

DRAFT
Sturgeon Heights School Council Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2021
5:30pm

Attendees

Stephanie Cordova – Chair
Laura Brackett – Vice Chair
Shannon Requa – Principal
Kerri Trombley – Vice Principal
Kasie Hoffman – Teacher Representative
Trish Murray-Elliott – School Trustee Sturgeon Valley/ West St. Albert
Crystal Belanger
Melissa Knezacek – Elementary (Grade 4-6) Parent Representative
Cheryl Reiter – Pre-K and Kindergarten Parent Representative
Lisa Rosales
Sarah Townsend – Primary (Grade 1-3) Parent Representative
Lisa Zureski
Maurie Hornland-Grueler
Greg Hebb – Jr. High Parent Representative
Zachary Smith
Catherine McQuade – Secretary

- 1) Call to order/Introductions (email addresses of attendees)
- 2) Additions to Agenda - none
- 3) Approval of Agenda
 - Move to accept agenda Maurie
 - 2nd Cheryl
- 4) Approval of Minutes for September meeting
 - Move to accept minutes Crystal
 - 2nd Laura
- 5) Approval of Minutes for November meeting
 - Move to accept minutes Crystal
 - 2nd Lisa

6) Administrative Report – Shannon Requa

Re-entry to in school learning

Shannon reported that SHS has had a very successful re-entry to in school learning. Covid protocol was reviewed with all students and staff. Shannon wanted to thank parents for their diligence in keeping the school committee safe. Shannon shared that the school's motto for this year is ***Safely and Together!***

Discipline policy

Shannon advised that annually the discipline policy for students is reviewed and any changes need to be presented to School Council.

Shannon is proposing the following changes – Shannon advised that a *Level 3 infraction* is the highest level of infraction. Currently included in this section is posting on social media. Shannon wanted to broaden this section by including posting recordings and videos as a *Level 3 infraction*. Shannon would also like to add a definition of hate speech and harassment to the policy. The revised definition of harassment to include, consistent verbal abuse. Discussion included parents thanking the administration for being diligent in reviewing and taking the time for a meaningful review of the policy.

Parent Survey

Shannon advised that the school would like to put out a parent survey. Shannon shared that there is an annual provincial survey but the school would like to send out a survey that would include all grades and have specific targeted questions. There is a committee of teachers and staff who are developing questions and Shannon hopes to be able to share a version of the survey, at the next meeting. Shannon added that she wanted to thank all parents for trusting public education and that she is proud that we have been able to keep everyone safe.

Kerri wanted to echo Shannon's comments and thank parents/guardians for continuing to keep our school safe, acknowledging that it can be challenging at times to follow all the protocols, but that all efforts are appreciated.

Kerri shared that Ms. Deluca has had a baby boy. Her replacement for her leave will be Nicole Carlson. Mrs. Carlson will be part-time teaching, as well as counselling and tech support. She is a great addition to the staff.

Shannon added that there is a posting for a teaching position for the 4/5 split as Md. Forcade is on leave. They are in the process of completing the hiring process. Coverage will be from February 1st to the end of the school year.

Seesaw update

Shannon advised that she has had an opportunity to meet with primary teachers, particularly grades 1 and 2 around seesaw use. Shannon advised that this conversation aligned well with the discussions around on-line learning.

Yearbook

Shannon advised that the school is looking for a volunteer to create the yearbook for the 2020/2021 school year. Shannon shared that without parent help the school will not be able to complete a yearbook for this school year. Shannon advised that she will be opening up the opportunity to the whole school through power announcement, if needed.

Roof

Roof repairs have been completed with only a few small finishing details.

Swipe pad entry keys

Swipe pad installation has been completed, which is a safety feature to help keep the school safe. Coverage for this expense was provided by the PFA. Thank you to the PFA!

Kindergarten announcement

Shannon advised that SHS has been looking at ways to expand kindergarten offerings. The school division is moving away from PEP and KEP and SHS is wanting to do something that would replace that type of learning option to families. An open-air program (where the children would be spending time in nature) has just been approved for the 2021/2022 school year. Shannon is excited and is grateful for the very passionate educators involved in forming the program.

Amy Cornet is involved in the development of the open-air program and will be doing a social media blitz. Amy added that being outside in nature provides the opportunity for children to learn in nature, provides unstructured play, helps the children to learn how to take risks. Amy shared that all the kindergarten programming can take place in the open-air program. There is a lot of excitement that this has been approved.

Shannon requested that parents share the information with other families and the social media blitz as a stable or increased enrollment creates available resources for all grades throughout the school. Shannon also added that there is a potential partnership with St. Albert Nature School for some pre-K programming as well, which would be outdoor education.

6) Trustee Report – Trish Murray-Elliott

Internet – Lisa shared that CBC National contacted her after seeing articles that she was part of and asked to interview one of her children for CBC national. Lisa will send the link once it has been posted.

School presentations – The Board of Trustees gets to hear from all the schools around school accountability pillars, Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs), and discuss new learning coach programs. They also had an opportunity to hear from leaders about what type of professional development is working for them. Trish shared that SHS had a wonderful presentation and the good work of staff, teachers, students and parents was well highlighted. Trish commented that we all work so well together and it shows.

