

# F.R. Haythorne (FRH) Junior High School (AGM) School Council Meeting

**Wednesday, September 18, 2024**

## Attendance:

<b>Lana Lastiwka - Principal</b>	<b>Mark Wever - Assistant Principal</b>	<b>Sivanthy Suntharalingam - Vice Chair, Parent (9)</b>	<b>Guy Martin - Parent (7 &amp; 9)</b>
<b>Brad Smilanich - Assistant Principal (Gr. 9 overseer)</b>	<b>Cynthia Cassidy - Parent (8)</b>	<b>Charmyn Thompson - Secretary, Parent (7 &amp; 9)</b>	<b>Trina Boymook - Board Trustee</b>
<b>Elizabeth Rolheiser- Parent</b>	<b>Aubrey Godfrey- Parent (7)</b>	<b>Brian Vick- Grandparent (7)</b>	

- 1) Call to order/introductions - 6:03 p.m.
- 2) Land and People Acknowledgement - A special reading by Lana.
- 3) Introductions
- 4) Approve Minutes from last meeting (May 8, 2024):
  - a) Approved - Charmyn Thompson
  - b) Seconded - Cynthia Cassidy
- 5) Approve agenda - additions/deletions

6) Executive Elections:

Chair

- a) Nomination for Cynthia Cassidy

Approved: Charmyn Thompson  
Aubrey Godfrey

Vice Chair

- a) Nomination for (Incumbent) Silvanthy Suntharalingam

Approved: Charmyn Thompson  
Aubrey Godfrey

Secretary

- a) Nomination for (Incumbent) Charmyn Thompson

Approved: Cynthia Cassidy  
Silvanthy Suntharalingam

COSC (Council of School Councils) Representative

- a) Nomination for Brian Vick

Approved: Charmyn Thompson  
Cynthia Cassidy

7) Trustee Report:

*Trina Boymook, EIPS Trustee*

*Welcome to another school year. I'm excited that you have decided to attend the first school council meeting of the year. School Council meetings is a great way to hear directly from your school principal about what is taking place in the school and to share your thoughts on how we can improve as a school system and build a supportive school environment for all students.*

*The Board met August 22 for our first meeting of the 2024-25 school year.*

*In July the Minister of Education announced one time funding to address higher than expected*

enrollment growth and unavoidable cost pressures, including inflation. It was anticipated that we would receive \$1.6M of the \$125M. At our August 22 meeting we approved the allocation of these new funds.

The \$1.6 will be targeted at classroom complexity with \$66K going to cover the cost of an EA Capacity Building Pilot (ensuring our educational assistants continue to be trained and up to date on the most effective practices to support complex students) with the remaining being allocated to schools using the newly developed classroom complexity algorithm

The algorithm includes the following

factors:

- Provincial Achievement and Diploma Exam Test Results
- Socio-economic factors;
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit self-identified students;
- English as an Additional Language;
- Students in care; and
- Students with non-leveled special education codes and student population size

September 12 we held the groundbreaking ceremony for Sherwood Heights replacement school. Excavating of the new school site began early July. Construction is expected to be completed spring of 2026. As we prepare for the opening of the replacement school, a community survey will be made available mid-October gather thoughts on the name of the replacement school that will see Sherwood Heights and Ecole Campbelltown coming together under one roof.

COSC first meeting will be held on October 2. A Meet and Greet will be held ahead of the meeting starting at 5:30 where pizza and refreshments will be.

## 8) Administration Report

### Lana Lastiwka, Principal:

- New student orientation and start up was a success
- New staff updates: Ryan Jap, Mackenzie Moscrip and Mark Staszko join FRH for program support
- Parent and students can find what is happening at FRH weekly with Friday updates on the school website called “Hawks View”
- Future school council meeting dates for the 2024-25 school year is tentatively set:

September 18, 2024

March 19, 2025

October 16, 2024

April 16, 2025

November 20, 2024

May 21, 2025

January 22, 2025

\*No meetings: December, February & June

(All meetings are set for 6 p.m. in the library. Please join us!)

### Brad Smilanich, Assistant Principal:

- Bus evacuation drill as an OHS exercise, and fire drill to be held on the 20th
- Sports teams are already in full swing and placing well
  - Schedules will be posted as soon as available to those students, and parents can find them on Hawks View

### Mark Weaver, Assistant Principal:

- There is a missed assignment protocol to be trialed this year where parents will be notified by email when their child needs to make up a missed assignment. Parents can book this time on specific dates and times (much like when scheduling a parent and teacher interview). In addition, this will keep parents aware and informed to encourage their child at home when assignments are missing.

- New photo company for this year's school photos. Discussion exposed no love for the full body student (and staff) photos - face framing portraits or at least some options are preferred. Overall quality seemed on point, as well as options for purchase.

## 9) Staff Reports

Lana (on behalf of Melanie Jimmy, Family-School Liaison Worker):

- Truth and Reconciliation Day will be acknowledged on September 27th as Monday the 30th is a holiday.
- Monetary donation accepted for the Terry Fox Run on September 26th. Leadership 9 group is doing an awesome job promoting it.
- Yukon the dog, through Saffron, will be doing monthly visits during lunch time throughout the school year in Room 174.
- Every Tuesday, beginning on September 24th, the Boys and Girls' Club will be offering a club for students with activities, and connection. It's a free weekly program held at lunch time, and they will provide board games and access to a Nintendo Switch.

