

F.R. Haythorne (FRH) Junior High School

School Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Attendance:

Krista Porter - Acting Principal	Mark Wever - Assistant Principal	Rejeita Kumar - Chair, Grade 8 Parent	Guy Martin - Grade 8 Parent
Brad Smilanich - Assistant Principal	Melanie Jimmy - Family-School Liaison Worker	Charmyn Thompson - Secretary, Grade 8 Parent	Trina Boymook - Board Trustee

- 1) Call to order/introductions - 7:00 p.m.

- 2) Land and People Acknowledgement

- 3) Approve Minutes from last meeting (January 17, 2024):
 - a) Approved - Charmyn Thompson
 - b) Seconded - Rejeita Kumar

- 4) Approve agenda:
 - a) Approved - Rejeita Kumar
 - b) Seconded - Charmyn Thompson

- 5) Trustee Report

Trina Boymook, Boards of Trustees Member

 - At January 25 Board meeting the Board approved a solution to 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; and 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. Senior administration will begin working on transition plans. Parent engagement will take place to inform the development of this plan.

- Boards and senior administrators were invited to a meeting with the Education Minister on the recent Premier announcement on future legislation on pronouns and transgender youth. The minister intends to engage Boards in conversations to inform legislation and policy development. The Board has sent a letter to the minister to express our initial concerns, share our lived experience, the importance of engaging school boards for the interest of student safety and our interest to participate in future discussion.
- The Board has introduced a “Did You Know?” series to highlight those things we think parents might want to know. February’s message was “Section 58.1 of the current Education Act, already requires school boards to notify parents and caregivers when courses, programs of study, instructional materials, and 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 instruction without academic penalty to the student. It’s a practice that has been in place since 2014 and one that EIPS has consistently followed.” There seems to be a misconception in the community that this sensitive topic is being covered without parents’ knowledge. If you ever want to learn more about what is covered and the materials used please speak to your classroom teacher or principal.
- The Budget was released on February 29 th . The education budget has increased by 4.4% to cover growth and inflation. Caution to fully cover anticipated growth and inflation would have required around 6% increase. Private schools have seen their funding increase by 13.5%. At this point we don’t know what this budget will mean for EIPS until we get the Budget manual and funding portfolio. The Board has a number of budget working sessions scheduled as we work towards establishing the 2024-25 budget.
- Sherwood Heights/Ecole Campbelltown replacement school has gone out to tender. We are expected to be in the ground this summer.
- The Board is expected to approve the reallocation of surplus dollars for its original purpose at our March 21 Board meeting. We will also be approving the Three-Year Capital Plan.

6) Administration Report

Krista Porter, Acting Principal:

- Arrived last Monday, and found it a very busy and supportive environment
- Been an enjoyable time so far
- Reminder to complete Parent Engagement survey

Mark Weaver, Assistant Principal:

- **2024 - 2025 Fees**
 - Presented the document with updated fees - also available on school website
 - A few increases that were deemed reasonable, with full transparency.
 - Some courses have maximum fees that may not be utilized but are still on the document to display the maximums.
 - The largest increase was for the grade 9 farewell festivities - from \$5 to \$10 per student.

Discussion about fees from old practices and experiences to now. The cost of providing a great hands-on learning experience has associative costs which the benefit outweighs the potential hardship - specifically when there are special circumstances where fees can be waived to ensure a student doesn't lose out on educational opportunities.

- **Grade 9 Registration**
 - Is well underway with Bev Facey admin and counselors student engagement, and parental forms
 - 27 FRH students will be attending Sal Comp, and their registration is on April 15th.
- **Grade 6 visits**
 - April 2 and April 4th, FRH administration will be visiting the 6th graders at feeder schools to give them some information on what to expect next year and to put a familiar face to the forthcoming experience.
- **Grade 7 & 8 Registration**
 - April 16th is the open house at FRH, welcoming new students and their families for a look through the school from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. while meeting staff, and learning about options.
 - April 17, students may begin choosing their options.

Registration closes on April 30, 2024.

Brad Smilanich, Assistant Principal:

- **Athletics**

- Basketball is over and badminton and handball are underway.
- Badminton and handball are attracting students that would otherwise not be involved in athletics outside of gym class which is great to see.

7) Staff Reports

Melanie Jimmy, Family-School Liaison Worker:

- **Round Dance**

- It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase our school in hosting another successful and well received Round Dance experience welcoming community and school members.
- Highlights include: 10 drummers, a pipe ceremony, attendance of Elder Wilson, members of the Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society, and gifts of First Nation gratitude

8) Review of parent council grant application use

Chair, Rejeita Kumar has suggested a speaker, as a parent engagement opportunity.

Secretary, Charmyn Thompson would like to see FRH council educate themselves to learn school council roles' best practises and facilitating parent engagement suggestions through attendance of the ASCA (Alberta School Council Association) Conference in Edmonton, April 26-28, 2024.

The Vice Chair has been MIA all year.

A decision will be shared at the next meeting.

Additional Discussion:

Discussion was initiated by a parent, regarding whether a school dress code exists as it has been observed that there is a lot more skin being revealed that has some shock value attached to it. This led to a brief discussion among meeting attendees that would lend itself well to additional parent involvement for further discussion.

9) COSC Review

Below is a brief overview of what took place at the last COSC meeting on Feb. 7, 2024.

