

Elementary School Council Meeting
Wednesday, September 8, 2021 - 7:15pm
Online via Google Meet

People in Attendance:

Devon Marshall	Aileen Bozic	Jen Oosterveld
Leah Unrau	Ryan Marshall	Ayodeji Aderbigbe
Leah Schmidt	Mark/Karen Hauca	Jonathan Stephenson
Heather Lewis	Lavanya Saravanan-Shruthi	Joseph/Sarah
Elaine Reed	Dan Wittmeier	Ganczar
Sarah Dyck	Brett/Lisa Harke	DJ Gingham
Gillian Orquia	Jon/Andrea Elzinga	Phillip/Jacqueline
Kristen Tymchak	Brad/Jenn Laurie	Newgard
Francis Poole	Kelly Tebay	Jannah Meints
Jaime Peters	Melissa Seglie	Jess McCaughey
Darlene Janzen	Laura Volkman	Sara Eliason
Janet Vader	Jen Reirson	
Jim Seutter	Sarah Gericke	
Nate Peters	Teresa Tessier	
Steve Mebs	Sandy Rysavy	
Grace Albers	Ryan Davis	

Introductions by Devon

- Executive Council Members
 - Devon Marshall: Chair
 - Leah Unrau: Vice Chair
 - Leah Schmidt: Treasurer
 - Heather Lewis: Secretary
 - Shannon Anderson: School Community Coordinator
 - Elaine Reed: Staff Ambassador
 - Kristin Tymchak: Service Coordinator
 - Sarah Dyck: Key Communicator
 - Gillian Orquia: Compassion Coordinator

Sherwood Park Alliance Church Elder Representative: Grace Albers

Principal and Assistant Principals: Mr. Poole, Mrs. Peters, Ms. Janzen

School Trustee: Jim Seutter

Teacher Representative: Janet Vader

Society Members: Nate Peters, Steve Mebs

Devotion by Devon about Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

God arranges His day so He can meet with us!
God intentionally pursues us.

Approval of Agenda for the evening:

Motion for approval: Elaine Reed

Secunder: Leah Schmidt

Motion carried

Motion for AGM minutes as circulated in June: Leah Unrau

Secunder: Sarah Dyck

Motion carried

Council Operating Procedures

Devon quickly explained what they are

Shared the council mission: To honour God in all that we do and in an advisory capacity, to facilitate and participate in discussions and activities that will enhance students' spiritual, physical, mental, emotional, and academic growth and overall well-being of our school community and community at large

Devon shared the purpose of School Councils (from the School Council Resource Guide)

We are a Representative model: All parents are welcome and can discuss and ask questions

We have 9 executive representatives who listen and will vote based on parental discussion

Executive members commit to 2 year terms in a specific role

We have a code of ethics that all parents in SCA are required to abide by at meetings

Talked about the process of discussions, recognizing that we may not always agree but we need to engage in honest and respectful conversation

Budget and Accounting Report from Leah Schmidt

Bank Balance Aug 31: \$6,874.16

Outstanding hot lunches: \$1,268.77

Outstanding cheques: \$342.83

Compassion and Connection Fund (C&C): \$3,431.86

Accessible Funds: \$1,830.70

The money we receive comes from Hot Lunch and Chip Day—Covid made a big impact on the amount that is available to us this year

New Staff Appreciation: \$15 gift card to welcome them

Grade 1 Literacy Night: School council usually contributes financially

COSC information (Council of School Councils)

Once a month a representative from every school meets

At the meetings, reports and presentations are made from either our Superintendent and Central staff or Board of Trustees.

It's a parent run meeting and gives opportunity for greater discussion on what is happening in our district and for our school councils to support one another or share resources.

First meeting will be Oct. 6

EIPS Trustee Report: Trustee Jim Seutter

September 2021 Trustee Seutter Report

"We begin what we hope will be a great year of learning and personal growth for all the over 16,000 students in Elk Island Public Schools."