## 10) COSC Meeting Review

Good afternoon COSC members,

Below is a brief overview of what took place at the COSC meeting on Oct. 2, 2024.

### KEY AGENDA TOPICS

- Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary
- COSC Planning for 2024-25
- ASCA Presentation: The Work of School Council
- Board Report
- ATA Report
- Caregiver Series: October
- COSC Operating Procedures
- School Council Engagement Grant

### ELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND SECRETARY

The meeting started with the election of the COSC Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary for the 2024-25 school year. The positions are as follows:

- *Chair:* Stephanie Stoddard, Fort Saskatchewan Elementary

- *Vice-Chair:* Michelle Uytterhagen, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High
- *Secretary:* Andrea Brown, École Campbelltown

Past COSC Chair Jacquie Surgenor Gaglione said the COSC executive and COSC members can contact her for questions and advice at [Jacquie@Kayric.com](mailto:Jacquie@Kayric.com) or 780-909-2718.

### COSC PLANNING FOR 2024-25

Meeting dates for 2024-25:

- Nov. 6, 2024
- Jan. 8, 2025
- Feb. 5, 2025
- March 5, 2025
- April 2, 2025
- May 7, 2025

Meeting times and format:

- *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.

COSC members discussed potential agenda topics for the 2024-25 year:

- Advocacy surrounding public education
- Artificial intelligence (AI) in schools
- Mentorship
- Parental engagement
- Pilot projects the Division is exploring
- School council three-year plans
- School fee development
- The public education funding model and three-year weighted moving average

### ASCA PRESENTATION: The Work of School Council

[Alberta School Councils' Association](#) (ASCA) is the provincial organization for families on school council. ASCA Instructors Suzanne Lynch and Shelley Odishaw presented virtually on the work of school councils.

- School councils are not a nice-to-have, they are legislated within the [Education Act](#). [Learn more](#)
- Lynch encouraged COSC members to take the [handouts](#) from the presentation and distribute them amongst their school council members and keep them in a binder for future reference.
- COSC members can read through [Alberta Education's Business Plan](#).
- The [ASCA website](#) offers various resources for school council members designed to enhance school council effectiveness and parent engagement.
- All school councils have an ASCA membership. This means they can access the [Members Only section](#) of the ASCA website to find resources, such as the [Timed School Council Agenda Template](#). For instructions to access your member account, see this [Welcome Letter from ASCA](#).

- If COSC members have questions that weren't answered during the presentation, they can email [Suzanne Lynch](#).

### **BOARD REPORT**

Board Chair Cathy Allen shared the Board report. COSC members can access current [Board meeting information](#) for meeting packages, highlights and minutes throughout the school year. She also mentioned three upcoming surveys:

- A survey about the naming of the [Sherwood Park replacement school](#).
- A survey about changes to upcoming school year calendars will be sent out to EIPS families next week. These changes are based on research regarding the impacts of collaboration and professional learning on student achievement.
- A survey with impacted stakeholders about the transition plan for [French Immersion programming](#). There will be other consultations in addition to the survey.

In terms of advocacy, Board Chair Allen will share the Board's current advocacy priorities after the Board finalizes their advocacy plan this fall. For COSC members looking to develop their own advocacy skills, two resources are available from previous years: [School Council Advocacy Package](#) and [COSC Advocacy Sheet for Parents](#).

### **ATA REPORT**

Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Local No. 28 President Deneen Zielke presented the ATA report. This year, the ATA's focus is on advocating for the provincial government's support in funding public education. If COSC members are interested in supporting this effort, they can contact [Deneen Zielke](#).

### **CAREGIVER EDUCATION SERIES: October**

Recovery Alberta 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](#)

### **COSC OPERATING PROCEDURES**

The [COSC Operating Procedures](#) are available on the EIPS website. If you're new to COSC, read the procedures to understand the history, governance, decision-making and more regarding the committee.

### **SCHOOL COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT GRANT**

Alberta Education is providing school councils with a \$500 [School Council Engagement Grant](#). School councils may have funds rolled over from previous years—Emma Small will be contacting all school councils individually about how much grant money they have this year. To administer the 2024-25 grant, EIPS first needs to collect contact information from school councils in the Division, as Alberta Education needs this information to allocate funding. Have one member from your school council complete

this [contact form](#) by Friday, October 25. For more information about the grant process and FAQs, see the [EIPS website](#).

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES**

- October 5: [World Teachers Day](#)
- October 7-11: [Read In Week](#)
- October 10: [World Mental Health Day](#)
- October 14: Thanksgiving Day (schools and Central Services closed)
- October 15: [Alberta Out-of-Province Fair](#)
- November 5-11: [Veteran's Week](#)
- November 6: Early Dismissal
- November 6: [Take Our Kids to Work Day](#)

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

Additional information from the Oct. 2, 2024 meeting is available at [eips.ca](#). The next meeting takes place on Nov. 6, 2024. We look forward to seeing you there.

Kind Regards,

Emma Small  
Communications and Public Engagement  
Assistant  
Communication Services  
Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS)  
P 780-417-8159  
[eips.ca](#)

11) Adjournment - 7:06 p.m.

*Next meeting, October 16, 2024 at 6 p.m. in the school library.*