

**Sherwood Heights Junior High School Council  
DRAFT Meeting Minutes for September 20, 2022**

**In Attendance**

Executive: Jacquie Surgenor (Chair)

Administration: Amit Mali (Principal), Aaron Tuckwood (Assistant Principal),  
Jessica Moen (Family School Liaison Worker)

Community: Trina Boymook (Elk Island Public Schools [EIPS] Board Chair)

Parents & Staff: Tasha Baker, Nasreen Banman, Colleen Belohorec, Krystal Gibson,  
Cara Kern, Debbie Klita, Erin Malec, Tiffany McDonald, Shannon Schmidt, Sarah  
Witholt

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

Jacquie Surgenor called the Sherwood Heights Junior High (SWH) School Council meeting to order at 6:30pm and provided the Treaty 6 Acknowledgement.

**2. Approval of June 2, 2022 Minutes**

Deferred.

**3. Summary of 2021-22**

Jacquie shared the following report which was submitted to the EIPS superintendent in June 2022.

**Sherwood Heights School Council 2021 – 2022 Summary**

**Executive**

Jacquie Surgenor Gaglione –Chair

Lesley Bowman – Vice Chair

Jacquie Surgenor Gaglione – COSC Rep

Lorena Ellsworth – Secretary

**Meeting Dates**

September 28, 2021	February 2022 - cancelled
October 26, 2021	March 22, 2022
November 23, 2021	April 26, 2022
January 25, 2022	May 24, 2022 – postponed until June 2

**School Council Activities**

Our biggest focus this year was student mental health which was a standing item on our agenda. We received monthly updates on the programs and resources related to improving student mental health. As presentations were given to students, parent presentations were also arranged. We talked a lot about the Reset Room which opened part way through the school year. Open to all students, parents appreciated the opportunity for our children to have somewhere to go and regulate when they felt overwhelmed; whether that was for 15 minutes or the whole day. Emerging out of the pandemic, we know that many of our students are struggling and school council appreciated the dedication and effort the school put in to

addressing the concerns we all have (knowing students aren't learning if they are experiencing mental health challenges).

We also implemented the staff recognition program that Salisbury started last year which was very well-received by staff. We are planning a staff appreciation event at the end of the year and have sent a final letter of appreciation to all staff.

Another large topic was the replacement school; beginning with advocacy and then after the announcement about design funding, continuing around next steps. We talked a lot about how we still need to serve our existing students as we don't know when the new school will be actually built so we focused discussions on what we can do things which can go with us to the new school. We are working with Councillors Robert Parks and Lorne Harvey to access Councillor Priority Funds to purchase 3-5 picnic tables for behind the school. There is a large need for student seating for lunches and we believe adding picnic tables will be great for our students, but also for the greater community as there are the beach volleyball courts, pickleball courts and baseball diamonds in that same area.

While school council does not fundraise directly, we have worked with the school to administer the Save On Foods fundraiser. A parent collects the receipts and tallies them and then drops them off to Save On Foods. Cheques are written to the school though, although school council provides input into how the money should be spent. But as we do not have a bank account, the school retains control of the money and it will show up on their financial statements. Support was given to purchase bleachers for the stage, rock/gem polishing equipment, basketball hoop replacements, and staff appreciation.

In addition to "required" discussions on the accountability pillar, budget and fees and the school education plan, we also discussed topics such as:

- Facility: updates and upgrades to existing building, as well as, advocacy for the new school
- Student Mental Health
- Staff recognition
- High school transition idea
- "Paws"itive Referral Program
- Reset Room
- SRO Program
- School Council Engagement Grant
- Career pathways
- Staff appreciation
- Grade 9 Farewell 2022
- Alberta School Councils Association

We do not do any fundraising (and hold no money) other than acting as a supporting role for the Save On Foods fundraising, and as such, discussions were focused on education and school-related issues.

#### **4. Election of Executive**

The following positions were approved by consensus.

Chair – Jacquie Surgenor

Secretary – Debbie Klita

COSC representative – Jacquie Surgenor, with Sarah Witholt and Cara Kern available as alternates

## 5. Approval of Agenda

Item 6. b) will be presented first. By consensus.

