. Wow!!

It was asked if school council has done a casino as a fundraiser. This is an activity the band association has done in the past as they are an organization that is able to process money from fundraisers as school councils are not eligible for casinos or any type of fundraising requiring an AGLC licence.

**f. Staff Recognition Program** [[www.RecognizeSWH.ca](http://www.RecognizeSWH.ca)]

Jacquie shared that this short web form, which was also used last year for submitting kudos to staff, can be utilized by either parents or students. As an easy way to access it, the link is being made available in the weekly school newsletter.

**g. SWH Replacement Project Update**

Jacquie shared the following email sent on October 25<sup>th</sup> on behalf of SWH School Council.

Dear Premier Smith, Minister LaGrange, Minister Glubish, and MLA Walker,

I am writing to you on behalf of Sherwood Heights School Council to express our deep concern about the Sherwood Heights replacement school project.

We were so excited when the announcement about receiving design funding was made in March.

The update we received at our September 20<sup>th</sup> school council meeting was extremely disappointing. As of that date, information about the design funding had not yet been received by Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS). Even more upsetting to parents was the possibility that this build could be a P3 build.

The advocacy for this replacement school goes back many years. EIPS has met multiple governments' expectations.

Firstly, we heard that the government wanted EIPS to secure partnerships, which they did with Strathcona County and the Boys and Girls Club of Strathcona County in 2017-18.

With the current government (in 2020), we went through the value scoping project in which the Board approved the recommendation to combine Sherwood Heights and Campbelltown schools.

This school is in desperate need of replacement and the delays are a continual disappointment. In addition, we heard that if the school is a P3, that we will lose the partnerships that the Board has worked so hard to solidify. We have the opportunity to build a community hub with this building and that is in jeopardy. Additionally, we understand that if we proceed with a P3 build, that the school could be bundled with several schools and that the actual build could take many more years to complete.

We have been told by the Board that they are ready to proceed. They have a process which has been refined over the past few school build projects and can move to design and then to building very quickly which is what this project needs.

We also understand that there is an opportunity to explain why a P3 is not appropriate for this project. Here are our reasons why a P3 is an unacceptable solution:

- The building is in dire need of replacement and has been for many years. Each year we wait, we risk catastrophic failure of a major component. The boiler system is so old that we can not get parts for it anymore.
- Each year we put money into maintenance is a waste of money. We need to do it, as students and staff deserve heat and water (both of which have been large issues in the past), however, sinking money into a building that will be replaced is also wasteful.
- The building is woefully inadequate for the number of students it serves. The lack of gymnasium space alone poses enormous pressure on staff as they try to program for too many students in not nearly enough space. This lack of appropriate space is mirrored in other program areas such as fine arts and CTS.
- Parents are aware of the Alberta Infrastructure led modernization of Fultonvale Elementary Junior High that finished later and over budget and was grossly misappropriately handled. EIPS run projects have come in on time and on budget. This build is a large project and needs to be run by people close to the situation.
- The solution that was proposed during the value scoping, and later approved by the Board, is very unique. P3 builds are best for standard builds, but a K-9 school of 1000-1200 students with a larger junior high is unique and a cookie cutter design and build will not meet the needs of the students.
- Losing the partnerships with Strathcona County and the Boys and Girls Club of Strathcona County is unacceptable to parents. Both of these organizations have strong ties to our community, and we should be looking at how we can align resources and rather than creating barriers.

A replacement school for Sherwood Heights has been on the school council agenda for almost a decade (and probably longer). The delays are upsetting to parents who expected to be further along this journey than we are at this moment.

As we close 2022, we hope that we can move this project forward in a way that honours both the pressing need, and the work that has been done so far. We hope that this letter brings another perspective as to why that this project should not be a P3, and that we will be able to take the next step quickly. We are happy to invite any of you to attend one of our school council meetings to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Jacquie Surgenor  
Chair, Sherwood Heights School Council

cc. Trina Boymook, Chair, Elk Island Public School  
Mark Liguori, Superintendent, Elk Island Public Schools  
Sandra Stoddard, Associate Superintendent, Elk Island Public Schools  
Amit Mali, Principal, Sherwood Heights Junior High  
Sherwood Heights School Council members

Jacquie has posted a recent update and informational video on the website [www.ReplaceSherwoodHeights.ca](http://www.ReplaceSherwoodHeights.ca). This is also where you can find contact information if you would like to write a letter of support to a government leader as more parental pressure on our government officials may encourage the new build process to move forward more quickly, and as a non-P3 (public-private partnership) project administered by EIPS.

## 5. Information Reports

### a. COSC Report [<https://www.eips.ca/parents/committee-of-school-councils-cosc>]

Jacque shared the first meeting of the EIPS Committee of School Councils (COSC) on October 5<sup>th</sup> was well attended. The COSC executive were elected and EIPS administration presented on 2 topics: the EIPS Three-Year Engagement Plan and new curriculum and assessment tools.

