

SCA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNCIL January School Council Meeting
January 19, 2022 at 7:15PM

Attendance: Devon Marshall, Leah Schmidt, Leah Unrau, Elaine Reed, Gillian Orquia, Sarah Dyck, Heather Lewis, Janet Vader, Darlene Janzen, Francis Poole, Jaime Peters

Lisa Harke, Kayla Toews, Jeremy Massel, Jennifer Laurie, Jon Elzinga, Kirsten Brooks, Leanne Seelochan, Sarah Gericke, Teresa Tessier, Dion Matheson, Jennifer Reirson, Allisen Khajavi, Amanda Ulrickson, Ayodeji Aderibigbe, Brody Jespersen, Elizabeth Tatchyn, Sandy Rysavy, Jessica McCaughey, Jaci Ramsden, Jon & Laura Volkman, Gabrielle Nieto, Lincoln Bennett, Charlene Mebs, Abosedo Dada, Nohemi Villatoro, Peter & Stephanie Immumorin, Jenn Oosterveld,
Minutes: Gillian Orquia

(7:15PM) Welcome & Introduction – Devon Marshall

-Good evening & welcome SCA Families! Thank you for taking time to be here tonight. If you could type your name, your students name & grade in the chat that would be helpful for attendance and if you are on Council Executive, please share which role you are in too. If at any time through out the meeting you have a question or comment, please feel free to ask it or type it in the chat.

(7:16PM) Devotional & Prayer – Leah Unrau

-I'd like to invite Leah Unrau to share a short devotional with us tonight.

-Leah shares & prays

Focus on Jesus and centering our lives around him.

-Thanks so much for sharing Leah!

(7:21PM) Agenda Approval/Previous Minutes - Devon Marshall

-At the start of each meeting, our Executive Council members will vote on approving our Agenda for the evening and if there are any additions to it; as well as the minutes from the previous meeting

-Do we have any additions to the Agenda? We need to bump Trustee Seutters Board Report to after Information Items as he is also at FTV's Council Meeting tonight.

-Could I have someone motion to approve the agenda with the revision?

- **Thank you Heather Lewis. A seconder? _____Leah Schmidt_____**
- **All in favor?**
- **Motion carried**

-Could I have someone who was in attendance at the last meeting motion to approve the minutes as circulated?

- **Thank you Elaine Reed. A seconder? Leah Unrau**
- **All in favor**
- **Motion carried**

(7:23PM) School Council Mission –Devon Marshall

I'd like to share our School Council Mission:

To honor 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, & academic growth and the overall well-being of our school community and community at large

-All parents who attend School Council meetings are encouraged to engage and participate in all conversations.

-I'd like to highlight that each parent is valued and brings a unique perspective that is worth sharing. Our code of ethics holds us to each practice the highest standards of honesty, accuracy, integrity & truth; and to respect the personal integrity of each member of our school community

(7:24PM), COSC –Devon Marshall

-We had our third COSC meeting of the year on Jan. 12. There were 29 people in attendance. Our Board Chair shared on the change in direction our government is taking with the new curriculum. In September, they will be implementing the new curriculum for LA, Math, PhysEd & Wellness for grades K-6. The social curriculum is being re-worked and the rest is on pause. Still on the table is whether or not to stagger the implementation. February is the month of Open House, Info Sessions and re-registration! The Board will be discussing Calendar options tomorrow morning in their Board meeting which you can watch online. Communication will be sent out from the Board on any updates to next years calendar.

The ATA rep shared how educators were disappointed with the e-tutoring site that the government put out as the content was not always grade appropriate. Mr Liguori gave a COVID Update. They received 2 weeks worth of test kits and masks for all students (which have been distributed). He has been encouraged with our high attendance numbers the first week back both for staff (97% staff immunized) and students. Decisions to suspend extra curriculars was his. He will reassess on the weekends for each week. He takes in to account trends of absentee rates from previous years.