### 6. New Business

#### b. Wellness Conference (October 6)

[<https://www.sherwoodheights.org/home/news/post/oct-6-swh-wellness-day>]

Jessica Moen has spearheaded a first-of-its-kind full day conference-style event for our students happening on Thursday, October 6. Students will sign up for multiple sessions on a wide variety of health and wellness-related topics presented by staff and many participating community partners. This event will also launch partnerships with some sponsors that will continue throughout the school year (i.e., bgc). Parent volunteers are needed in different capacities throughout the day so please email [jessica.moen@eips.ca](mailto:jessica.moen@eips.ca) if available to help.

School council was asked if they would provide support from the Save on Foods fundraiser account towards this event. The account currently sits at \$1249.93. By consensus, up to \$400 will be allocated towards the purchase of food.

Jessica also shared parent information nights will be offered again this year whereby topics presented to our students by special guests during their school day will then be shared with parents. She is also open to suggestions for topics of interest to parents (i.e., along the health and wellness themes the students will be exposed to at the Wellness Conference).

#### a. Return to School

Amit Mali shared the following information:

- Enrolment finished at 647 end of last school year and has increased to 669.
- Startup has been smooth (i.e., grade 7 orientation). Teachers new to the school are Sydney Belland, Jamie Harris, Kayley Strachan, Derrick Hammel (until November break). Returning teachers are Chantal Harry, Michelle Blonski, Anna Fidler-Berteig.
- Our Reset Room continues to be used as part of a student support model for many different issues and was moved to another location in the building so the staff room has returned to full size. EIPS is using the SWH Reset Room to apply for provincial grant money to replicate this support model in other junior highs. It's effectiveness at SWH can be measured by various statistics kept by the school about its use. For example, in 2021-22, 64% of students missed about a month of school and 25% missed 2 months or more. The Reset Room has been a successful tool at our school to help reintroduce struggling students back into the classroom environment.
- The school's results review showed room for improvement in parent engagement. The school is open to input and surveys will be sent out to parents in future.
- Assistant Principal Jessica Miskiw will be on maternity leave as of November break.

- A rally for public education is being held Saturday, October 22 at the Alberta Legislature grounds (<https://standforeducation.ca/>).
- Wednesday, September 21 will see 2 events at the school – the annual Cougar Mile (Terry Fox run) for students during the morning and Meet the Teacher for families from 4:30-5:30pm.
- Awards Night is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12.
- Amit and Aaron have been assigned to the planning committee for the new SWH school but no meetings have yet been scheduled.
- The bell schedule was adjusted this week to add 4 minutes onto our school day in order to meet provincial regulations. Two minutes were added at start of the day and 2 minutes at the end.

It was asked if hybrid (in person + on-line) school council meetings were an option to help with parent engagement. Staff will investigate this or whether a Facebook Live event might be feasible.

It was asked how a student is referred to the Reset Room. Referrals can be initiated by staff or students can self-refer with staff support.

A request was made for more current content on the school website.

Aaron Tuckwood shared the following:

- New to the timetable this year, occurring once in every 6 day cycle, is a BIONIC (Believe It Or Not I Can) class. This covers several health outcomes and allows administrative tasks such as the STAR tests or choosing wellness day sessions to occur outside of other curriculum class time.
- New to junior high are the STAR math assessments which will replace the annual MIPI test. Unlike the MIPI (but like the STAR reading assessments), the STAR math assessment will occur at designated times in the school year and is adaptive which means it will get harder or easier as students answer correctly or incorrectly.
- Athletic teams currently active are the cross-country running team as well as junior and senior, girls and boys, volleyball teams. A junior B girls volleyball team is just getting organized due to overwhelming interest by this demographic.
- Elk Island Public Schools, Elk Island Catholic Schools and New Horizons School have formed the Elk Island Junior High Athletic Association for 7 different sports to provide more opportunities to compete.

It was asked if SWH will have a cheer team this year. The previous team was coached by a parent volunteer who is no longer part of the school community so cheer is not able to be offered.

