

# F.R. Haythorne (FRH) Junior High School

## School Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

### Attendance:

<b>Lana Lastiwka - Principal</b>	<b>Mark Wever - Assistant Principal</b>	<b>Sivanthy Suntharalingam - Vice Chair, Parent</b>	<b>Adrienne Suelzle- Parent</b>
<b>Brad Smilanich - Assistant Principal</b>	<b>Melanie Jimmy - Family-School Liaison Worker</b>	<b>Charmyn Thompson - Secretary, Parent</b>	<b>Trina Boymook - Board Trustee</b>

Regrets: Rejeita Kumar

- 1) Call to order/introductions - 6:01 p.m.
- 2) Land and People Acknowledgement
- 3) Approve Minutes from last meeting (April 17, 2024):
  - a) Approved - Charmyn Thompson
  - b) Seconded - Sivanthy Suntharalingam
- 4) Approve agenda:

Charmyn requested the following changes to the agenda:

  8. School Council Update
    - ASCA conference
    - AGM moved to September 18, 2024
    - Revisit operating procedures document for council meeting
    - Request to update School Councils resource guide under school council tab on FRH website
  9. COSC Report
  10. Adjourn meeting

- a) Approved - Rejeita Kumar
- b) Seconded - Charmyn Thompson

## 5) Trustee Report

### Trina Boymook, EIPS Trustee

The Board has received an increase in our funding allocation to address student enrollment and covering the Teacher's collective agreement. There have been no increases to offset the cost of inflation and there has been no increase to the classroom

complexity grant. In addition, no funding was received to extend support for the Reset Room Pilot Project.

In response to school assurance review and budget survey completed by parents and staff, classroom complexity has been identified as one of the key priority areas in building this budget. Without any increase in the classroom complexity grant, it has been decided to introduce a new way of allocating the specialized supports for inclusive

students and system programs.

An algorithm has been established to includes factors the contribute to complexity in the

classroom.

- o Provincial Achievement and Diploma Test results including standard

- deviation/mean;

- o socio-economic factors;

- o First Nation, Métis and Inuit self-identified students;

- o English as an Additional Language;

- o students in care; and
- o students with non-levelled special education codes, and student population size.

\$1.508M has been allocated to schools based on the algorithm.

Classroom complexity grant of \$861,000, EIPS will use for the following items:

- o part of the classroom complexity allocation;
- o a Speech Language Pathologist Assistant position;
- o a Speech Language Pathologist Assistive Technology position; and
- o a Reading Specialist Consultant position. The use of reserves will be used to expand the READ program to all elementary schools for identified Grade 2 students.

The key priority areas in building the budget are

- o Classroom Complexity
- o Curriculum and resource development to support teachers
- o Year 3 of the Mental Health Strategic Plan (through use of reserves)
- o Continued pursuit of Collegiate School /Program and support for Career Pathways (through use of reserves)
- o Equity for rural schools, equity for all
- o Retention of Staff
- o Artificial Intelligence (AI) considerations (through use of reserves)

The 2024-25 Budget will be a tight budget and it is anticipated that the 2025-26 Budget

will be even tighter.

The Board approved the student transportation fees at the upcoming school year at its April 18 Board meeting, parents will see large decreases in fees for those eligible families (K- 6 residing over 1km Grades 7-12 Over 2km from registered school) who are

attending school and program of choice. Dropping from \$175 to \$75. Ineligible riders fee will be \$150 for next year. Overall people will see sizeable decreases in fees for the upcoming year due to the new funding model introduced by the province last year. Deadline for paying fees is June 30, 2024. Those that don't pay by the deadline will need to pay a \$25 late fee.

## 6) Administration Report

Lana Lastiwka, Principal:

### Budget 2024-25

- Budget reporting is due on May 15th
- Budgets are tight, so creativity in planning
- Enrollment will be down by approximately 48 students for the 2024-25 school year
- Large classes for the grade 9 students in the new school year - expecting classes sizes of 34 students

### Door Locking Procedure

- Doors to the school will be locked during class time during the day for an added security measure - this is district wide, not just FRH.
- Doors will be unlocked from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., during lunchtime and from 3 p.m. - 3:30 p.m..
- A video doorbell is installed to see who is entering the school and why.

Fees for the 2024-25 school year have been approved.

**Mark Weaver, Assistant Principal:**

**Change Room modifications in gym**

- The former shower stalls that have been unused have been modified as private change spaces within the locker room for male and female students.

