

# Sherwood Heights Junior High School Council

## Meeting Minutes for November 23, 2023

### **In Attendance**

Executive: Leanne Weiss (Chair) Kim Scott (Vice Chair), Becky Mitchell (Secretary)

Administration: Amit Mali (Principal), Aaron Tuckwood (Assistant Principal), Jess Miskiw (Assistant Principal), Jess Moen

Parents & Staff: Debbie K, Kristin M, Cara K

### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Leanne W. called the Sherwood Heights Junior High (SWH) School Council meeting to order at 7:05pm.

### **2. Approval of October 2023 Minutes**

No minutes were recorded at the October 2023 meeting.

### **3. Approval of Agenda**

Additions- Grant discussion and open questions  
Request to hold Information Agenda item first.

### **4. Information Reports**

#### **a. COSC Report**

No report this month.

#### **b. Principal's Report**

Amit shared the following information.

- Assurance Review – Friday, November 24, 2023
  - Will be reframing literacy goals
- Parent Discussion Question: In what ways has your school engaged parents to be engaged and involved in discussion that impacts your child?

Answers: SHW communicates well through:

- Daily announcements
- Newsletters
- Athlete intention forms
- Clubs for students
- PowerSchool up to date
- Clubs for students are communicated well to parents
- Teacher emails
- Always feel welcome to ask questions

Amit Mali stated parent engagement is a focus at SWH.

Staff room has been upgraded to include wellness space for staff. A better place to decompress and reset.

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#### Parent feedback on Reset room:

- Survey was sent to parents of students who spent time in the reset room in 22-23. Responses were very positive and appreciative.
- Survey will be sent to other families.
- Last year the reset room had 537 visits in 52 school days.
- Reset room has some changes this year. New Library space and more areas for students to decompress.

#### Athletics

- Volleyball season is ending
- Basketball tryouts begin in 2 weeks

#### Student Supports

- January Wellness challenge
- Leadership classes have partnered with county to put together the decorations for Winterfest (see the newsletter for more detail)
- Reset room has partnered again with Strathcona Foodbank
  - Leadership classes are also running food drives to give back
- Christmas fundraisers will support different charities such as Ben Stettler Foundation
- ADHD Parent Session is in person and online on Nov 29 @ 6:30pm
- Will be asking students for feedback on how they feel about student safety at SWH.
- AHS speaker for Gr. 9 Students
- MADD presentation for Gr. 8 Students
- Mental Health Talks for Gr. 7
- Principal Amit Mali is a presenter at other Junior Highs talking about Racism Awareness.
  - He will be speaking to our students at SWH this year in small groups.

#### Questions for School Admin:

- Debbie K asked about grade 9 farewell.
  - Will there be an event and can parents get involved.
  - Amit assured parents there would be opportunity to be involved. Plan is to survey students about what they would like to do for their farewell and start a student committee.
- Kim S asked about Staff Meeting Potluck:
  - not a lot of food was delivered to the school. The information was shared on the facebook parent page with a sign up but the response was low. Need a better way to communicate with parents.
- Debbie K asked for feedback on academic awards: Amit stated the time of day was great, worked really well.
  - Students were a little noisy making it hard for online viewing.
  - Aaron Tuckwood shared the high viewing the online recording had.
  - Overall great success.
- Debbie K asked about displaying academic awards:
  - Request to have the awards displayed in the school. Amit will look into that
- Debbie K requested to have academic awards in the yearbook. Amit explained the timing is an issue as year book deadlines are early in the year and academic achievements aren't known until the end of the school year. Amit will look into it.

#### **c. Trustee's Report**

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#### **ASSURANCE REVIEWS**

Assurance Reviews are held annually (October and November) with EIPS Central Departments and Schools. These meetings and discussions around department plans and school education plans provides the Board of Trustees with a wealth of information to fulfil our fiduciary responsibilities to ensure our Division is spending its resources appropriately and has plans in place to support the achievement of the goals and outcomes identified in EIPS Four Year Strategic Plan. The Board of Trustees is responsible and accountable to the public and to the Provincial Government for the expenditure of the EIPS \$200 million annual budget.

As part of the accountability process, Trustees have the opportunity to participate in the review of the results of Central Departments and Schools for the 2022-23 year, while also learning how the results have impacted the plans for the current school year.

These meeting allow trustees to hear about:

Department/school successes and achievements

Department/School opportunities for growth

Common challenges that were encountered

This helps trustees at a governance level to determine how we can best support the work of the Division.

#### **ADVOCACY**

The Board of Trustees met with the Mayor Hauch, from Bruderheim, to discuss partnerships between the town and EIPS.

The Board of Trustees met with Education Critic MLA Rakhi Pancholi and MLA Kyle Kasawski to discuss Advocacy priorities.

The Board of Trustees had conversation with Minister of Technology and Innovation Nate Glubish.

The Board of Trustees attended the Alberta School Board Association Fall General Meeting. Several Position Statements were accepted. These position statements will inform the advocacy work of ASBA and the Provincial Government.

#### **5. New Business**

School Council needs to discuss how to spend the \$500 grant from ASCA

- Council Executives will discuss on their own as there is not a meeting until January and the deadline to apply is end of year. Update will be given in January

School Council Meeting Dates:

- Quick discussion about trying online and in person mix this year.

School Council Meeting Dates for 23/24:

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- Tuesday, January 23, 2024 @ 6pm Online TEAMS. SWH Admin will facilitate
- Tuesday, March 19, 2024 @ 6pm Online TEAMS. SWH Admin will facilitate
- Tuesday, April 16, 2024 @ 6pm In Person at SWH Library
- Tuesday, May, 21, 2024 @ 6pm In Person at SWH Library

**6. Adjournment**

Leanne adjourned the meeting at 8:22pm.