

F.R. Haythorne (FRH) Junior High School

School Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Attendance:

Erin Clark - (Acting) Principal	Mark Wever - Assistant Principal	Elizabeth Friesen Rolheiser - parent	Brian Vick- COSC Rep, Grandparent (7)
Brad Smilanich - Assistant Principal (Gr. 9 overseer)	Cynthia Cassidy - Chair, Parent (8)	Charmyn Thompson - Secretary, Parent (7 & 9)	Trina Boymook - Board Trustee
Guy Martin - Parent (7 & 9)	Aubrey Godfrey- Parent (7)	Melanie Kimmy - Support Staff	

- 1) Call to order/introductions - 6:05 p.m.
- 2) Land and People Acknowledgement & Introductions
- 3) Norms
- 4) Approve Minutes from last meeting (October 16, 2024):
 - a) Approved - Brian Vick
 - b) Seconded - Cynthia Cassidy
- 5) Approve agenda - additions/deletions
 - a) Approved - Cynthia Cassidy
 - b) Seconded - Brian Vick

6) Trustee Report
Trina Boymook

A calendar survey has been sent out to parents/caregivers and staff to gather thoughts on 2 options, which closed October 21. We had 4027 people provide feedback about the strengths, weaknesses, and possible ways to improve these two ideas. The Board will make a decision at our December meeting.

At the October 17 Board meeting the Board approved the following:

Approved our modular request to the Alberta government to cover the cost of relocation of 6 modulars from West Hosford to Fort Saskatchewan, and demolition of 2 Westboro modulars.

Trustee Shotbolt, Trustee for Fort Saskatchewan, served notice of resignation on October 7. Her last day on the board will be October 31. The Board has decided not to hold a byelection and have assigned her duties to the remaining Board. The Board will function with 7 Trustees until the general election next fall.

Governance budget surplus of \$39,592 has been reallocated to leveraging student achievement funds bringing up a total of \$388K being available for the 2024-25 school year. The majority of the funds will be used to address hotspots at the junior high level, with the remaining targeted work within the French Immersion program.

The Board of Trustees directed the Superintendent to create a draft Administrative Procedure that outlines processes and guidelines for the accumulation, use and carry-over of school generated funds, to be brought to the January 9, 2025 Caucus Meeting for feedback.

At the end of October, the Board sent a letter to the Minister of Education to provide feedback on the Weighted Moving Average(WMA) funding model. The way the WMA model works, funding does not align with the needs of current students in schools where growth either remains level or has grown significantly. The Minister did share with a meeting with Board Chairs and Superintendent, that changes to the funding model would be released with the upcoming budget announcement.

Discussion:

Trina explained more in depth the feedback of collaborative time options (making the usual one hour early dismissal each month, to evolve into additional collaborative opportunities for staff to discuss and strategize best practices to address complexity in the classroom and other concerns). For the “once weekly” one hour early dismissal, the greatest positive was consistency. The second option of two hour early dismissal every two weeks on a Friday held several points of interests, including (but not limited to)

extended family time, opportunity for work to be caught up on going into the weekend, early travel option, potential conflict in shared custody agreements (potentially short changing a parent of time with their children), how short classes would be - questioning if showing up is even worth it.

This matter will be debated in the December board meeting.

7) School Council Engagement Grant

FRH School Council has \$953.00 available to use for the current school year, and Council is in favour of allocating use of these funds toward something fun and engaging for parents to come together and facilitate cohesion in school and family community.

8) Administration Report

Erin Clark, Acting Principal:

Assurance Review

- Presented at Assurance Review
- Identified commonalities of challenges and successes
- Literacy was celebrated, with 371 new book titles and more engaged readers
- Discussed teaching practices, and will focus on math next
- Questioning whether the materials covered in ELA were interesting and useful to students and build on feedback
- Student engagement being prioritized within F.R.H. focusing on citizenship and leadership
- Allowing the student body to mingle - mentorship and collaboration
- Potential junior high dance being discussed on early out day
- Gloves and toque collection initiatives forthcoming

Fundraising

- Film is having the beef jerky and popcorn fundraisers
- French 9 is doing the Purdy's Chocolate fundraiser
- Enterprise and Innovation 9 is doing the holiday market and silent auction on December 3, 2024 from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- Teresa Spinelli from The Italian Centre spoke to the students and shared her story of how she created a successful business, and was very well received

Mark Wever, Assistant Principal:

Remembrance Day

- Remembrance Day was recognized on November 8, with Leadership 9 taking the lead in hosting a great ceremony
- It was very meaningful and respectful

Guest Speaker

- Still in the works, there has been a delay in getting a response from a potential guest speaker who had reached out to Lana Lastiwka, for parents to attend in the future, discussing alternate support for substance abuse, beyond (AA) Alcoholics Anonymous.

Brad Smilanich, Assistant Principal:

Athletics

- Volleyball is finished, with the school teams placing first and second in competition
- Basketball tryouts forthcoming

TOKTWD (Take Our Kids To Work Day)

- Of the 201 grade 9 students, 193 were away participating
- "IS THIS WHAT ADULTING IS LIKE???!!" Well attended and fantastic memories made - some potentially life changing

9) Staff Reports

Melanie Jimmy, Family-School Liaison Worker

- Saffron once a month, brings in the Spin the Wheel knowledge builder, and Yukon the dog to pay the school a visit during the lunch hour
- Boys & Girls Club going strong on Tuesdays

10) COSC Report

Brian Vick highlighted the mentorship opportunities between school councils and that there is a contact sheet circulating where individuals are adding their contact information.