Covid-19 - Masking and Vaccinations Regulations. They have been a moving target and very controversial. Hopefully we have it right as we try to operate as close to normal as possible. For information see EIPS Operating Guidelines 2021-22 and EIPS FAQs: School Operations 2021-22

K-6 Draft Curriculum- Has implementation issues and controversy. A working group of 60 EIPS teachers and consultants studied the scope and sequences July 5-9. The plan is to use the PL days to prepare staff for implementation September 2022. The many concerns are noted in the Board minutes of Sept 2, 2021. Our EIPS recommendation is to implement only K/1 curriculum for September 2022.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation was approved for Thursday, September 30 (federal holiday - no school)

School Trustee/Municipal Election - October 18, 2021
(Nomination Deadline Day is September 20, 2021)

Questions:

Will the new curriculum be in place for September 2022?

The government is insisting it's their goal

It will be going ahead for at least 1 year

Sept. 30: Day of Truth and Reconciliation: Will division still have an in school day to recognize it?

Schools will do activities the day before

Will the day off on Sept.30 extend the school year next year because of the extra day off?

Don't know yet

SCA Society Report: Nate Peters

Initiative for the Governance Document kicked off last year

-formal agreement how to all work together

-compiled a list of concerns — taken to the SPAC Board of Elders

Work was done through the spring and summer

We have an unapproved draft that was presented to the Board of Elders in August

There is a summary on the SCA Society website : scasociety.ca

Any feedback from parents should be emailed to the society by the end of September: scasociety@spac.ca

Questions:

How soon will we see actual numbers?

Very soon — by October meetings

Capital expenditures — big shift — What is happening to remaining funds in PropCo?

They will draw fees to pay the mortgage; if the school lease is up before the mortgage is up the money left might cover remaining mortgage or could cover other projects

In previous years there was a SPAC management fee in the budget. Will it still be there?

They went down to 1 society member; they use accounting and management services; the money is for the person they use at SPAC to do the work

Comment:

Thanks for all the hard work in hearing concerns and working towards change and transparency.

Future capital expenditures — concern about it coming all from fundraising — the board should set aside money in a fund for future expenditures (Jim Seutter)

Response: big outcry from parents last year; they wanted to donate and get a tax receipt

Wrong direction (Francis Poole) — starting at square one for fundraising is very difficult; need to strongly look at this; hard to raise large amounts of money as a

council; parents won't like a huge amount being taken for capital but should be some

—Parent backup to this comment — yes; have some put away; good planning; no problem even if their kids don't see it in their time at the school

Question: How do they do it at public schools?

The government gives money

Society Annual Planning Cycle — good for Council Feedback

Need to finalize draft with the task force based on parent feedback

Approve draft at October Society and Board of Elders Meeting

Publish Appendices in agreement

Parent Question: Is it set up to donate to Capital expenditures?

— not right now; only with school fees

— Alumni; some want to contribute

— some parent might want to make up the shortfall

Will we be reissued docuSigns in October?

- no; this would be an agreement between the Society and SPAC

Has SCA/committees reached out to parents on how they can help? (ie. engineers, other tradespeople to help do projects to cut down on costs)

-haven't looked at it; maybe in the future

Grace Albers: The Elders board appreciates the parent feedback

Principal's Report: Mr. Poole

2021/2022 Key Areas: try to return school life to as normal as possible

- last year was crazy with kids in and out, quarantine, staff out, online learning

- in a much better place this year

- number of online/homeschool learners have come back— trying to catch them back up

- trying to balance parent expectations

COVID-19 Update

- masking — 5% have medical exemptions

- no quarantine if there's a positive case

- no cohosting — kids can play with each other— HUGE for mental health

Traffic Safety Update

- no left turn into parking lot
- School Council brought up concerns last year
- best one to deal with was the left turn (very dangerous)
- traffic flow is better
- more positive parent comments than negative

Field Trips

- full intention is to have them
- lots to work out depending on what's open, etc
- no Cross Country this fall — organizing group isn't doing it this year
- Yes to field trips!!!!