Mr Ligouri shared extensively on the Annual Reports. EIPS has a 4 Year Ed Plan with specific Priorities. You can find this on EIPS' website (put link in chat) <https://www.eips.ca/download/374121> There will be common exams again this year in Junior High.

AB \$500 Grant to School Councils. Lots of discussion around this. COSC has offered to organize some relevant virtual sessions to EIPS parents. School Councils can choose to pool their money together or to put a portion of it towards the COSC sessions or to do their own thing. At the moment, COSC has tentatively booked: Dr. Jody Carrington, A professor on Curriculum from Lethbridge, someone from ASCA on Advocacy and if there is more funds available, will look into other speakers. These would be available for free to ALL parents. We will need to take a vote tonight if we would like to do our own thing or pool our money to COSC.

Are there any Questions at all?

Elaine Reed asked if the link for this meeting would be shared at all.

Devon stated she would share it in the chat when she receives it.

Link to board meeting: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9l_RXznAdad_s5jx7NFIEQ?app=desktop

(7:34PM) Budget & Accounting Report -Leah Schmidt

- Leah Schmidt, our Treasurer, will share our budget to date

-We currently have \$11,989.12 in our account at the moment.

-Any questions for Leah on our budget?

Still working off Hot lunch credits down to \$211.00

With Hot lunch after this week we will have about \$7000 in the account

-Thanks Leah!

(7:38PM) Society Report –Steve Mebs

-I'm pleased to have Steve Mebs from the Society here tonight to share an update with us

Steve shares

Society update: Court date Oct 19th. Judge reserved their decision, still waiting for the ruling

Flourishing Schools SCA has joined the culture tool developed by ACSI

Surveys to go out in February to parents, alumni, staff takes 5-10 min and is anonymous

Signing of agreement with SPAC

Approved by both boards in Oct

Had board meeting last week

Parent Survey: A lot of responses and interest more than 300
Discussed background on current fee situation
Parents cannot be removed from the school for not paying alternative program fees
Current refusal of fees \$92K
Povincial funding cut \$168K
Projected shortfall this year \$82K
Recommending a fee increase of \$60/student- hasn't been a fee increase in 8 years
Working on a policy on how to handle non-paying parents
To date 16 families have switched back to paying (\$50K)
Arrears Policy consideration
EIPS
Alberta Education
Vanguard Collections
Alternative programs
Parent survey

Drafting a policy to implement 22/23 school year

Financial assistance is available for those that are unable to pay fees (through SPAC)

Bulk of families have told us that they support the Society using a collections agency

Bulk of families are unhappy that fees will increase to cover parents that are choosing not to pay

-Thanks for sharing Steve! Any questions at all?

Elaine Reed- asked if there would be increases coming regardless because of the lack of increase for the last 8 years and not just in relation to parents not paying.

Matt Matheson -discussed the real reason why parents aren't paying fees and discussed that it is doing a disservice to just increase fees instead of getting to the root reasons for parents not paying their fees.

Mr. Poole discussed that the society has been much improved in their communication and transparency and that information and answers to questions and concerns is more easily accessible.

Steve Mebs stated the Society is still open to discussing any concerns and address outstanding issues with parents.

Jeremy Teeuwsen shared a reminder that SPAC has options to help parents that truly can't afford the fees.

Allisen Khajavi- when registration happens from EIPS there is an acknowledgment of society fees and then parents check that box and then not pay?

Mr. Poole the parents who are not paying are not accepting or signing the agreement.

Devon Marshall: Is there anywhere that parents can access the agreement with SPAC?

It should all be on the Society website www.scasociety.ca

(7:55PM) Principal's Report -Mr. Poole

-Mr. Poole is going to share on some information items. If you have any questions on any of the items that he shares on, please feel free to type them in the chat or save them as he will answer questions at the end

Mr. Poole shares on:

-COVID-19 Update last week 16 confirmed cases of covid
School provided masks and testing kits – another 20 cases this week
Average around 55 kids out/day including close contacts
Happy school is in!

