

F.R. Haythorne (FRH) Junior High School

Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Attendance:

Lana Lastiwka - Principal	Mark Wever - Assistant Principal	Rejeita Kumar - Chair, Grade 8 Parent	Guy Martin - Grade 8 Parent
Brad Smilanich - Assistant Principal	Melanie Jimmy - Family-School Liaison Worker	Charmyn Thompson - Secretary, Grade 8 Parent	Cynthia Cassidy - Grade 7 Parent

- 1) Call to order/introductions - 5:02 p.m.
- 2) Land and People Acknowledgement
- 3) Norms - expectations of meeting conduct and reminder to be respectful, and exercise active listening
- 4) Approve Minutes from last meeting (September 13, 2023):
 - a) Approved - Cynthia Cassidy
 - b) Seconded - Rejeita Kumar
- 5) Approve agenda:
 - a) Approved - Cynthia Cassidy
 - b) Seconded - Rejeita Kumar
- 6) Trustee Report

Trina Boymook was not in attendance for this meeting.

7) Administration Report

Lana Lastiwka, Principal:

- Student/Parent and Teacher Interviews held from 4-7 p.m. on October 19th and October 24th

- Booking link available on Hawk's View

Discussion:

Challenging for parents to book in with all teachers

Guy Martin suggested the concept of group parents interviews which he has experienced as a parent in Edmonton High School. Brad Smilanich experienced this as well as a teacher. All of a student's teachers would meet collectively with a student and guardians. The concept has intrigue and will be looked into

- Internet Safety Presentation online to grade 7's by Saffron
 - Information was definitely eye opening, discussing information students may have otherwise taken for granted or were unaware of, including what happens when you press 'send', sharing pictures online, and how your information becomes the property of online apps.

Discussion:

Cynthia Cassidy shared that this experience prompted home dialogue which showcased how beneficial this presentation was. Makes a child think twice about putting themselves "out there" as they are more vulnerable than they ever realized.

- School Council Engagement Grant from Alberta Educations
 - \$500 available for school council use
 - More information about applying for the grant will be shared in the November COSC meeting package.

(Charmyn Thompson filled out the form on behalf of the F.R.Haythorne Parent Council)

- Picture Retakes
 - Lifetouch Photography will be at the school for picture retakes on October 30, 2023.

- Brightspace
 - Hawks View now has a link for any issues regarding Brightspace.

Mark Weaver, Assistant Principal:

- Professional Learning (PL) Day
 - On October 6th, staff took a bus to Millennium Place to gather with EIPS staff for the first mass meeting in approximately 7 years.
 - Great experience, meeting and catching up with former colleagues in the district.
 - Six questions were posed for each of the schools' staff members to consider, and the combination of people, sharing thoughts and ideas was inspiring and positive.

- Take Kids To Work Day
 - Nationwide event, November 1, 2023 for grade 9 students
 - Three main options: accompany parent, trusted guardian, online occupational research

Discussion:

Instead of asking a child what they “want to be” career wise, inquire as to their passions to help uncover what a good career direction might be. (eg. hockey - so many careers surround the sport beyond the athletes themselves).

- Halloween
 - Staff - themed costumes in the works.
 - Leadership 9 has activities planned all week leading up to Halloween during lunch break, promoting student engagement, and providing prizes for various games and costumes.
 - Reminder given to all students that costumes must not be obtrusive to learning - no face coverings, blow up costumes, no distracting accessories (knives, daggers, hooks, etc.)

Brad Smilanich, Assistant Principal:

- Athletics
 - Zones did very well in sports, with many medals won.
 - Volleyball tournaments most weekends, with schedules available on the Hawksview newsletter.

Discussion:

Positive feedback on the updates in Hawks View, allowing for parents to better plan family activities in advance. Children are not conveying as much information back home to parents as they would like, of course.

- Terry Fox Run
 - Was held on Friday, September 22, 2023.
 - The school “nailed it” - there was a perfect balance of fun and enthusiasm, while remembering Terry Fox, and his Marathon of Hope. Many students ran on behalf of loved ones who battle(d) cancer.

8) Staff Reports

Melanie Jimmy, Family-School Liaison Worker:

- The Hawks Room continues to be well utilized as a safe environment to decompress, catch up on missed work, or need some extra support. Funding is in place for the year for a full time staff member to oversee its use.
- As the year progresses, positive outcomes include that students that connected during time spent in the Hawks Room, have forged friendships.
- Data is being collected to also measure the effectiveness of the Hawks Room, and is showcasing its success.
- Having a reset room such as this provides parents relief that their child has a place such as this to offer them the support and extra emotional care while at school.
- Melanie has taken time to do online education with the intent of putting more “tools in her belt” in assisting students and their families. Her

greatest reward, when hearing parents' grief and concern for their struggling children, was being able to let them know of these extra supports we provide our students that parents were unaware of.

9) COSC Report

Good afternoon COSC members,

Below is a brief overview of what took place at the COSC meeting on Oct. 4, 2023.