Good morning COSC members,

Below is a brief overview of what took place at the COSC meeting on Nov. 6, 2024.

KEY AGENDA TOPICS

- Board Report
- ASCA update
- Caregiver Series: November and December
- School Council Engagement Grant
- COSC Sharing: Mentorship opportunities
- EIPS Assurance Review: What it is and how to read your school's result

BOARD REPORT

Board Chair Cathy Allen shared the Board report. She discussed many topics, including:

- EIPS School Transition Planning Survey
- EIPS Division Calendar Survey—a decision about the calendar will be made at the Board Meeting on December 19.
- Possible approaches to a new funding model—the Board sent a letter to Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaides, asking him to consider funding in relation to inflation and based on classroom complexity. There will be a presentation on the weighted moving average at the January COSC Meeting.
- Upcoming trustee election in October 2025
- Proposed legislation surrounding an *Education Amendment Act* and a *Fairness and Safety in Sport Act*

ASCA UPDATE

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

- ASCA has a [calendar](#) for their Scheduled Learning Opportunities (SLOs).
- SLOs and any of the [individual learning opportunities](#) or private [support and consultations](#) can be paid for using the Alberta School Council Engagement Grant. Reminder that EIPS school councils receive a 25 per cent discount for these learning opportunities.
- The ASCA Board of Directors is hosting a free [Virtual Engagement Event](#) for school councils—and education partners and stakeholders—on the afternoon of Saturday, November 23. Keynote Speaker Tammy Schamuhn from the Institute of Child Psychology will talk about *Emotion Regulation & Children: Understanding Their Brain is Your Superpower*. [Pre-registration](#) is required.

CAREGIVER EDUCATION SERIES: November and December

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](#)

SCHOOL COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT GRANT

Alberta Education is providing school councils with a \$500 [School Council Engagement Grant](#). Thank you to all school councils for filling out the contact form for the grant. Councils can now apply with their grant activities. An application form has been sent to the email address your school council provided in the contact form. The application asks for general school council information and how school councils plan to use the grant. School councils are encouraged to complete the application form by December 31. After you apply, your council must wait for approval from the COSC Chair before going ahead with grant activities. You'll receive an email when you have approval. For more information about the grant process and FAQs, see the [EIPS website](#).

Jennifer Daly and Marlene Crippin—co-chairs for Bev Facey Community High's school council—have put forward an opportunity to pool funds. If your school council is interested, send an email to tdaly01@telus.net ASAP. An option for pooling funds has been added to the grant application; however, councils should know which school councils are pooling funds before completing the form.

COSC SHARING: Mentorship opportunities

COSC members shared ideas surrounding how best to provide mentorship to one another. Of the suggestions made, three methods were agreed upon:

1. A [COSC Mentorship Contact List](#)—this is a shared Google Sheets file, so feel free to add your name and contact information. Otherwise, councils can visit this list and connect with other school councils for advice.
2. A dedicated time to bring forward questions and best practices during COSC Sharing—this allows school councils to gather knowledge from many school council perspectives at the COSC Meeting.
3. [COSC Facebook page](#)—school council members can join the page to ask questions and engage other school councils outside of COSC.

EIPS Assurance Review: What it is and how to read your school's result

EIPS Director of Specialized Supports Marcus Reed discussed the Division's Assurance Reviews. Every school principal invites their school council to have one representative at the school's Assurance Review. School council members are encouraged to review their school's education plan—available on the school website as one of the home page blocks. Councils can also view their school's results by contacting their principal. Reed explained quantitative versus

qualitative data, trend mapping and questions councils can ask school administration about their goals and results. The [presentation slides](#) are available on the EIPS website.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

- November 5-11: [Veterans' Week](#)
- November 10-16: [Métis Week](#)
- November 11-15: November break (schools closed)
- November 11: Remembrance Day (Central Services closed)
- November 13: [World Kindness Day](#)
- November 18-22: [Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week](#)
- November 20: [National Child Day](#)
- November 20: [Vegreville and Mundare Indigenous Family and Community Evening](#)
- November 25-29: [ASEBP Education Worker Recognition Week](#)
- December 4: Early Dismissal
- December 23 to January 3: Christmas break (schools closed)
- December 25 to January 1: EIPS Central Services Christmas closure days
- January 8: Early Dismissal

An update from Emma Small, your COSC Liaison: I'll be out-of-office from November 11 to December 2—returning to work on Tuesday, December 3. While I'm away, you can email communications@eips.ca. This is the general email address that EIPS Communication Services monitors. For urgent matters, phone EIPS Central Services reception at 780-464-3477. They can direct your call.

Additional information from the Nov. 6, 2024 meeting is available at eips.ca. The next meeting takes place on Jan. 8, 2024. We look forward to seeing you there. Have a wonderful Christmas break if I don't hear from you before then!

Kind Regards,

Emma Small (she/her)
Communications and Public Engagement
Assistant
Communication Services
Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS)
P 780-417-8159
eips.ca

11) Adjournment - 7:08 p.m.

**Next meeting, January 22, 2025 at 6 p.m. in the school library.
All parents and caregivers welcome!**