Retreats: Grade 4/5/6

- no more Grade 6 Campouts - overnights have lots of risk- Elk Island asked the school to revisit the plan and make changes
- new this year: one day each for Grade 4-6
- each will have a spiritual component where Pastor Cook speaks
- Grade 4: Camp Van Es (went Sept.8)
 - kids and staff were excited
 - rotate through stations
- Grade 5: Birch Bay Ranch (Sept. 9)
 - zipline/wall climb/archery/rapelling
- Grade 6: Camp Nakamun (Sept.17)
 - longer time; go from morning until 10pm
- Volunteer Selection for retreats — boy/girl mix; criteria list

Meet the Teacher Night: Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 7:15pm

- pending until Sept.9
- most schools are going online

Hot Lunch

- Its a go!!
- parent volunteers this year with masks

Orange Shirt Day

- Sept. 29
- Mrs. Vader has a video for the kids

Terry Fox Run

- want the kids to have fun
- won't be able to have a huge amount of parents join but maybe a sign up to come

Christian PD Day: Oct. 18

- 3 Christian schools in Elk Island
- all staff at one of the churches
- fellowship time

Sept. 30 is a day in lieu for National Truth and Reconciliation

Action Items

Playground Update: Mrs. Peters

- Canadian Recreational Solutions built the new playground
- over the summer the sand and wooden borders were replaced, more swings, a new playground structure and swings for Grade 3, and an expanded playground for Grade 4-6
- there were delays for building; hard to get supplies due to Covid; waiting for swings to be finished still
- Update on grant: got an email from the grant organization that the funding was denied; follow up phone call will be coming from Mrs. Peters; they will be using extra money from their contingency plan

Question: Are you planning a ribbon cutting or grand opening ceremony?

- Will think about it but really like the idea

School Community Coordinator (Shannon Anderson—not at the meeting)

- 37 new kids this year
- Yes to a Pizza Party for them (will be a little more this year; around \$300)
- will arrange for new families to have a phone call or email

Motion to approve expenditures for welcoming new kids/families: Elaine Reed

Secunder: Leah Unrau

Motion carried

Staff Ambassador: Elaine Reed

- Welcome new staff with a \$15 gift card
- 2 new staff this year: Mr. Alstad- counsellor
Mrs. Shannon - Grade 5
- add staff gift policy to website

Key Communicator: Sarah Dyck

- Lots of parents joining the Facebook page
- she is looking for another administrator for the page

Trustee Election in the fall

- Jim Seutter is running again
- COSC (Council of School Councils) made a website about all the trustee information last election; they will be doing it again

Christmas Concert: Mr. Poole

- New problem this year: Option A: children are masked until January most likely anyways; could go to the church with a regular concert and kids and parents will be masked
- Option B: Video for each grade
- parents at the meeting were asked what their preference would be; not everybody responded but a lot said they would prefer video
- this may need to be looked at in more detail
- maybe a parent survey throughout the school; a hybrid model of the concert, etc?

Spring Musical: Mr. Poole

- up for doing it
- we have time to see
- it's been 3 years since we last had one
- we can't change the format (still tryouts; not everyone can participate in Grade 5/6)

FNMI Report (Janet Vader: representative)

- FNMI: First Nations Metis Inuit
- we partner with a school in Saddle Lake
- the principal was invited to speak at our school
- Council is willing to help support
- we will have a school wide Orange Shirt Day
- All staff have orange shirts
- videos will be played for the students
- Age appropriateness: one video for K-3 and one for 4-6
- Gr. 4 will have a more in depth talk about residential schools
- there are different topics for each grade

Bible Memory

- Executive members are required to memorize the Big 5 verses (these are the verses around the rotunda in the school)
- Mr. Poole will quiz us at random on them
- Verses to go under the School Council tab

Next Council Meeting is on Oct. 20 and then Nov. 17, Jan. 19, Mar. 9, May 11, and AGM on June 8 all starting at 7:15pm

Motion for Meeting Adjournment: Gillian Orquia
Seconded: Elaine Reed
Motion carried

Meeting Adjourned