

Sherwood Heights Junior High School Council

DRAFT Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2024

In Attendance

Executive: Kim Scott (Vice Chair), Becky Mitchell (Secretary)

Administration: Aaron Tuckwood (Acting Principal), Malori Sparrow (Acting AP), Jess Miskiw (AP), Jess Moen

Parents & Staff: Cara K, Debbie K, Melissa M, Cathy Allen (Trustee), Andrea K, Krystal G

1. Welcome & Introductions

Kim S (Vice Chair). called the Sherwood Heights Junior High (SWH) School Council meeting to order at 6:05pm.

2. Approval of January 2023 Minutes

Kim S motioned to approve January 2023 minutes
Motion unanimous and carried

3. Approval of Agenda

Kim S motioned to approve agenda

-Change of format noted. There will not be open question section for parents. All agenda items must be approved through SC chair before meeting agenda is set.

Motion unanimous and carried

4. New Business

a. COSC Report

- Kim attended last COSC meeting
- Main updates are ASCA conference
- Focus on Resolutions

Highlights from COSC Meeting

EIPS ANNUAL FEEDBACK SURVEY: For Parents and Caregivers

EIPS Associate Superintendent Ryan Marshall asked for COSC members help with promoting the [EIPS Annual Feedback Survey: For Parents and Caregivers](#). He encouraged members to talk about the survey at school council meetings, parent-teacher interviews and other relevant events. A PDF of the survey questions and a survey QR code poster are available in the [March COSC meeting package](#). If you're looking for physical copies of the questions or posters, there are some left over from the meeting. If you'd like to pick some up from EIPS Central Services, contact [Emma Small](#).

WHAT ASCA DOES FOR SCHOOL COUNCILS AND RESOLUTIONS FOR THE AGM

Representatives from the [Alberta School Councils' Association](#) (ASCA) presented at the meeting. ASCA Executive Director Wendy Keiver discussed what ASCA offers to school councils, including learning opportunities, support services, resources and more. Brandi Rai, President of the ASCA Board of Directors, spoke about ASCA's advocacy efforts and the [resolutions](#) that will be voted on at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). A [recording](#) of the presentation is available for all COSC members unavailable to attend. The presentation was invaluable and a highly recommended watch for those looking to understand ASCA's role.

Sherwood Heights Junior High School Council
DRAFT Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2024

5. Information Reports

a. Principal's Report

Aaron Tuckwood, Acting Principal shared the following information

Staff changes

- Grade 9 farewell- student prefer field trip over evening event.
 - Options are Millennium Place and maybe others
 - After spring break staff will meet again for details.
 - Photographer hired in May for Grade 9 photos
- Course selections happening for grade 9s- more information for parents and students in the coming weeks
- Grade 7 completed assurance survey, grade 9s doing theirs now. Also available to parents.
- Quebec Trip- fundraising and planning happening. Finals meetings for trip in May
- May 24th is wellness day
- Athletics- Basketball wrapping up
- Handball and badminton starting soon- very popular with students this year.

24-25 Fees Update

- Administration presented all fees and highlighted changes.
- Fees have not changed a lot from 23-24
- All options are cost recovery
- Explained the high cost of referee fees in sports that raise costs of sport fees.

Student supports

- mental health sessions with brain and anxiety wrapping up.
- Finished grade 9 presentations, personality tests and careers
- Grade 8 career presentation after spring break
- May 24 looking for parent volunteers for wellness day
- Still looking for more sessions
- Program guide coming out soon, students will then have opportunity to choose sessions
- Morning snack- still hoping for partnership with parents with that event
 - Kim Asked:** do we want to get donations? School will use Save-On foods money to purchase snacks.
- Parent volunteers needed for day

*Email will be sent home to parents to let them know about event, ask for volunteers and sessions.

Indigenous self-identified students:

- After spring break beginning weekly smudges
- Ribbon skirt making and drum sessions in April

Parent Feed back and questions about School Presentation

Sherwood Heights Junior High School Council

DRAFT Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2024

Debbie K: Thank you for skills Alberta for grade 9s and getting Honours Plaque up in Hallway

Debbie K asked for clarification around PATs- Aaron stated students are welcome to stay after exams for extra help. The dates are set through division and province.

Andrea: Kudos to guess the staff member in the daily agenda. Athletic Calendar being up to date is really appreciated

Hot Lunch clarification: It is a Band fundraiser.

b. Trustee's Report

THREE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY: FRENCH IMMERSION AND SENIOR HIGH ENROLMENT

As part of EIPS' Three-Year Engagement Plan, the Division has put significant work into exploring how best to enhance its French Immersion program addressing enrolment pressures, boosting program retention and balancing enrolment. To develop a solution, EIPS undertook a year-long public engagement effort that included four phases of consultations with the school community—families, students, staff and community members.