**Grade 9 Farewell**

- Many ideas in the works for the grade 9 farewell activities
- Leadership 9 playing a big role in assisting with planning and have suggested different days for activities so that everyone can have time to partake
- Expect at least 3 hours for socializing, pictures and ceremony

**Brad Smilanich, Assistant Principal:**

**Athletics**

- Badminton is over, with the junior team earning bronze, and the senior team, silver.
- Handball tournaments underway this weekend - so much fun to watch
- Golf and track and field are left until the end of the school year
- Track meet is on May 23, 2024 at the Strathcona Athletic Field, across from the school. Events and times will be forthcoming via email, and on Hawk View.

**7) Staff Reports**

**Melanie Jimmy, Family-School Liaison Worker:**

### Red Dress display

- Hanging in the trees outside the school entrance, students took the opportunity to create red dress ornaments to bring attention and remembrance to the many missing and murdered indigenous women

## 8) School Council

Charmyn Thompson, Secretary

### ASCA Conference

It was an eye opening and enlightening opportunity to have attended the annual ASCA (Alberta School Council Association) conference. The EIPS' COSC community was well represented, with members lined up at the mic when the education minister, Demetrios Nicolaides was taking questions from the floor. Rejeita and I were thrilled when keynote speaker and author Barbara Coloroso was our lunch companion.

Rejeita and I split forces in the breakout sessions we were able to attend. I took in the School Council Purpose, The Assurance Framework: An Opportunity for School Council Engagement, and the presentation from Hugh Sutherland School Council from Carstairs, Alberta of taking a unique school from grade 5 to 12 and building an effective school council with the interest of engaging parents, connecting classrooms, and enhancing their school culture.

The greatest takeaway from this experience is the awareness of the far reaching benefits of a functioning, well attended school council. Also, pride and appreciation for our leadership in EIPS. All persons present included. Not all schools and districts in our province are doing as well as we are with parent, school and community relationships. EIPS are role models for doing parent engagement right in Alberta. I attended the COSC meeting last week, and witnessed the presentation of the ASCA's School Council Engagement Award to our Superintendent and School Board. COSC members discussed our collective experience from the ASCA conference, and it sure drives home how well supported we parents are as a collective voice for our children in school.

Going forward, we know we have work to do to engage and unite parents that wish to become more active in their children's education. You don't know what you don't know. The goal I see going for parent council is community. When parents are united and feel heard and supported by their peers regarding their children's educational experience, we have more involved and invested families supporting one another, and you.

So thank you once again for your support in having Rejeita and I take part in the conference, giving us a clearer picture of our roles, and next year when we come together to form our council at the AGM in September, we can act as ambassadors to get the word out to grow our school council community.

### **Online School Councils' Resource Guide**

- Request to update the School Councils' Resource Guide under the School Council tab on the F.R. Haythorne school website

## **9. COSC Report**

Good afternoon COSC members,

Below is a brief overview of what took place at the last COSC meeting on May 1, 2024.

### **KEY AGENDA TOPICS**

- Special Presentation: ASCA Division School Council Engagement Award
- Board Report
- Caregiver Education Series
- ASCA update
- School Council Annual Reports: Due June 26
- Draft AP 528: Building security and door locking
- COSC Sharing: ASCA Conference and AGM experiences
- Draft Spring EIPS Budget 2024-25: Highlights

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION: ASCA Division School Council Engagement Award**

For the special presentation, EIPS parents Krista Scott and Jacquie Surgenor Gaglione presented the Division School Council Engagement Award from the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) to EIPS Board Chair Cathy Allen, Superintendent Sandra Stoddard and Associate Superintendent Ryan Marshall. For more information:

- [EIPS News Release: EIPS Receives Division School Council Engagement Award from the Alberta School Councils' Association](#)
- [Nomination Package](#)

Surgenor Gaglione also spoke about a [presentation](#) she did with Trustee Trina Boymook in May 2016. The presentation explores the benefits of a positive relationship between school councils, trustees, and parents and caregivers.

### **BOARD REPORT**

Board Chair Allen presented the Board Report. The Board of Trustees had its Board Retreat from April 8-9, 2024. This was an opportunity for trustees to discuss future trends in public

education in EIPS, looking at research, data and written summaries from a number of exigent topics. This included the latest economic, technology and career trends. In terms of advocacy, Board Chair Allen reminded COSC members they can copy the opposition on email communication to the provincial government.

