

DRAFT
Sturgeon Heights School Council Meeting Minutes
February 22nd, 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
Cheryl Reiter – Pre-K and Kindergarten Parent Representative
Lisa Rosales
Sarah Townsend – Primary (Grade 1-3) Parent Representative
Maurie Hornland-Grueler
Greg Hebb – Jr. High Parent Representative
Christina Monai
Rachelle Lyster
Kalla Boser
Nicole Cathcart-Mshoka
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 – Stephanie

2nd - Cheryl

- 4) Approval of Minutes for January meeting

Move to accept minutes – Sarah Townsend

2nd - Crystal

Stephanie advised that her daughter's request around announcing staff's birthdays has been granted and she was very happy!

Stephanie advised that her husband also commented that he really appreciates the work of the cleaning staff who are helping keep the school safe.

6) Administrative Report – Shannon Requa

School Registration

Power School registration is continuing. School has developed a *Race to Registration* incentive to try and get students registered as soon as possible as registration helps with planning. 60% of current students have already registered and this is much appreciated.

Virtual Open House for Open Air Kindergarten

The Virtual Open House for Open Air Kindergarten was a success with over 50 people attending. This # surpassed the # of reserved spots. The # of actual students registering is encouraging. Shannon thanked the teachers involved as they have spent so many hours planning to create the best program possible. Thank you to Ms. Cornett and Ms. Denomme!

Thank you to Cheryl Reiter for attending the virtual open house as a parent! Shannon shared that it really speaks volumes that a parent joins in and speaks so eloquently about their family's experience with kindergarten at Sturgeon Heights. Shannon advised that there are 5 spots left in the full-time program and how this is encouraging being that it is only February. Shannon encouraged parents to talk to those who are considering registering to do so and thanked those who are spreading the word via social media.

Pink shirt day and Dare to Care program

Pink shirt day is coming up on Feb. 24th. Shannon also spoke about the Dare to Care program which is a bullying prevention program purchased by the PFA. The Dare to Care program encompasses the whole school community including students, staff and parents. Modules are ready for teachers to start, this Thursday. There will be a virtual program assembly on Thursday morning for all students and there will be an in-class interactive facilitator who will ask for feedback and input. There will be brainstorming and smaller groups working together. Students will remain in their cohort. The program looks at conflict resolution, walking the students through an

apology and how to make amends. This will be completed over the course of the day except for block 1.

Kerri advised that the school would love to host a parent program for Dare to Care during parent teacher interviews where parents can learn about the program, language and acronyms used. Kerri advised that she is looking forward to Thursday as the grade 6-9 will have a full day session looking at the Dare to Care Program.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent Teacher Interviews will be March 23rd, 4-7pm and 24th 3:30-6:30pm. Booking will be on-line and interviews will be held virtually using Microsoft Team.

SAIF program

The SAIF program is offered through AB Health Services and it focuses on developing positive relationships. It is an abuse prevention program focusing on respectful relationships and well-being, helping kids to be safe and healthy. It will be delivered as a 1-day session booked in beginning of March.

Jr. High students

Shannon advised that there are exciting things happening in Jr. high as they are learning about getting ready for careers and practical applications for work beyond school.

Student Advisory Council

Students are preparing for the student advisory council. Kerri and Shannon are looking at how the school can make improvements to primary through to junior high. Shannon advised that the school will set up a structure to include all who want to be involved as they want to hear the voice of students! They are hopeful that this will create opportunities for students to build skills and benefit from the work.

Parent Survey

Grade 4 and 7 parents will receive a survey from the government of Alberta to reflect on school experience and Shannon is encouraging parents to participate. Shannon advised that she also encourages parents to share any concerns as they arise so they can be addressed head on. Shannon advised that she cannot act on survey data and that it does not have an avenue to

create change. Shannon knowing issues as they arise will create an opportunity where people can work together to come to a resolution.

The students were also given their own survey which gave them an opportunity to write feedback around how the year is going. Key points that came out of the survey were; developing a student advisory committee, creating an anonymous way to report bullying either as a witness or victim as they want to be able to connect sometimes but not be visible. Another key point from the survey was that some students are not following COVID restrictions, particularly on the bus. Shannon advised that all students are well practiced as to what the protocol is in school and the school is going to be working with the bus contractors to ensure that those same protocols take place on the buses.

New staff

Miss Kerri Clark – is now teaching 4/5 class.

The school is in the process of hiring for Miss Mossey's replacement for her maternity leave and will be confirmed by the next meeting.

6) Trustee Report – Trish Murray-Elliott

Budget planning for 2021/2022 Trish advised that it is a little premature to review the budget but will revisit this at a future meeting. UCP budget is coming out on Thursday but do not anticipate any big changes. Due to COVID enrollments are quiet a bit lower. Boards are asking the Minister to take this into consideration when decisions are made around budgets.

New division school calendar Revisions have been made from the previous copy that was shared. The biggest changes are that PD days have been changed from Friday to Mondays. Feedback from teachers was that they would like to implement some of the strategies learned on a PD day right away and with PD days being on a Monday they will be able to do so.

Fall break scheduled for November 8th to 12th, would like to have parent input but will be finalizing soon. A question was raised as to what happens for teachers on these days. Shannon advised that there will be 3 less PD days in lieu of the fall break. A parent asked if teachers will still get their needed professional development days. Shannon advised that in the past Sturgeon had increased the # of PD days to facilitate a monthly staff

meeting. The number of instructional hours are mandated by the province and will go unchanged.

