

Sherwood Heights Junior High School Council
DRAFT Meeting Minutes for April 16, 2024

In Attendance

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

Administration: Aaron Tuckwood (Acting Principal), Malori Sparrow (Acting AP), Jess Miskiw (AP), Jess Moen

Parents & Staff: Cathy Allen (Trustee), Krystal G, Melissa M, Christina S., Kristen M

1. Welcome & Introductions

Leanne W called the Sherwood Heights Junior High (SWH) School Council meeting to order at 6:32pm

2. Approval of Agenda

Leanne W. motioned to approve agenda
Motion unanimous and carried

3. Approval of March 2024 Minutes

Leanne W motioned to approve March 2024 minutes
Motion unanimous and carried

4. Information Reports

a. Principal's Report

Aaron Tuckwood, Acting Principal shared the following information

General Updates

- course selections open April 17-24
- fees are included with options
- complete through parent portal

- Budgets are not yet available for 24-25 looking like early May

- After PATs there are 3 days of schools
 - Looking to have events for those 3 days
 - Possible rewrite days if students want them

Sports: Handball going well. Provincials this weekend
Badminton starting this week

Wellness Day- May

- 30 vendors coming to present and interact with students

Grade 9 farewell- June 7

- Polled students-was not a venue available in June for event

- Ceremony at SCA
- Dance and treats back at SWH
- Looking for a parent volunteer committee

- *School will reach out to parents who answered yes to volunteering in the survey

- Student committee has been started

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- Student sing O'Canada, Land Acknowledgement etc
- Photographer coming for end of year photo

April 17-Ribbon Skirt and Drumming workshop with EIPS consultants for self-identified students

- Hanging banners in stairways
- Developing personalized land acknowledgements

Update on new building

- Currently touring construction companies in evenings
- Process is still moving ahead

Parent Feedback and questions about School Presentation

none

- b. Trustee's Report-** Trustee Allen was not present, Aaron Tuckwood read the following update from Trustee Allen.

THREE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN: 2025-28

The Board approved EIPS' [*2025-28 Three-Year Capital Plan*](#). Annually, the Board reviews and updates the plan to prioritize its key capital projects. The Division's top five capital priorities are:

- Priority 1:* A replacement school for Rudolph Hennig Junior High and Fort Saskatchewan High (grades 7-12).
- Priority 2:* A replacement school for James Mowat Elementary (grades K-6).
- Priority 3:* A new school for the Cambrian Crossing neighbourhood (grades K-9).
- Priority 4:* A modernization and expansion of Vegreville Composite High to accommodate K-12 programming.
- Priority 5:* A modernization of Win Ferguson Elementary (grades K-6)

Now approved, the Division will submit the *Three-Year Capital Plan* to the province for funding consideration.

Every year, each school board creates a list of building projects that are important to their communities for the next 3 years. The Alberta government uses information from the individual school board plans to create a provincial capital plan. The provincial capital plans consider many factors, including:

- a school's impact on health and safety of students
- the condition of the buildings
- enrolment trends
- each school board's 3-year capital plan

The provincial capital plan helps government decide which projects will be approved when funding is available for school projects. If a project is approved, the local school board, Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure work together on the details of the project to help ensure it meets students' needs.

ASBA EDWIN PARR TEACHER AWARD: 2024

The Board approved EIPS' nomination for this year's Edwin Parr Teacher Award nominee, Alexis Kotronis. Annually, the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 hosts the award to honour and recognize first-year teachers and their pedagogical excellence. Kotronis, a first-year teacher at Davidson Creek

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Elementary, was selected for her outstanding commitment to education, proactive approach and innate ability to create inclusive learning environments for students.

REALLOCATION OF SURPLUS FUNDS

The Board approved changes to the allocation of funds for the 2023-24 school year. The reallocation allows the Division to use any net surplus funds and ensures its operating reserves remain below the provincially mandated 3.2 per cent reserve limit. In total, the Division will use the surplus of \$1.1 million for Windows computer evergreening (\$694,058), for Chromebook evergreening (\$325,000) and to construct a new entrance for Next Step Sherwood Park (\$80,000).

THREE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT PLAN: ATTENDANCE AREA

The Board received for information an update on one of the last remaining projects listed in the Division's [Three-Year Engagement Plan](#)—the junior high attendance area cleanup. As background, throughout spring and fall 2022, the [Division consulted stakeholders](#) to explore possible changes to the junior high attendance boundaries in Sherwood Park—moving the feeder school for all regular program students at Brentwood Elementary to F.R. Haythorne Junior High for grades 7 to 9; and moving the feeder school for students living within Lakeland Village, Summerwood and Summerwood North to Clover Bar Junior High for grades 7 to 9.

After analyzing the feedback from the attendance area cleanup, background information, trends, facts and figures, enrolment projections, attendance boundaries and available infrastructure, EIPS administration chose to keep the junior high attendance boundaries in Sherwood Park unchanged. The reason is four-fold:

1. In general, feedback from the attendance area cleanup engagement didn't strongly support either boundary change.
2. After the engagement effort, the province approved construction for the new Sherwood Park replacement school, grades K-9, which impacts student capacity at the replacement school.
3. The Board approved an attendance boundary change for the Cambrian Crossing area structure plan, which impacts the junior high Attendance Area Cleanup engagement by designating students living there to Clover Bar Junior High and F.R. Haythorne Junior High.
4. The Board approved a solution for its French Immersion program and to balance senior high enrolment, which impacts student capacity at Sherwood Heights Junior High and Ardrossan Junior Senior High.