### **CAREGIVER EDUCATION SERIES: May and June**

Alberta Health Services hosts 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, depression and technology, while teaching leadership skills, communication, resiliency and more. [Learn more](#)

### **ASCA UPDATE**

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

- The [ASCA Conference and AGM](#) happened April 26-28, 2024.
  - The [Board of Directors](#) was elected at the AGM.
  - A followup package should be available soon.
- ASCA is hosting a [golf tournament fundraiser](#) on June 5.
  - Registration closes **May 31**.
- [Learning opportunities](#) and [support services](#) are still available to school councils and can be paid for with the School Council Engagement Grant.
- ASCA's [event calendar](#) doesn't only feature workshops—they post other events that may be of interest to parents and caregivers. Upcoming examples include:
  - **May 7:** [Approaching May Mindfully](#)
  - **May 15:** [Get Ready for National Indigenous Peoples Month](#)

### **SCHOOL COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORTS DUE: June 26**

School Council Annual Reports are due **June 26**. There was a discussion to create a Google form for school councils to fill out instead. For now, the process will remain the same for the 2023-24 school year. We'll look into creating a form next year for school councils to fill out. This year, write your report and submit it to your principal by the deadline. A sample report template was shared in the [May COSC package](#); however, school councils are welcome to deviate from the template as long as they include all the [information](#) Alberta Education requires. COSC Chair Kendra Roemer said that her school council likes to include the story of its activities over the year within their report. An [example](#) of this report is available.

### **DRAFT AP 528: Building security and door locking**

Superintendent Stoddard discussed an administrative procedure (AP) EIPS is developing around building security and door locking. The AP looks at adding additional security to schools across the Division, including doorbell cameras, key fobs and standard locked door times during the day. Many of these measures have already been implemented at EIPS elementary schools. COSC members shared their feedback on the AP and plan to talk about it again at the October COSC meeting in the 2024-25 school year.



### **COSC SHARING: ASCA Conference and AGM experiences**

COSC members discussed their experiences at the ASCA Conference and AGM. Everyone enjoyed getting to know each other better and network with other councils. The keynote speaker Barbara Coloroso was exceptional, and other breakout sessions had valuable information and resources. From this conversation, COSC members explored the idea of developing a mentorship program for new school council chairs and creating a drive where they can share resources amongst school councils across EIPS.

### **DRAFT SPRING EIPS BUDGET 2024-25: Highlights**

Because of a lack of time, Superintendent Stoddard shared a quick summary of highlights from the draft spring EIPS Budget 2024-25, including an update about student transportation fees. COSC members are encouraged to look at her [presentation](#) and share any feedback they have. For input on the budget, COSC members can reach Superintendent Stoddard through Central Services reception at 780-464-3477. They will direct your call.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES**

- **May 5:** [Red Dress Day](#)
- **May 6:** Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- **May 6-12:** [Mental Health Week](#)
- **May 10:** [Bear Witness Day](#)
- **May 16:** [Moose Hide Campaign Day](#)
- **May 16-17:** School Closure Days (schools closed to staff and students)
- **May 20:** Victoria Day (schools and Central Services closed)
- **May 29:** [Red Shirt Day](#)
- **June 1:** [Intergenerational Day](#)
- **June 5:** Early Dismissal
- **June 21:** [National Indigenous Peoples Day](#)
- **June 26:** Last Day of Classes
- **June 27:** Operational Day (schools closed to students)

### **CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH: Free membership**

[Canadian Parents for French](#) offers free membership to parents and caregivers. It's a non-profit organization that furthers bilingualism by promoting opportunities to learn and use French for all those who call Canada home. On the website, you can find events, programs and resources geared to students, families and educators. [Join now](#)

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

Additional information from the May 1, 2024 meeting is available at [www.eips.ca](http://www.eips.ca). Thank you for all who attended COSC this year, whether one meeting or all of them. As always, it's been a pleasure to be a part of these engaging presentations and discussions. Seeing everything you

do for your school communities warms my heart and reminds me exactly why we do what we do.

The first meeting of 2024-25 takes place on Oct. 2, 2024. We look forward to seeing you there!

Kind Regards,

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**10. Meeting Adjourned:** 6:57 p.m.

Additional notes:

- This is the last meeting for the 2023-24 school year. Next meeting will be our AGM on September 18, 2004 at 6 p.m. in the school library. Bring a friend!
- A staff appreciation initiative is in place post meeting.
- The School Council discussed being present at the grade 7 orientation in August to welcome and encourage parents and students, and let them know about us - NOT A FUNDRAISING council.