A question was raised around how Remembrance Day observation would be impacted as a result of the fall break, as it is an important day. Trish advised that the schools would still be holding Remembrance Day ceremonies, probably before Remembrance Day, likely on the 4th.

Potential teacher strike

A question was raised around the talk in the news about a potential teacher strike. Trish had advised that what could be shared at this point is that there is a negotiation scheduled and that there are strict confidentiality guidelines around this. Trish stated that the Board has outstanding educators and appreciates their efforts and is hopeful it will be resolved. A question was raised around a wellness spending account and protection for the use of substitute teachers and what the standard is. Trish advised that nothing more could be shared at this time.

Another question was asked around how much notice parents would receive if there was going to be a strike, and what is the general process? Trish advised that some legislative processes require a minimum of 72 hours notice to parents. Trish advised that there is a negotiation meeting scheduled and more will be known then.

Busing during cold weather

A parent raised concerns around the temperature being -45 with the wind chill of -50 and if there was an accident what that would mean for the students. The parent shared that if students do not go to school it results in a pile of homework and they feel that they missed a large amount of information. Parents were wondering if temperature cut off could be changed. Trish advised that parents are the first line of decision making, the second line is the bus contractor, they decide if they are going to run their buses that day. There have not been a lot of safety hazard besides the cold this year as there has not been ice or blizzard conditions. The third decision making point is done by the school division if it drops off below -40. The division has looked at other divisions such as Ft. McMurray and Yellowknife and that they would miss a lot of schooling if they just looked at temperature. If a child goes to school is totally up to the individual parent. It was added that a certain percentage of students need to be present in order for the teacher to teach new material.

A question was raised as to where the division takes the temperature from. Trish advised that they get the temperature from Bon Accord as it is the geographical centre of the division. Trish added that there is consideration from the individual contractor (bus company) around what routes will run and the proximity of the routes to the centre depot where back up staff could come to assist if a break down was to occur.

New programs at Sturgeon Composite

Sturgeon Composite has partnered with Sisco Technologies and are now offering a course for certificates in the IT world. Sisco is opening a daycare on site and will be offering childcare classes to students as well.

Student Achievement

At the last meeting it was mentioned that student achievement would be recognized and Shannon and Kerri presented to the whole school. There is a report on the Division website under Division Documents.

COVID response

Sturgeon School Division has been recognized for having success around keeping their schools healthy and safe.

On-line classes after Christmas

A couple of parents commented that the on-line week after Christmas was a bit tough but also heard compliments about the teachers and how engaging they were such as Ms. Loh and Ms. Rutherford. It is always good to hear positive comments.

7) PFA Report – Crystal Belanger

Crystal advised that there were two new proposals. The anti-bullying program will be up and running soon. The PFA went ahead and approved every teacher to have a container for outdoor equipment and when they have a budget in mind and what certain things will cost then they will be purchased. Temporarily a motion was put through and by the next meeting it will be known exactly what will be in the outdoor containers.

Fundraisers - cookie dough sale ends at midnight. Seeds are on sale until Thursday. Everything is going to be delivered to SHS next month. With the cookie dough full cases need to be ordered so there will likely be cookie dough left over for sale.

There will be no new fundraisers in March as cookie dough and seeds will be arriving and distributed. At the April meeting there will be discussion around new opportunities for fundraising. There has been discussion around a few bigger projects that PFA may try to do. An update will be provided at the March meeting.

8) Teacher Report – Kasie

Ms Johansson will be coordinating the Dare to Care and SAIF program.

Staff will be looking at an alternative to the career fair for the older grades because it cannot be run due to COVID restrictions. The students will be looking at their career personality types and careers of interest.

With the change in the job market due to rapid technological changes projects will be developed according to grade level. Dates to be determined. Grade 7 to 9 have been playing The Game of Life, looking at university applications and real-life budgeting. Looking up information on jobs if students are not looking at the university route. The students have also been creating resumes and cover letters. Cover letters have been provided to Mrs. Requa, Mrs. Ohm and community volunteers for feed back, all done anonymously. The Jr. High students have also been looking at the stock market and doing mock investment plans and checking their investments. The students have been very engaged and have learned real life skills.

Pink shirt day - Kasie commented on how impressed she and all the staff were with what a great school we have. All the grades participated in a “Walk a Mile in My Shoes” activity where students shared something about themselves so others could learn about them. These will be posted around the school this week.

Other comments/questions from parents

A parent inquired as to when the Jr. High students will find out what their options are for next year. Shannon advised that the school will need to wait for the government announcement around restrictions, as this will impact the planning. Shannon advised that they will likely be planning for different scenarios. If possible, it would be hoped that the traditional options could be ran and the sports academy. There will be an open house after spring break and the school will be starting to look for that information and will give the students and families updates as they come available.

Sara shared that she got a note from a parent Jennifer, mother to Ruby in grade 1. Jennifer was wondering if there were plans to plant a community garden and if there is that she would be interested in taking the lead on this and would tend to the garden over the summer months. Jennifer is unable to attend PFA meetings due to a time conflict, but Sarah will connect Jennifer to Crystal/PFA and plans can be made.

9) Old Business - none

10) New Business - none

11) Classroom Reports

a) Kindergarten Rep – Cheryl Reiter

nothing to share, no update

b) Primary Rep – Sarah Townsend

nothing to share, no update

c) Elementary Rep – Melissa Knezacek

Melissa not present, no update provided.

d) Jr Height Rep – Greg Hebb

nothing to share, no update

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

13) Adjournment – at 6:23 pm

Minutes prepared by Catherine McQuade