

Sherwood Heights Junior High School Council DRAFT Meeting Minutes for February 28, 2023

In Attendance

Executive: Jacquie Surgenor (Chair)

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

Parents & Staff: Tasha Baker, Andrea Kardal, Cara Kern, Debbie Klita, Michael Schnell

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 January 24, 2023 Minutes

By consensus.

3. Approval of Agenda

Add "ASCA Conference" as item 4.b and renumber all following New Business items.
By consensus.

4. New Business

a. School Council Engagement Grant

As a follow up to a conversation in October, SWH still has \$500 from a provincial government Alberta School Council Engagement Grant which can be used individually or pooled with other Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) school councils. There is a possibility of pooling it towards a guest speaker, David Irvine, before the end of school. By consensus, it was decided to pool the SWH grant towards a division-wide event. It was requested that the event be widely publicized by the division to all parents to encourage engagement. Jacquie will check to see if this event can be recorded and shared after the event.

Was a link made available last year for the Jody Carrington presentation?

No, as her presentation was not permitted to be recorded.

b. ASCA Conference [www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/annual-conference]

The Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) Conference and Annual General Meeting is scheduled for April 21-23 in Edmonton. The EIPS Board will sponsor one representative per council up to \$5000 to attend. By consensus, it was decided that Jacquie will represent SWH at the conference. She is also presenting at a session with Taylor Burton and Jessica Moen about our Reset Room.

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

Amit shared that the provincial budget was released today and we are waiting for the announcement of funding for the new school build.

d. Save On Foods Fundraiser

[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. Jacquie shared kudos with administration for the hard work the leadership students do to support this fundraiser.

We have raised almost \$2000 so far this year with the intent of utilizing it during this school year. Supporting last June's year-end staff appreciation with a food truck and snow-cone vendor was a huge success so by consensus, we will use \$1600 towards the same type of event this June.

Before next month's meeting, Amit/Jacquie will ask Candace Lyles (SWH Business Manager) to tally the fundraiser's year-to-date amount so we can brainstorm about what to allocate the rest of the money towards before the end of the school year.

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. Amit will ask the leadership students to help promote the program around the school.

This month, Jacquie arranged for an informal potluck event as a way to show appreciation for our wonderful staff on early dismissal day. A sign-up list for food and drink has been created on [Perfect Potluck](#) and shared on our Sherwood Heights Junior High Parents Connect Facebook page. By consensus, we will continue to organize an informal potluck for each early dismissal day in April, May and June utilizing Facebook and email as communication tools with our families.

f. Student/Family Mental Health

Taylor shared the following information:

- We have a counselling practicum student currently running 2 anxiety work groups for 6-8 weeks.
- An upcoming talk for grade 7 classes will be on emotional literacy.
- Reset Room data is now being tracked by the division as of February 1st. Current stats for the SWH site for the month of February are 488 visits – 54% were grade 9 students, 25% were grade 8, 19% were grade 7.
- This month saw recognition of Pink Shirt Day and Kindness Week.
- This spring will see a partnership with SAL celebrating culture and diversity.
- Leadership students will be planning spring theme days and activities.

- Student Voice this month explored which spaces in the school where students may feel unsafe.
- Jacquie is collaborating with a teacher from SAL to create videos of the SWH Reset Room.
- Lamont was approached with our idea to support their Reset Room setup but they found enough resources on their own.
- Taylor, Jessica and Jacquie will be presenting jointly about the Reset Room at the ASCA Conference in April.

Will Carnaval be celebrated by French Immersion (FI) as it is a good way to engage FI students and families?

A SWH staff member is currently organizing events for all FI schools.

5. Information Reports

a. COSC Report

[\[www.eips.ca/parents/committee-of-school-councils-cosc\]](http://www.eips.ca/parents/committee-of-school-councils-cosc)

Tasha shared the following information from the February COSC meeting.