### **c. Student Mental Health**

This is a standing agenda item whereby administration will share information about this issue in our school, if not already covered in another discussion during the monthly meetings.

**d. School Council Goals for 2022-23**

Jacquie is open to ideas about what school council should focus on/accomplish this year as well as how parents want to be involved/engaged this year.

Ideas suggested included hybrid (in person + on-line) parent-teacher interviews and on-line streaming of school events.

It was asked how our teachers use the BrightSpace on-line platform. EIPS implemented BrightSpace as a district-wide on-line teaching platform for use during COVID restrictions. There are currently no requirements for teachers to be using it and it works better for some subjects than others. Aaron and Amit will take this topic back to staff for further discussions of how to utilize this tool at our school.

**e. Proposed Dates for 2022-23 School Year**

Generally, SWH School Council meetings occur from 6:30-8:30pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of eight months (see below), unless there is a scheduling conflict. To foster parent engagement, the school may try scheduling a daytime meeting. Amit will send out a parent survey to gauge interest.

September 20, 2022	February 28, 2023
October 25, 2022	March 21, 2023 (earlier due to spring break)
November 22, 2022	April 25, 2023
January 24, 2023	May 23, 2023

**f. Save On Foods Fundraiser**

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

SWH has partnered over the past few years with Save on Foods Wye Road location only with their grocery shop fundraiser. By consensus, it was decided to continue this effort with school council, some leadership students, and Candace Lyles (SWH Business Manager) teaming up to administer the program.

After shopping at the Wye Road location, families can send in their original receipts to the school office and Save on Foods will provide 5% of all receipt totals as a donation to our school. In 2021-22, we received about \$4200 which was used towards purchasing new stage bleachers, rock/gem polishing equipment for an after school club, outdoor basketball hoop replacements and year end staff appreciation.

Amit will ensure the weekly school newsletter has a button to promote the fundraiser.

**g. Staff Recognition Program [[www.RecognizeSWH.ca](http://www.RecognizeSWH.ca)]**

Jacquie shared this email of appreciation which was sent to staff before first day of school.

Sherwood Heights Staff,

On behalf of School Council, I'd like to wish you a very happy first day with students. I know that many of you didn't sleep well last night (I remember the pre-first day restless sleep from when I was teaching).

I wanted to take this opportunity to pre-thank you for another great year; for the extra time you put in to ensure our children are successful, however that may look. Often as I sit in Assurance Reviews, the focus is on academic results, but we recognize that so much more than what happens in the academic classroom contributes to that success. The wide variety of opportunities you offer them motivate and excite them in so many ways. From clubs to fine arts, athletics to CTS, academically challenging materials, school spirit activities and being the adult in the building someone knows they can count on, you are the heart of the school.

So, thank you for continuing to teach, inspire and support our students. School Council is thankful for all the time you dedicate to our children, and we wish you a wonderful year.

In partnership.  
Jacquie Surgenor  
Chair, Sherwood Heights School Council

At [www.RecognizeSWH.ca](http://www.RecognizeSWH.ca) is a short web form developed last year as a way of submitting kudos to staff. The form content was administered by Jacquie who would email it to the intended recipient. It was agreed to utilize this process again for the current school year with the link to be made available in the weekly school newsletter.

## **h. Building Update**

Amit shared that the refresh and minor updates to the school building begun last year will continue as we will still inhabit this building for the foreseeable future. Students are responding well to updates such as the extra indoor hallway seating and new outdoor basketball hoops.

## **i. SWH Replacement Project Update**

Trina Boymook shared the following update:  
I met with MLA Jordan Walker in early August to speak on Sherwood Heights replacement school. He asked to talk on curriculum implementation and respecting diversity. Trustee Cathy Allan and myself met with MLA Nate Glubish to speak on Sherwood Heights replacement school and reserve cap.

The Board met with the Minister of Education on September 13. We used our 30 minutes to speak on capital project process and our concerns as it relates to Sherwood Heights, modular project requests and reserve cap.

