

Sherwood Heights Junior High School Council DRAFT Meeting Minutes for November 22, 2022

In Attendance

Executive: Jacquie Surgenor (Chair)

Administration: Amit Mali (Principal), Taylor Burton (Assistant Principal), Aaron Tuckwood (Assistant Principal)

Community: Trina Boymook (Elk Island Public Schools [EIPS] Board Chair), MLA Jordan Walker (Sherwood Park), Matthew Bissett (Policy Advisor to the Alberta Minister of Infrastructure), Sarah Mejia (Assistant to MLA Walker)

Parents & Staff: Colleen Belohorec, Michelle Blonski, Nicole Bray, Amanda Fayed, Michelle Johnson, Cara Kern, Andrea Kardal, Debbie Klita, Jessica Moen, Sherri Peters, Michael Schnell, Sheena Singleton, Sherrise Worthington

1. Welcome & Introductions

Jacquie Surgenor called the Sherwood Heights Junior High (SWH) School Council meeting to order at 6:33pm and provided the Treaty 6 Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of October 25, 2022 Minutes

By consensus.

3. Approval of Agenda

By consensus.

4. New Business

a. SWH Replacement Project Update [www.ReplaceSherwoodHeights.ca]

MLA Jordan Walker (Sherwood Park) and Matthew Bissett (Policy Advisor to the Alberta Minister of Infrastructure) attended our meeting and shared an exciting announcement about the SWH Replacement Project. The Minister of Education had announced yesterday the list of new school builds from the spring will no longer be P3 projects but rather will be traditional design/builds. Details on whether Alberta Infrastructure or EIPS will be the project manager are yet to be determined. It's possible the spring 2023 budget will have the funding for our SWH build.

Many questions were asked as follows:

Where are we in the design process?

Design has not yet started. EIPS has a preliminary design from a few years ago which will be reviewed by Alberta Infrastructure to see how to move forward.

These site design drawings were developed with Strathcona County partnership to help with construction. As a first step, it's possible geotechnical teams may begin to access our site over the next few weeks.

Have all recent division builds been managed by EIPS?

Some have been Alberta Infrastructure projects but for the most part they were managed by EIPS. An advantage of EIPS as project managers is they are highly motivated to keep on track and are able to frequently be on site to keep the build on time.

What happens to École Campbelltown after the new SWH is built?

Campbelltown will be declared surplus by EIPS and will go through a process to decommission the building.

Considering the division's goal of French Immersion (FI) retention, would students from Heritage Hills Elementary be expected to attend SWH?

No. Heritage Hills has been designed to be able to grow with their FI program numbers.

What has been happening at the weekly meeting that SWH administrative staff have been attending since September about the new build?

Representatives from Alberta Infrastructure, an architect firm and SWH administration have been meeting weekly over the past 2 months to discuss items such as space and classroom allocations.

Will there be space for classrooms such as drama and art? With 2 very different school populations merging into 1, will there be 2 gyms?

As the design has not yet started, these are unknown entities but based on recent builds in other school divisions, it could likely be a single but very large gym. It will all depend on what parameters EIPS is given to work with. A place to advocate for more funding for more than 1 gym would be through the partnership with Strathcona County who utilizes school gym spaces for their recreational programs.

Has Campbelltown been advocating/given a voice during this new school build process?

Yes, Campbelltown administration have been fully involved.

What happens if there is a change in the current government administration, i.e. with a possible 2023 election?

Anything can change when a new government is elected! However, if the project funding is in the spring 2023 budget, it is a very low likelihood the project would be cancelled.

b. Assurance Review

Amit explained one of the negatives the reviews may show was as a first-year administrative team, with hundreds of students returning to the school building full time after 2 years of COVID-related interruptions, was having to discipline inappropriate language and behaviour on school property. Our school is also very unique with so many different programs offered which can also skew our assurance review results.

A few positive items he shared were the SWH Reset Room pilot project which was developed as an in-house solution has now become an Alberta government funded initiative in each junior high in this division. As well, the same type of work being done in the Reset Room to integrate a struggling student back into school is also happening daily in our classrooms as staff try to meet our students' needs.

A new initiative with Next Step called the Junior High Bridging Program is targeting grade 8 and 9 students who can access their core courses in an environment that might be more suitable to their needs. [<https://www.eipsnextstep.ca/sherwood-park/junior-high-bridging-program>]

Jacque will be attending the junior high session for EIPS School Assurance Reviews on December 5 where she will have the opportunity to speak on behalf of SWH School Council to answer the question "How has the school council supported the school's education plan (or what plans are in place for this year)?". She gathered the following feedback from our parents in attendance:

- Kudos to our school staff for all they offer to support each individual and their mental health and different learning styles!
- Having Student Mental Health as a standing agenda item at each school council meeting to educate parents on how the school is addressing issues such as bullying, language and inclusion.
- How staff meet each student where they are is commendable.
- How the school helps orient new students by offering multiple clubs which helps engage every kind of student who comes into the school, not just those who enjoy athletics or learning the curriculum.
- Staff recognition program.
- Having input into the allocation of Save on Foods fundraising to school requests that benefit different portions of the school population such as new gym bleachers, Lego robotics kits, gem club supplies, Wellness Day breakfast snacks, etc.