### b. Principal's Report

- Amit and Aaron Tuckwood [SWH Assistant Principal] have been attending a weekly new building committee meeting. Jess and Aaron had the opportunity this week to tour 4 Edmonton Public Schools new builds and saw elementary schools, a junior high and a high school that were constructed in the past 2 years.
- Jess's last day before maternity leave is next Friday. No decision on a replacement Assistant Principal has been made yet.
- October 5<sup>th</sup> was the Treaty 6 and Métis Flag Raising Ceremony with Jeremy Albert [Advisor on the EIPS First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education team] in attendance.
- October 6<sup>th</sup> was the Wellness Conference.
- October 7<sup>th</sup> was a Professional Learning day focusing on FNMI, Small Group Instruction and Gradebook.
- October 12<sup>th</sup> was Fall Awards night held in the gymnasium to hand out academic awards for honours in core subjects (each grade), top student in each complementary courses (each grade), the Logos Award and the Cougar Award. Honourable Mentions were handed out to students during school on a different day as the school gym was not large enough to host this many students' families.
- October 26<sup>th</sup> is a public engagement session at Heritage Hills Elementary School for the review of the secondary French Immersion program.
- The SWH bus expires this year after its 15-year term. The size of the current bus limits it's use to mainly extracurricular athletics. Administration has decided not to replace the bus next year due to very high costs.
- Upcoming school events include:
  - Logos afternoon on Wednesday, October 26;
  - various Halloween-themed activities on Monday, October 31;
  - Take Your Kids to Work Day (grade 9's only) and early dismissal on Wednesday, November 2;
  - and in person parent-student-teacher interviews on Tuesday, November 1 and Thursday, November 3. A big thank you to Mr. Parr for organizing the Halloween activities and babysitting services on interview nights.
- The wall-mounted scoreboard in our gym has recently finished its life cycle and will be replaced with portable desk-sized scoreboards, hopefully funded by the division.
- Amit and the F.R. Haythorne principal recently met with Ryan Marshall [EIPS Director Instructional Supports] to discuss how to build on the division's Junior

High Honours Program to make it more extensive at each school than how it is currently described by the division.

It was asked what criteria was needed to earn an honours award and a complementary course award. Honours required achieving a combined average of at least 80% in the 4 core courses (language arts, social studies, science, mathematics) and is a division standard. Complementary course awards are for student who has achieved the top grade in each of the options and are chosen by the teacher. The physical education award goes to the top male and top female in each grade.

It was asked if the highest academic awards which award a plaque and money to a student in each grade, as mentioned in the student handbook, might occur again at our school. Amit will look into this for next year.

It was asked if there is no longer a bus for athletics, will these extracurricular fees decrease. Yes.

It was asked if an athletics game starts at 4pm but both parents work, how would the athlete be able to attend their game. The volunteer driver form is being adjusted to allow other parents to drive athletes in this situation, and on occasion a bus may be rented, for example if a longer distance to game is required.

It was asked if there will be other school dances throughout the year besides the one being organized by Leadership 8 students on Halloween afternoon. Amit explained this first dance of the year will be a test drive for future events, depending on student participation and behaviour. The dance is limited to the last hour of the school day. Alternate activities will be available around the school for those not wanting to try the dance.

### **c. Trustee's Report**

Trina Boymook shared the following information.

The Board is tentatively considering the possible changes to junior high boundaries for the following neighbourhoods: Brentwood, Nottingham, Summerwood and Jubilee Landing at the November 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Consolidation of the elementary Logos program has been deferred to the spring following the 2023-24 registration.

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, EIPS will be starting a new public engagement discussion on the location of the secondary French immersion program. Conversations will explore moving the secondary program from Ardrossan Junior Senior High School to Sherwood Heights Junior High School with the senior high program relocated to Bev Facey Community High School.

The Board approved status quo calendars for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years.

Last week, the Board launched its first quarterly communication to parents and staff that highlight the Board's advocacy efforts.

School Assurance Reviews will be conducted the first week of December instead of the end of November due to the late release of PAT and DIP results. The session for junior high schools is scheduled for Monday, December 5, from 9-11:30am.

It was asked if boundary changes were to be implemented, how would they occur. Three different scenarios of how they might occur were discussed with the final decision being made at the November 17 Board meeting. Trina also suggested viewing the Board meeting packages which are available on the EIPS website [[eips.ca/trustees/meetings](https://eips.ca/trustees/meetings)] the same week as the meeting.

A parent expressed their compliments to the Board about the Advocacy in Action quarterly communication.

It was asked how changes to the locations of the French Immersion program will impact advocacy for the Sherwood Heights replacement school. These are being taken into consideration with the French Immersion program changes being decided near the end of June 2023.

## **6. Adjournment**

Jacque adjourned the meeting at 8:24pm.