Trina discussed the current working relationship with Alberta Infrastructure which is the government department tasked with building the new school. Their approach is much different than previous school builds in the district and communication has been challenging.

Jacquie encourages parents to continue advocating to their political leaders for this new school build. The grass roots website [www.ReplaceSherwoodHeights.ca](http://www.ReplaceSherwoodHeights.ca) has gathered information about the school history and its journey to try to get a replacement school. It provides contact information if you would like to write a letter of support to a government leader. It was also agreed that SWH School Council would write a letter of support to our MLAs and express our concern with the potential P3 model as we would lose the partnerships with Strathcona County and the Boys & Girls Club the board has worked so hard to solidify. Additionally, a P3 build could be bundled with other builds and would not allow us any control over timeline and very little input into design so the new school could still be several years away from being built when our need is more immediate.

## **7. Information Reports**

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

The first meeting of the EIPS Committee of School Councils (COSC) is scheduled for Wednesday, October 5. A representative from SWH school council has traditionally attended these monthly meetings to provide a summary report at our next SWH meeting.

Jacquie shared the Alberta School Councils' Association is hosting an on-line engagement event on Monday, September 26 with UCP Leadership candidates to discuss education priorities. Registration details can be found at <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/education-in-alberta/government/asca-ucp-leadership-candidates-forum>.

### **b. Band Parents Report**

### **c. Logos Report**

These standing agenda items will now be covered during information reports from school administration.

### **d. French Immersion Report**

Amit shared Ardrossan Junior Senior High School will be hosting SWH French Immersion students in October to facilitate an easier transition to high school.

### **e. Principal's Report**

All items were covered in the Return to School report.

### **f. Trustee's Report**

Trina shared the following information.

The Board held a special meeting on September 1 to approve making a request to the Minister of Education to access \$1M from operating reserves and \$1.1M from capital reserves to offset the cost of replacing the storm water drainage pipes at Salisbury Composite High School. The full cost of the project is estimated at \$4.1M.

The Board elected the Chair and Vice Chair for the 2022-23 year. I'm honoured to serve a 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive term as Chair of the Board. I look forward to continuing to work along with Colleen Holowaychuk as Vice Chair.

Public engagement sessions that started in June will continue, as we are back out to share what we heard and gather any further thoughts. On September 13, Brentwood Elementary attendance area engagement followed up on a conversation on the possibilities of redesignating those that are currently designated to Sherwood Heights Junior High to F.R. Haythorne Junior High. On October 3, we will be continuing the conversation with those living in Summerwood who are currently designated to Sherwood Heights on the merits of redesignating them to Clover Bar Junior High. On October 6, we will be back out to share what we heard from the June Logos engagement. The Superintendent is expected to make recommendations for the Board's consideration at the November Board meeting.

On October 26, we will be starting a new public engagement discussion on the location of the secondary French Immersion program. Conversations will focus exploring moving the secondary program from Ardrossan Junior Senior High to Sherwood Heights with the senior high program relocated to Bev Facey Community High. A November 3 Public engagement session will start for System Programs locations.

Committee of School Councils (COSC) will be holding its first meeting on October 5 in the Boardroom. An invitation went out today to school council chair and principal to attend a meet and greet pizza supper scheduled 5:15-6:15pm with the meeting starting at 6:30pm.

It was asked if the engagement details (i.e., FAQs) could be posted in the school newsletter. Amit will have them posted as they are made available.

It was asked when the program review recommendations would be in effect. Trina said some will be presented at the November EIPS Board meeting and decisions made will be implemented prior to registration for the 2023-24 school year.

It was asked which SWH programs fall into the System Program Review (i.e., IMPACT, Honours). Trina said the parameters have not yet been defined.

It was asked why these programs are changing. Trina said in the case of French Immersion, Ardrossan has been overutilized and with their regular programming enrollment increasing as the Ardrossan community grows, a better balance is needed. With the Logos program, enrollment is currently low and has been steadily declining over the past 10 years. As well, the Board reviews all programming every 5 years.

## **8. Adjournment**

Jacque adjourned the meeting at 8:33pm.