Will there be a Wellness Day in 2023?
Yes!

c. Student Mental Health

Jessica Moen shared the following information:

- She reiterated the pride felt due to the SWH Reset Room pilot now becoming a division-wide program.
- Health and BIONIC (Believe It or Not I Can) classes will see presentations from staff and community members on various topics specific to each grade. Currently, Jessica and Taylor Burton are working with each grade 7 class.
- Leadership 9 classes are organizing 12 days of giving which will be a school-wide event in support of different agencies in Strathcona County.
- Student voice started again this week. It's an opportunity for students to speak about what's important to them and what makes them excited to come to school.

- Jessica and Taylor are now able to work with a team from EIPS Central Office to tackle chronic absenteeism.

How is the smaller space allotted to the Reset Room working for all involved this year?

The location is now farther from the school office and still very busy so it's a bit of a challenge for the administrative staff.

d. Save On Foods Fundraiser

[<https://www.sherwoodheights.org/home/news/post/save-on-foods-school-fundraiser>]

A standing agenda item promoting the grocery shop fundraiser with Save on Foods Wye Road location only.

e. Staff Recognition Program [www.RecognizeSWH.ca]

A standing agenda item promoting the web form for submitting kudos to staff which can be utilized by either parents or students.

5. Information Reports

a. COSC Report [<https://www.eips.ca/parents/committee-of-school-councils-cosc>]

Jacque shared the following information.

Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA)

ASCA has a great website (www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca) and as we are members, we have access to the members only section. Log in information has been shared and if anyone is looking for resources, please let Jacque know and she will share the log in information.

School councils can sign up for the School Council Engagement Task Force and they will receive a new questionnaire every couple of months. The council then discusses the questions and submits their answers to ASCA.

ASCA is having a fall engagement opportunity on November 19th and they will be seeking input from school councils.

They are hosting an online virtual silent auction in November as well.

School Council Engagement Grant

Alberta Education provides school councils with a \$500 grant to access professional development to build capacity and strengthen engagement. A committee has been formed to see if we can again pool our money collectively. We were allowed to carry forward money that we didn't use last year, so there is a small amount of leftover money (less than \$50) that we can add to our \$500 this year.

EIPS Assurance Reviews

Sandra Stoddard walked us through the results package that schools and EIPS receives from Alberta Education and explained how to interpret some of the data, as well as sharing some questions parents should ask when they look at the data.

School Assurance reviews are being held in early December and principals should be inviting school council representatives.

b. Principal's Report

Amit shared the following information.

- Initiatives:
 - Facility improvements to build school pride.
 - School-based social worker.
 - Reset Room.
 - Wellness Day.
- Challenges:
 - Over 670 students in a building not designed for that capacity.
 - By increasing canteen offerings, less students are leaving the building during the lunch hour which has improved attendance in period 5. However, the increased number of students in the building during the lunch break has resulted in overcrowded hallways during this block of time.
- The school's new scoreboards will connect to an app for parents to be able to follow the game. The scoreboard also has the capability to advertise so the school will be looking to find sponsors to be more self-sustaining. The scoreboard should be in place for the upcoming basketball season.

c. Trustee's Report

Trina Boymook shared the following information.

On November 8, MLA Walker arranged to for us to discuss any concerns that EIPS has that he should be aware of. We discussed concerns with the delayed decision on what format Sherwood Heights will be built through, and we are still waiting to hear from the Minister about our request to access more of our reserves to address the Salisbury Composite storm water drainage issue.

At the public Board meeting on November 17, the Board was presented with feedback received through various public engagement sessions to deal with cleaning up some of our junior high attendance areas. No recommendation or decision will be made about the junior high attendance area until the spring. Senior administration needs more time to complete two other public engagements before the Superintendent will determine his recommendation to the Board. Given the recommendation is now projected to come after the 2023-24 registration, there will be no changes to the junior high boundaries for the 2023-24 school year.

A summary of the Logos public engagements will be presented for information at the December 15 Board meeting. No decision will be made at this meeting.

EIPS mental health pilot proposal was approved and we will be receiving \$1.94 million over 2 years.

On November 4, Superintendent Liguori has announced his intent to retire at the end of the school year. The Board will be undertaking a Superintendent search.

6. Adjournment

Jacque adjourned the meeting at 8:25pm.