KEY AGENDA TOPICS

- Board Report
- ASCA update
- Returning student registration
- Caregiver Education Series
- School Council Engagement Grant
- COSC Sharing: School councils' past ASCA conference experiences
- Assurance Cycle: EIPS Budget survey, Alberta Education Assurance survey and EIPS Annual Feedback surveys

BOARD REPORT

EIPS Board Chair Cathy Allen presented the Board Report, detailing many Board of Trustees activities in January and the beginning of February. There was a discussion relating to how COSC members should go about advocating to the provincial government. Board Chair Allen said parents and caregivers can consider sending advocacy letters to:

- Their local member of the legislative assembly;
- Demetrios Nicolaidis, Minister of Education;
- Premier Danielle Smith;
- Rakhi Pancholi, member of the legislative assembly for Edmonton-Whitemud and education critic from the New Democratic Party;
- Searle Turton, Minister of Children and Family Services;
- Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Health; and
- Dan Williams, Minister of Mental Health and Addiction.

COSC Chair Kendra Roemer added that families can also refer to the [Alberta School Councils' Association \(ASCA\) Advocacy Package](#) on how to advocate for education.

In response to a question surrounding literacy and numeracy, EIPS Associate Superintendent Ryan Marshall shared that several literacy resource videos are now available on the [EIPS YouTube channel](#). These videos are accessible for all families to use at any time. Stay tuned for more to come!

ASCA UPDATE

[ASCA](#) is the provincial organization for families on school council. Below may be of interest to COSC members:

- The [ASCA Conference and AGM](#) will be held April 26-28, 2024.
 - The Board of Directors election will happen at the AGM on April 28.
 - Once again, the EIPS Board is funding the cost of one registration fee per EIPS school—up to a maximum of \$5,000. Registrants must be part of a school council with an active ASCA membership. Extra pre-session registration costs are the responsibility of the attendee. If you're interested, complete the [Board-sponsored registration form](#) before April 8. Registrations are first-come, first-served.
 - Don't forget to fill out the [Credential Voting Form](#), even if your registration is being sponsored by the Board. A [Proxy Voting Form](#) is also available for school councils who won't be able to attend the AGM. The deadline to complete the forms is April 18.
 - A list of Board-sponsored attendees will be compiled and shared with COSC.
- A recording is available from the Canadian Foundation for Economic Education around [financial literacy resources for K-12 parents and caregivers](#).
- The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta will be having their [Science Olympics](#) in Edmonton on April 7.

RETURNING STUDENT REGISTRATION

EIPS Superintendent Sandra Stoddard reminded COSC members that [2024-25 returning student registration](#) runs from February 8-21.

CAREGIVER EDUCATION SERIES: February

Alberta Health Services hosts a series of virtual caregiver information sessions focused on ways to support students' mental health. The sessions are free and geared toward parents, caregivers, teachers and community members who want to learn more about challenges impacting children and adolescents. Session topics include anxiety, depression and technology, while teaching leadership skills, communication, resiliency and more. [Learn more](#)

SCHOOL COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT GRANT

The application for the Alberta School Council Engagement Grant (ASCE) closed on January 31. Since 30 out of 37 schools have completed the application and have had their grant plans approved by the COSC Chair, [Emma Small](#) will followup with the seven councils remaining. COSC Chair Roemer encouraged school councils to share their grant plans on the [COSC Facebook page](#). She's excited to hear about how the grant activities went at upcoming meetings.

NOTE: Once your school council has completed its grant activities, submit the ASCE Grant Payment Request form right after. You should have received this form to the same email address you received the grant application. If you have any questions at all, contact [Emma Small](#).

COSC SHARING: School councils' past ASCA conference experiences

COSC members shared their past experiences at the ASCA Conference and AGM, detailing how they gained valuable information, networked with councils from across the province, and saw their own school and EIPS from a new perspective. Jacquie Surgenor attended the event last year and presented on the Reset Room initiative—a mental health project piloted at all EIPS junior highs. Surgenor discussed the initiative from her perspective as a parent at Sherwood Heights Junior High, emphasizing the collaboration between the school and families. For further questions, Surgenor can be reached at jacquie@kayric.com or 780-909-2718. Additionally, COSC Chair Roemer noted Wendy Keiver, the Executive Director at ASCA, will be joining the meeting next month to speak on the ASCA resolutions for the AGM. She'll also be there to answer questions about ASCA generally.

ASSURANCE CYCLE: EIPS Budget survey, Alberta Education Assurance survey and EIPS Annual Feedback surveys

EIPS Superintendent Stoddard and Associate Superintendent Marshall discussed several surveys:

- EIPS Budget survey—completed in December 2023 by staff, families, Grade 12 students and community partners.
 - Superintendent Stoddard said the number of responses significantly increased across all stakeholder groups.
- Alberta Education Assurance Survey—to be completed by parents and guardians of students in grades 4, 7 and 10. Teachers and students also complete the survey online at school.
 - In schools with fewer than 120 students in grades 4-12 and most charter and private schools, surveys are sent to parents and guardians of students in Grade 4 and above. The deadline to complete the survey is March 1.
- EIPS Annual Feedback Surveys—to be completed in March by staff, families, and Grade 9 and 12 students.
 - As the feedback surveys are still being drafted, school councils will receive a copy of the survey questions in the March COSC meeting package.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

- February 17: [Random Acts of Kindness Day](#)
- February 19: Family Day (schools and Central Services closed)
- February 21: Returning student registration 2024-25 closes
- March 1: Professional Learning Day (schools closed to students)
- March 6: Early Dismissal

You can also join [COSC on Facebook](#) to share information and ask questions with other school councils.

Additional information from the Feb. 7, 2024 meeting is available at www.eips.ca. The next meeting takes place on March 6, 2024. We look forward to seeing you there.

- 10) Meeting Adjourned - 8:22 p.m..**
Next meeting is scheduled: **April 17, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**, in the F.R. Haythorne library. All parents are welcome!