Mr. Poole recommended email your teachers and thanking them for their phenomenal work during this time dealing with many different factors with covid to bus cancellations etc

-Hot Lunch/Chip Day Hot lunch on Friday Jan 21/22

-Re-registration

Starts Feb 1/22, encouraged at numbers this year for kindergarten

-PATs - Still unsure if these will go ahead this year

-P/T Interviews – most likely online again for March

- Spring Musical – possibility rehearsals will restart in the next week or two; want to start asap. Review on the weekend and decide for Monday.
- Western Day – is a go ahead and planning is underway
- Christmas Concert videos-

-Any questions for Mr. Poole?

No Questions asked

(8:08PM) EIPS Trustee Report -Trustee Jim Seutter

-Trustee Seutter will share his report at this time

Check EIPS website for most up to date source of info on COVID

New k-6 curriculum is delayed and hoping for further delays and revisions

Delayed Jr & Sr high curriculum

2170 results to the survey 1546 parents and 281 staff members responded

Key features are preserving the number of instructional days and keeping

November break

Student registration Feb 1-28/22 on Powerschool Parent Portal

-Any questions for Trustee Seutter

No Questions

(8:11PM) School Ed Plan – Mr. Poole

Tabled to next meeting in March

Mr. Poole shares

(8:14PM) \$500 AB Grant– Devon Marshall

-AB Govt is giving each School Council a \$500 grant to be used specifically for Parent Engagement. They have set guidelines as to what it can and can't be used for. For example it can not be used for any food, or any events or activities that we are currently doing. It has to be a new initiative. Does anyone have any thoughts or ideas that they'd like to pursue?

Our other option is going ahead and partnering with other School Councils in EIPS to get more bang for buck.

-Is there someone that would like to motion to partner with COSC with our \$500 grant money?

- **Thank you Elaine Reed. A seconder? Gillian Orquia**

- **All in favor? yes**
- **Motion carried**

(8:19PM) Casino Bylaw Survey Update – Mr. Poole

Many families way back were against a Casino in Sherwood Park and so there was a Bylaw that there could not be a Casino in Sherwood Park proper. A hospitality group tried to overrule the Bylaw and many people spoke against it and lots of Strathcona Council members and the mayor were in favor of the Casino but this was voted down 9-0 to not overturn the Bylaw.

(8:21PM) First Nation, Metis & Inuit – Janet Vader

-I would like to invite Mrs. Vader to share as our First nation, Metis & Inuit lead

Program Overview Wheel shared

Galations 5:14 verse in the middle to keep God at the center

Gr 1 Food tasting

Gr 2 Traditional clothing and celebrations

Gr 3 Clothing & Tools

Gr 4 Orange Shirt day teaching

Gr 5 Transportation – Metis alive presentation at the end of April

Gr 6 Blanket Exercise

Working on increases resources for students in the library with Mrs. Woelinga

Staff PD- each staff member has a resource binder in their classroom for indigenous learning topics

Partnership with Shawahnekizhek Academy

Music, Dance & Art

Mrs. Vader is happy to provide a copy of the wheel to anyone who would like it so just get in touch with her.

(8:26PM) Key Communicator – Sarah Dyck & Devon Marshall

-December update on the gifts: Facebook callout again this year for gifts for non-homeroom staff received over \$800- Gave Jacek chocolates to bus drivers and custodians

Thank you to all the parent community who were so generous and blessed the staff!

-January start Meet the Teacher (with Elaine Reed)

-December Literacy Advent – well participated, loved seeing the photos of our families and teachers and even got great book suggestions too!

(8:29PM) Assessment –Mrs. Peters

-Mrs. Peters will be sharing about assessments with us. Before you share, could you explain what assessment is for parents?