COVID-19 – Trish wanted to reassure everyone that COVID-19 is the board's biggest priority. Head office is putting a lot of time and resources into ensuring that everyone is safe. Schools have done an admirable job. Trish shared a chart outlining the allocated monies received by the federal government. The chart showed that in September the board received \$900,000 and that another \$900,000 is to be provided in January for a total of \$1.8 million. The chart also showed different categories where this funding could be used.

Trish also shared that she took part in a business planning meeting today and that open-air kindergarten was discussed as well as other exciting and innovative initiatives across the division.

7) PFA Report – Crystal Belanger

Crystal shared that PFA purchased some items. An anti-bullying program was just purchased for the school as well as outdoor equipment for each class so indoor equipment would not need to be used outdoors.

The last three fundraisers, no brainer fundraiser, poinsettias and Purdy's chocolates totalled \$5,000. Each class was provided monies to support the classroom challenges to bring some more engagement.

Kerri shared that fifty dollars was provided to each class. Some examples of classroom challenges have been challenging primary students to read a certain amount of books and Jr. High students turning in a certain number of assignments over the course of a few weeks. Pizza parties and ice cream parties have been the class/team rewards for the students' participation in the challenges. The school supported the first round of challenges and the monies from the PFA will assist in the next challenge. The challenges are reinforcing good behaviour like, completing assignments, supporting goals and creating a sense of classroom community. The intended learning for students is to know that when you work hard, good things happen. Kerri advised that the staff has seen lots of "community" happen in this way. Staff would like to keep it up because it has been a lot of fun for the students and staff.

8) Teacher Report – Amy Cornet

Amy shared that she and the other teachers are happy to have the kids back. Teachers appreciated all the parental support as online learning can be

challenging at times. Amy wanted to pass on a thank you as everyone has been so supportive and the parents' positive attitudes are reflected in the students.

9) Old Business

School calendar for 2020/2021 school year reviewed. Parents will review and bring back any thoughts.

ACTION ITEM – parents to share any thoughts on school calendar at February meeting.

10) New Business - none

11) Classroom Reports

a) Kindergarten Rep – Cheryl Reiter

Pre-K started a pilot, with three extra half days with a focus on nature. Teachers also revisited hand hygiene and social distancing. KEP students are learning about outer space.

An inquiry was made as to a potential date for the virtual open house for kindergarten. Shannon advised that the tentative date is February 3rd, 2021, but it has not been approved as of yet. Shannon advised that social media will be the primary advertising medium as print advertising is prohibitive.

Shannon asked that parents share information on social media as it is the most powerful way to get information out into the community. Shannon also shared that a board meeting took place today around preschool programming. Some sort of Pre- K program will be in place. It is still being determined what it will look like. This year's Pre-K programming was only open to county residents. More information to come.

b) Primary Rep – Sara Townsend

Sara advised that primary parents with younger children have also been asking about the kindergarten open house. The question was raised around how do we retain students at school while maintaining pre- K and K

programming? Sara advised that there was one comment that she saw on social media advising that a private preschool program would be replacing the PEP program at SHS with no screening and an enrichment program with no cost. Shannon wanted to ensure the correct information is out there and asked Sara if she could share the post with Shannon so she could explore the information further.

Stephanie's daughter had a question as to why teachers' birthdays are not announced over the intercom, like the students. Shannon advised Stephanie to tell her daughter that she will work on it and that her concern will be addressed.

c) Elementary Rep – Melissa Knezacek –

Melissa advised that reports from parents is that on-line learning went well for the first week after the break. One comment was around how the Jr. High students got Timbits as a welcome back, as they had been doing on-line since November. Some discussion took place around a list of students who have allergies and that other options can be provided, so all are included when others are enjoying a special treat. Parents shared that the children with allergies will sometimes have other treats on hand ("safe stash bins"). The idea was also shared that treats for students do not always need to be food and that other "rewards/treats" can be provided. Discussion was had around engaging the school in coming up with other ideas for rewards/treats/creative prizes for all students, keeping those students with allergies in mind as well. Sara advised that if there was a committee developed around ideas for students with allergies she would be interested in chairing that piece.

Greg asked if it would be possible that every time a message is sent out around school council on Power School that the message include the emails for parent representatives, advising parents to contact the reps with any concerns or questions.

d) Jr Height Rep – Greg Hebb

Greg advised that he received no feed back from anyone. From his point of view, FB photos and videos, and the Night Before Christmas video were great. Greg commented that the teachers went above and beyond with the online learning and that school spirit can be felt from front office staff,

teachers and students. Greg also commented that the structure of the online class times seemed to go well as it was the same routine as in school learning and there was no disconnect. Greg mentioned that the effort put in by SHS was appreciated and he thanked all staff, teachers and support staff.

Shannon advised that she greeted the Jr high on Monday, their first day back to school since November. Shannon reported that they were engaged, smiling (behind masks) and full eye contact and said, “hello” and seemed happy to be back.

12) Next Meeting - February 22, 2021 at 5:30PM

13) Adjournment – at 6:30 pm

Minutes prepared by Catherine McQuade

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