Board Chair Trina Boymook spoke about:

- Restructuring Ukrainian and German programs.
- Lunch program.
- SWH design phase – 3 storey building for just over 1000 students.
- ASCA AGM being held April 23. Nominations for board of directors open until April 7.
- 5 schools with closed boundaries next year.
- Modular program is now different and EIPS can no longer procure any so this is not helpful to schools that need more space.
- School council engagement grant for David Irvine presentation is supported by 7 school councils so far.
- Returning registration February 1-28.

Sandra Stoddard (currently the Associate Superintendent of Supports for Students but will be the EIPS Superintendent effective July 1, 2023) spoke about:

- Assurance framework and the importance of families completing the provincial assurance surveys.

b. Principal's Report

Amit shared the following information.

- We are still waiting for an announcement for funding for the new school build. He has recently been part of the conversations with Strathcona County about traffic issues. The most current design of the new school is including 2 gyms.
- Returning registration ends today. Preliminary numbers show healthy class sizes for next year's SWH programs.
- Staffing:
 - Krystal Bavaro has replaced Mrs. Elgert who began her maternity leave.
 - Beth Ward is covering for Mrs. Fiddler-Bertig until spring break.

- A large group of grade 9 FI students are taking a school trip to tour Montreal, Quebec City and Ottawa.

Will the grade 9 Honours CTF option have a fee?

No fee has been assigned yet but it will depend on if any materials are required. A point of clarification is that this option is only required in 1 semester. Next year, the Honours program will be running at SWH, F.R. Haythorne and for grade 8 only at Rudolph Henning.

When can students eat in other classrooms again?

This privilege will be reinstated after spring break.

Could the Student Voice experience be applied for the grade 8 Honours class who have dealt with 4 changes in core course staff since November?

Taylor will try to facilitate this request.

How are unsuccessful option change requests communicated to either or both the student and parent (who was required to fill in the form with the student)?

Each student should be informed if their request was granted or denied. Amit will follow-up with Johanna Ryan (SWH Registrar) on the communication process.

c. Trustee's Report

Jacque shared the following report on behalf of Trina Boymook.

At the Board's January 19 meeting, the Board approved a Ukrainian Language and Culture to replace the bilingual program. At this meeting, the Board also approved the Ukrainian Language and Culture and German Language and Cultural programs as Alternative Programs that will fall under the authority of the Board.

A recommendation on the Logos program will be considered at the March 16 Board meeting.

Phase 2 of the French Immersion engagement session was held on February 7. The information gathered through the in-person session and on-line surveys will inform the next public engagement session for French Immersion being held on April 13. The Board will hear the Superintendent's recommendation at our June 2023 meeting where the Board will consider the recommendations.

The Budget will be tabled on February 28. We remain hopeful that the funds for construction will be included in the budget for Sherwood Heights Replacement school.

The Board will begin its budget planning discussions starting March 2. The Board will consider our assurance reviews, stakeholder survey, progress being made within current initiatives and reserve status.

Re-registration is taking place through the month of February. There are five schools with closed boundaries for the 2023-24 school year: Ardrossan Elementary, Ardrossan Junior Senior High, Davidson Creek Elementary, James Mowat Elementary and SouthPointe. Those that are planning on registering for a non-designated school or an alternative program must do so by February 28.

After completing a Canadian-wide Superintendent search, the Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Sandra Stoddard as EIPS next Superintendent as of July 1, 2023. Sandra has been with

EIPS for over 6 years as the Associate Superintendent of Supports for Students. Her experience extends provincially, as well as around the world, in shaping education policy and practices. She has led significant initiatives on behalf of the Board with curriculum implementation, development and execution of the Board's Mental Health Strategic Plan (inclusive of mental health pilot project) to name a few. The Board is confident that Sandra will continue to build on our successes and lead us as we continue to grow and evolve as one of the best school divisions in the province.

It was requested that EIPS provide an email confirmation to families when they have applied for boundary exemptions.

Are the Boys and Girls Club going to be part of the new school build?

No, as our building pocket is not large enough to include them.

6. Adjournment

Jacque adjourned the meeting at 7:57pm.