The Board approved a solution to best address the anticipated enrolment pressures in Ardrossan, enhance French Immersion program retention and balance senior high enrolment in Sherwood Park:

- relocate EIPS' senior high French Immersion program, grades 10-12, to Salisbury Composite High effective when the new Sherwood Park replacement school opens, expected in the 2026-27 school year.
- adjust Strathcona County's senior high attendance boundaries for Lakeland Ridge to be redesignated to Bev Facey Community High effective when the new Sherwood Park replacement school opens, expected in the 2026-27 school year.
- adjust the French Immersion junior high attendance boundaries for Cambrian Crossing, to be redesignated to Sherwood Heights Junior High effective in the 2024-25 school year.

Now approved, EIPS will engage families and staff to develop an implementation plan to ensure a smooth transition for everyone when the changes take effect.

SCHOOL FEE PARAMETERS: 2024-25

The Board approved the school fee parameters for the 2024-25 school year. Overall, the 2024-25 school fee parameters are similar to the previous year. Highlights include:

Optional-courses fees – five per cent allowable increase, up to seven per cent for food courses
Noon-supervision fees – five per cent allowable increase
Activity fees – five per cent allowable increase
Extracurricular fees – five per cent allowable increase
Non-curricular travel fees – five per cent allowable increase
Non-curricular goods and services fees – five per cent allowable increase

Schools must set all fees at a cost-recovery rate. If fees are over-charged by more than \$10 a student, schools must refund that amount to the student through credit. Additionally, if any fees exceed the listed parameters, the school must submit an explanation for EIPS' Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer to review. With the fee parameters now approved, schools can begin establishing their 2024-25 School Fees Schedule.

2024 ASCA SCHOOL COUNCIL CONFERENCE AND AGM: REGISTRATION SPONSORSHIP

Sherwood Heights Junior High School Council

DRAFT Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2024

The Board approved sponsoring the registration fee for school council members to participate in the 2024 Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) School Council Conference and Annual General Meeting on April 26-28 for one member per school council up to a maximum of \$5,000.

LEVERAGING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FUND INITIATIVES

The Board received for information the Leveraging Student Achievement (LSA) Fund Initiative Report. In total, the LSA fund balance is \$101,000 and will be used to support initiatives that focus on student learning needs and equity of student programming. For 2023-24, planned LSA initiatives all focus on junior high literacy and numeracy, areas where the Division still sees the highest level of learning loss since the pandemic. Specifically, the Division has hired two lead teachers, one for literacy and one for numeracy, to support EIPS' junior high schools, working directly with struggling students and with teachers to help plan, develop, deliver and assess lessons to address learning loss. The goal, of course, is to improve educational outcomes for students in literacy and numeracy; enhance professional learning; and improve supports for students, staff and families.

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA PROPOSED POLICIES ANNOUNCED BY PREMIER SMITH

Alberta school board trustees attended a virtual meeting with the Minister of Education on February 5, 2024, during which the minister outlined the proposed policies related to:

- students altering their name or pronouns used by teachers, administration and educational staff
- the opt in process for parents and guardians in any instance when a teacher provides formal instruction on subject matter involving gender identity, sexual orientation or human sexuality
- approval by the Ministry of Education for all third-party resource materials or presentations related to gender identity, sexual orientation or human sexuality

There will be continued conversations with the Minister of Education as he has requested feedback from the trustees. The EIPS Board of Trustees will provide feedback on the proposed policies to the Minister of Education.

In EIPS we teach the Alberta curriculum and we adhere to all requirements under the *Education Act*. EIPS remains committed to Policy 19 Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning and Working Environments that respect diversity and foster a sense of belonging. All individuals within the Division have the right to learn and work in settings that promote equality of opportunity, dignity and respect regardless of race, age, ancestry, place of origin, colour, religious beliefs, gender, gender identity, gender expression, physical or mental disability, marital status, family status, socioeconomic status and sexual orientation.

Every EIPS student is valued and every EIPS student is important. Every EIPS employee is valued and is important. EIPS supports open communication with parents and guardians because we are partners in their children's education.

DID YOU KNOW?

Section 58.1 of the current Education Act requires school boards to notify parents and caregivers when courses, programs of study, instructional materials, instruction or exercises contain subject matter that deals primarily with human sexuality. Included in this notice is always an opportunity for parents and caregivers to opt out of the instruction without any academic penalty to the student. It's a practice that's been in place since 2014, and one that EIPS has consistently followed.

Please contact me with questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Allen

Sherwood Heights Junior High School Council
DRAFT Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2024

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Parent feedback and questions about Trustee Presentation

-No feedback

6. Adjournment

Closing note: Next Parent Council Meeting: Tuesday April 16, 2024 @ 6:30pm. Focus for Parents at the next Council Meeting - ASCA Resolutions

Kim adjourned the meeting at 7:03pm.