KEY AGENDA TOPICS

- Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary
- COSC Planning for 2023-24
- ASCA update
- COSC Operating Procedures
- Caregiver Education Series
- School Council Engagement Grant
- EIPS Three-Year Engagement Plan
- New curriculum and assessment tools

ELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND SECRETARY

The meeting started with the election of the COSC Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary for the 2023-24 school year. The positions are as follows:

- *Chair:* Kendra Roemer, Mills Haven Elementary
- *Vice-Chair:* Dallas Kirtz, Fort Saskatchewan Elementary
- *Secretary:* Chelsea Pretzlaw, Ardrossan Elementary

The new role of COSC Technician was also created to assist with hybrid delivery of meetings. The COSC Technician will let participants into the meeting, monitor the chat and ensure audio is working properly.

- *COSC Technician:* Aileen Bozic, SCA Secondary

2023-24 COSC MEETINGS: Dates and time

Meeting dates for 2023-24:

- Nov. 1, 2023
- Jan. 10, 2024
- Feb. 7, 2024
- March 6, 2024
- April 3, 2024
- May 1, 2024

COSC members discussed meeting time and format for the 2023-24 school year. Members agreed to the following:

- Meeting times: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

- Meeting format: hybrid—both in person and virtual. During bad weather, meetings may take place entirely virtual.

ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION

[Alberta School Councils' Association](#) (ASCA) is the provincial organization for families on school council. Below may be of interest to COSC members:

- The ASCA website offers various resources for school council members designed to enhance school council effectiveness and parent engagement.
- Particularly useful is the "[School Council Resource Guide](#)," which steps members through the purpose and role of a school council.
- Accessing an ASCA membership is as simple as sending an email to [Emma Small](#) that your school council—including your school council name—wants a membership to ASCA for the 2023-24 school year. EIPS will take care of registering your school council and covering the costs. As requested, the Board of Trustees and EIPS senior administration will investigate having ASCA memberships for all school councils as opposed to on request.
- Accessing the Members-only section of the ASCA website:
 - If your school council had an ASCA membership last year and you've requested a membership for this year:
 - You should be able to log in with your username and password from last year. Your username will be the email ASCA has on record. If you've forgotten your password, send an email directly to support@albertaschoolcouncils.ca. They can help you reset it.
 - If your school council did not have an ASCA membership last year:
 - You'll receive an email prompting you to log in and create a password.
 - If you haven't received this email, or may have deleted it by mistake, complete the [Update School Council Contact form](#) on the ASCA website. This will trigger the next step in the process.
- ASCA is also piloting a project called Walk Alongside. Stay tuned for more details.

COSC OPERATING PROCEDURES

The [COSC Operating Procedures](#) are available on the EIPS website and the [COSC Facebook page](#).

Review the procedures and bring any suggested updates or changes to the November COSC meeting.

CAREGIVER EDUCATION SERIES: October

Alberta Health Services is hosting a series of virtual caregiver information sessions focused on ways to support students' mental health. The sessions are free and geared toward parents, caregivers, teachers and community members who want to learn more about challenges impacting children and adolescents. Session topics include anxiety, ADHD, depression, self-harm, technology, teens and teaching leadership skills, communication, resiliency and more. [Learn more](#)

SCHOOL COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT GRANT

Alberta Education is providing school councils with a \$500 School Council Engagement Grant. Those school councils interested in accessing funding must meet [grant criteria](#), which essentially means

opportunities that help build capacity and strengthen engagement. To administer the 2023-24 grant, EIPS first needs to collect contact information from school councils in the Division. Have one member from your school council complete this [contact form](#) by Monday, October 23. More information about applying for the grant will be shared in the November COSC meeting package.

EIPS THREE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Superintendent Sandra Stoddard discussed the [EIPS Three-Year Engagement Plan](#). The discussion outlined five projects the Division is undertaking to identify areas where the Division can improve operations to best serve students, including programming and school capacity considerations. In referring to the Systems Program Review, Superintendent Stoddard highlighted the many [Specialized System Programs](#) the Division offers.

NEW CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Associate Superintendent Ryan Marshall spoke about resources the Division has created for the new curriculum and the assessment tools being used for the school year. He included information on the [Partners 4 Science program](#), which encourages hands-on science learning through interactive kits.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

October 9	Thanksgiving Day (schools are closed)
November 1	Early Dismissal
November 1	Take Our Kids to Work Day
November 6-10	November Break (schools are closed)

You can also [join COSC on Facebook](#) to share information and ask questions with other school councils.

Additional information from the Oct. 4, 2023 meeting is available at www.eips.ca. The next meeting takes place on Nov. 1, 2023. We look forward to seeing you there.

Kind Regards,

Emma Small
Communications Assistant | Communication Services
Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS)
P 780.417.8159
www.eips.ca | Twitter: [@eips](#) | Facebook: [elkislandpublicschools](#)

Additional COSC information:

Charmyn Thompson, attended the COSC meeting/networking event on behalf of F.R. Haythorne Parent Council on October 4, 2023, and was motivated by networking with parent council representatives from the Elk Island Public School (EIPS) district.

F.R. Haythorne Parents Council has applied for the \$500 School Council Engagement grant and has requested a membership to Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA), for the 2023-24 school year. EIPS takes care of registration and cost on our behalf.

Discussions to further explore:

- How to engage more parents to be more involved with our parent council group?
- What do we wish to achieve?
- School merch (t-shirts and hoodies) - provide samples available to try on to determine sizing?

10) Meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled: November 15, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.