



DCE SCHOOL COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 15, 2024

**Parent Council Executive Members:**

Lynn Walker, Chair  
Karli Butler, Vice Chair  
Hannah Parker, Communications Liaison  
Rochelle Reed, Secretary  
Candice Abraham, Wellness Committee (absent)

**Guests and DCE School Representatives:**

Helene Hewitt, Principal  
Jay Robertson Vice Principal  
Jenn Mikitka, Teacher Representative  
Christa Gawron, Business Manager (absent)

Public Trustee: Trina Boymook

Guests: None

Parent Representatives: We had 3 parent representatives in attendance

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**DCE School Council Meeting Minutes**

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**Call To Order:** 6:38 pm

**Treaty 6 Land Acknowledgement**

- Read by Chair

**Call for Agenda Changes**

- No changes requested

**Approval of Agenda**

- Motion: Sarah
- Seconded: Melissa
- Passed

**Previous Minutes: January 18, 2024**

- No changes requested
- Motion: Karli
- Seconded: Hannah
- Passed

**School Trustee Report – Trina Boymook**



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- 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 a transition plans. Parent engagement will take place to inform the development of this plan.

- The Board approved to spend up to \$5000 to cover ASCA Conference and AGM registration for interested school council members who are members of ASCA. This opportunity is limited to only one per school council.
- The Board approved the 2024-25 School Fee parameters. Parameters allow for a maximum of 5% increase, with 7% for food courses. Anything above will require special approval by the Superintendent's office.
- The Board Chair attended a meeting on the draft Social Studies curriculum. At this meeting they shared the scope and sequence. Without the details, it is difficult to determine in what ways it has been adjusted and where concerns may lie. We continue to monitor the curriculum develop work closely.
- 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 is currently developing a letter to the minister to express our concerns on the safety of students, 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. This month'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 and 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.

- Discussion commenced regarding high school capacity now and in the future.
- Discussion commenced regarding UCP announcement on gender pronouns policy for schools.

**Wellness Committee Update– Candice Abraham (absent)**

Candice was unable to attend this month’s meeting and an updated was provided by school council Chair, Lynn W.

Pink shirts have been ordered and are currently being made. Kari Halter and Candice will be pick them up on February 20<sup>th</sup> for potential distribution at the school on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Requested Hannah to post a request for volunteers on or about February 21<sup>st</sup> to help distribute to the students.

Playground Pals: Candice spoke with our school counsellor, Kelley. The Pals will consist of parent volunteers and leadership students at the school. We'll be looking for parents to come in 2x/week for the first three weeks and then go down to 1x/week for the next 4 weeks and then after that continue the program for another 4-8 weeks. More information will be available in March.

Sponsorship for Mustang Mentions: Currently working on messaging to be distributed to Rochelle and Helene for review, prior to posting in the Mustang Memo and Facebook.

**Chair report – Lynn Walker**

1. Communication:

Social media platform update:

- Facebook DCE: 564 members
- Facebook DCE School Council & Fundraising Society: 295 members
- X (formerly Twitter) handle @DavidsonCreek: 117 following / 223 followers

2. COSC Update: Meeting February 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 Nicolaides, 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.
- 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 follow up with the seven councils remaining. COSC Chair Roemer encouraged school councils to share their grant plans on the [COSC](#)



[Facebook page.](#)

### **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](mailto: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

### **Principal Report – Helene Hewitt**

#### **2024-25 School Fees Parent Feedback:**

- 53 people responded - less than last year but still great to get feedback
- One lucky parent who has 3 students at our school won the Sobeys gift card through a random draw.

#### ***General demographic data:***

- 53% of respondents will have 1 child at DCE next year



- 40% of respondents will have 2 children at DCE next year
- 28% of respondents have kindergarten children
- 55% of respondents have children in Grades 1 to 3
- 53% with kids in Gr. 4-6
- Most comments said that fees seemed fair and reasonable

#### *Lunch supervision fee themes:*

- 93% of respondents supported raising the fee to avoid a deficit
- 4% of respondents did not support the increase
- Majority of comments expressed appreciation for our noon supervisors
- Other comments wondered about who should be responsible for providing lunch supervision while others suggested that they would be happy to increase the number of supervisors.

#### *Field Trip Fees themes:*

- # of field trips:
  - 41% want 3 or 4
  - 32% want as many as possible
  - 13% want one or two
- Cost per field trip:
  - 43% want \$30 or more
  - 36% want \$20 per trip
  - 8% want \$15 per trip
- Comments included liking field trips and their importance to learning/fun, desire for more trips and the wondering if they always have to be educational or could they be more of a fun experience

#### *Swimming themes:*

- 93% would like to continue with swimming and find it valuable
- A few people wondered if Gr. 4-6 could also have lessons
- Parents and Principal discussed reasons for permanent change and parent members in attendance agreed.

#### *Our plan going forward:*

- Request a 10% increase for noon supervision to offset potential deficit
- Add a track competition fee
- Increase swimming lessons to \$75 to cover increase in busing

### **Family Math Night**

- A huge success!
- How did families feel about the event compared to last year's format?
- Did people like the family math bags?

### **Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews**



- General discussion, parents were happy with format. Was mentioned again that if parents need additional time with teachers to reach out to them directly, they want to have that communication.

#### **Mid-Point Review: Let's Celebrate**

- We've had a great first half of the year
- Take a peek at our Mid-Point Review!
- Student Leadership Club: organized some fun Valentine's Day party/dances

#### **Alberta Education Assurance Review**

- Students in gr. 4 will be invited to do the survey during class time
- Parents of students in Gr. 4, 7 and 10 will get surveys in the mail and you can complete it online or mail in the survey We would appreciate it if people would fill it out. This data is used to make future decisions and ensure that we are doing a good job in providing a safe and warm learning environment to promote high quality learning!

#### **Upcoming Events**

- Family Day - Monday Feb. 19
- Pink Shirt Day - Wednesday, Feb. 28
- EIPS Professional Learning Day - Friday, March 1
- Running Room Indoor Games - Wednesday, March 6
- Grade 6 Legislature Field Trip - Thursday, March 7
- Report Cards Posted Online -Friday, March 15
- Spring Break -March 22 - April 1.

There is now a parent information board outside the office for important announcements for parents. Another way to communicate.

#### **Next Fundraiser**

- Art Cards will be the next program fundraiser. Kids and teachers will get the paper and more information will come after the art paper are collected.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday April 11, 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Meeting Adjourned at 8:17 pm adjournment.