Elementary report card accessed through ParentPortal

Software program EIPS uses has been in use for the last 6 years with Defacto and the contract ends this year.

In conjunction with central office staff we will be looking to move to the Powerschool report card for next year. SCA has volunteered to pilot that report card for both term 2 & 3. New set of instructions will be emailed to parents on how to access the new report card format. It will look different but the content will remain the same. Mrs. Peters is open to any feedback from parents on this new report card system in March.

(8:32PM) Learning Disruption Funding –Mrs. Peters

-Mrs. Peters will be sharing an update on the Learning Disruption Funding

They did some screening on students in Gr 2 & 3 and received funding based on the learning gaps that were discovered during those assessments in order to bridge some of the numeracy and literacy gaps. Andrea Mackay has been meeting with small groups to work on these gaps in learning.

Assessment will start on the Gr 1. Groups in February and continue on to the end of this school year.

(8:37PM) Curriculum Update – Mr. Poole

-Mr. Poole will share a curriculum update

Nothing to share in addition to what has already been shared.

(8:41PM) School Fees – Mr. Poole

-Each year at all EIPS schools, principals are required to share what they believe will be next years school fees. This is different than our Society fees. This is for things like Field trips, etc. This is to allow parents the opportunity to provide any feedback to our Admin team.

Mr. Poole shared regarding fees. Note: Fee amounts are not confirmed until spring 2022

(8:50PM) Council Membership – Devon Marshall

-I can't believe it, but we only have 2 School Council meetings left for the year before our AGM in June! Our next meeting is on March 9th and then May 11th. I am so thrilled with our parents that take the time out of their schedule and evening to attend and participate in our School Council meetings. Thank you! I wanted to mention that if you are ever interested in joining the School Council Executive team, please feel free to reach out to myself or Mr. Poole any time! There are 9 distinct roles on our School Council (which are outlined on our website in our Operating Procedures) that range from Chair, to Treasurer to Compassion Coordinator to Staff Ambassador. It's with a sad heart, but excited for what is ahead for her and her family that I share that Gillian Orquia our Compassion Coordinator will be moving to beautiful BC at the end of March. She will be with us at our March meeting and then we will be looking for someone who is interested in joining Council in the role of Compassion Coordinator. In June, we will be saying a big thank you as well to Leah Schmidt & Elaine Reed as they finish their terms on Council as Treasurer and Staff Ambassador. I will also be finished my 2 terms as Chair. I'd encourage you to read through our Operating Procedures and ask any of us questions if you have any about being on Council. I know I've already spoken with some parents like Mrs. Harke & Mrs. Seelochan who have expressed a love for our school and interest in joining School Council. Feel free to message me through FB or I will put my cell in the chat as I could talk a lot about School Council! If you know of anyone that you think would be great to have on Council too, send them my way! Which leads us in to one of the requirements as a School Council member, which is to memorize the 5 verses in our rotunda.

Lisa Harke has stepped forward to be the next Council Chair.

(8:55PM) Bible Memory – Mr. Poole

-Members of the Executive are required to memorize what is known as the "Big 5". They are the scripture verses around the rotunda. Mr. Poole will quiz us at random on them.

Leah Unrau, Leah Schmidt & Devon Marshall recited verses.

(9:00PM) Dismissal -Devon Marshall

- Our next School Council Meeting is on March 9th
- Could I have someone motion to adjourn the meeting?
 - Thank you Elaine Reed. A seconder? Heather Lewis
 - All in favor? Yes
 - Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned. Have a fantastic night!

Council Positions

Chair: Devon Marshall

Vice Chair: Leah Unrau

Secretary: Heather Lewis

Treasurer: Leah Schmidt

Compassion Coordinator: Gillian Orquia

School Community Coordinator: Shannon Anderson

Staff Ambassador: Elaine Reed

Key Communicator: Sarah Dyck

Service Coordinator: Kristin Tymchak