Keeping the attendance areas unchanged honours the feedback and ensures EIPS junior high schools have sufficient student capacity in the long term. As such, for the upcoming 2024-25 school year, the junior high attendance area for students living within Brentwood Elementary's attendance area and the areas of Lakeland Village, Summerwood and Summerwood North will stay status quo.

FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS: 2023-24

The Board received for information a report regarding the Division's financial projections for the 2023-24 school year. Overall, there are no areas of concern, deficits or excessive surpluses. Briefly, EIPS projects its accumulated surplus to rise by \$800,000 from what was reported in the Fall Budget Report. The increase is primarily the result of projected surpluses for utility, staffing and snow removal budgets; increased interest income; and unbudgeted software rebates—which are offset by reallocating the surplus funds. Overall, the Division's projected reserves remain well within the provincially mandated limit (see pg. 147, "[Financial Projections 2023-24](#)").

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2023 TO FEBRUARY 2024

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The Board received for information the EIPS Unaudited Financial Report for the six-month period ending Feb. 29, 2024. Overall, expenses exceeded revenue, resulting in an operating deficit of \$18,872. Revenue for the six months is \$101.21 million, representing 51 per cent of the year-to-date budget—an expected percentage for the fiscal year midpoint. Meanwhile, total expenses are \$101.23 million, also representing 51 per cent of the year-to-date budget. (see pg. 160, "[Unaudited Financial Report for Sept. 1, 2023 to Feb. 28, 2024](#)").

DID YOU KNOW?

Alberta Reserves are accumulated surplus funds that may be designated to a school, department or priority. The Board of Trustees approves the transfer of funds to and from reserves and has a yearly plan on how those reserves are used—to the benefit of students. EIPS identifies high-demand areas and uses its operating reserves for initiatives like student learning, new curriculum work, consultant support, mental health initiatives, technology upgrades, public-health best practices and other one-time projects. Operating reserves are also used to furnish and equip new schools and classrooms. With its capital reserves, EIPS replaces ageing equipment, purchases technology, modernizes and expands student learning spaces, and funds emergent capital needs.

Learn more:

- [Board Policy 2: Role of Board](#)
- [Administrative Procedure 501: Financial Management](#)

THANK YOU TO OUR SCHOOL COUNCIL VOLUNTEERS

As you may have seen in your school newsletters, National Volunteer Week takes place April 14-20. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to say a big thank you to every one of you for taking the time to attend the COSC meetings and for everything you do at your schools. We know that parents and guardians have a never-ending number of responsibilities to look after, so your time is precious and so incredibly appreciated. Thank you for all your hard work and thank you for being involved in your child's education. Please contact me with questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Allen

cathy.allen@eips.ca
780-417-8109

Parent feedback and questions about Trustee Presentation

No comments

5. New Business

a. COSC Report

b. ASCA Resolutions

- Presented by Kim Scott: [Meeting Documents 2024: Alberta School Councils' Association](#)

7 resolutions, not speaking to all of them

**The follow ASCA Resolutions are titled without description, for more details on the below resolutions, please see the above ASCA link.*

1) Integrate Climate and biodiversity Education Throughout the Curriculum from K-12

Opinions/discussion- Too Broad, hands-on learning is difficult, not worth the effort, leave it to curriculum design

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Kim is recording this a tabled item

- 2) **Funding for more assessments of learning disabilities-** brought forward from Edmonton public school-North

Opinions/discussion

-funding is moving away from providing supports for those diagnosed and moving towards funding for all (neurodiverse)

- education system is stepping into a healthcare area that will be difficult to support.

-Idealistic

-could be beneficial

-Resolution seems too vague

-should not rely solely on schools for testing

Overall opinion, the resolution is too broad

- 3) **Improving indoor air quality and shared environments**

-all agreed too much and not something to support

- 4) **Equity in Playground Funding**

-students need playgrounds and planned outdoor spaces

-we should support efforts to have government and municipalities fund playgrounds

-should not fall on parents' backs

Overall opinion to support this resolution

- 5) **Preserving safe and inclusive spaces for 2SLGBTQI+ Students**

-first point is tough- "Advocating to preserve what we have": opinion is that it's tough to support, very broad.

-Kim thought there would be an emergent issue coming forth that will drive this resolution as debated topic

- 6) **Implementation of Curriculum changes**

overall opinion to support

- 7) **Enhanced Reporting of and Support for Class Size and Complexity**

Remove class size argument and focus on the complexity aspect

Resources to support learning gaps

Agreed to focus on complexity.

To support is favorable but with suggestion of rewrite.

Open Question

Q: Who does social media at the school, feel as though not a lot of updates

A: School has already addressed this and trying to put together a media plan for next year for better social media communication with parents. There has been a lot of changes with Admin, working to get that back up at a better level.

6. Adjournment

Closing note: Next Parent Council Meeting: Tuesday May 21, 2024 @ 6:00pm.

Leanne adjourned the meeting at 8:10pm.