

Sturgeon Heights School Council Meeting Minutes

March 22nd, 2021

5:30pm

Attendees

Stephanie Cordova – Chair

Laura Brackett – Vice Chair

Shannon Requa – Principal

Kerri Trombley – Vice Principal

Amy Cornet – Teacher Representative

Trish Murray-Elliott – School Trustee Sturgeon Valley/ West St. Albert

Melissa Knezacek – Elementary Parent Representative

Crystal Belanger – PFA Chair

Cheryl Reiter – Pre-K and Kindergarten Parent Representative

Lisa Rosales

Tim Van Bruggen

Sarah Townsend – Primary (Grade 1-3) Parent Representative

Catherine McQuade – Secretary

PFA report was provided at the beginning of the meeting because Crystal could not attend the whole meeting.

PFA – Crystal Belanger

Fundraising went well for the seed and cookie dough sales. PFA has had discussion around moving playground equipment so it can be better utilized. PFA purchased a literacy intervention kit for the school. Outdoor equipment bin has been approved for classrooms. Teachers are going to purchase equipment and then it will be decided how

much will come from the PFA. Kerri advised that kids have been given the opportunity to provide input as to what equipment is purchased for the bins. Teachers are looking at purchasing good quality equipment that will last.

1) Call to order/Introductions (email addresses of attendees)

2) Additions to Agenda - none

3) Approval of Agenda

Move to accept agenda – Laura

2nd - Sarah

4) Approval of Minutes for Feb meeting

Move to accept minutes – Laura

2nd - Sarah

5) Administrative Report – Shannon Requa

Cereal Drop

Shannon thanked everyone for the cereal donation for the Cereal Drop. Over 480 boxes of cereal were brought into school that were donated to the food bank. Shannon advised that the food bank was excited by the donation. During the Cereal Drop students were able to participate and stayed in their cohort groups. Shannon shared that you could feel the excitement in the air. The students felt that they had done something special and that this is an example of what working together looks and feels like.

Shannon advised that she wanted to let everyone know that Ms. Bailey donated a lot of her personal time and energy to make the Cereal Drop a success.

School Fees

Shannon presented a proposal for fees that would be paid by parents. There will be no increase of fees. Shannon advised that she is proposing that there would be a maximum fee of \$100 for field trips, if field trips are allowed next year. No changes to Jr. High complimentary courses. Sports academy is \$1250 a year and that there is an option to pay in installments. New fees for Open Air Kindergarten are \$320 a month.

Complementary course fees will be announced by the board in an upcoming meeting. In regards to instructional fees, the school will look at the supply list and try and streamline it. Students will not be asked for wipes or hand sanitizer as these will be provided centrally.

Shannon advised that when she was reviewing all the extra curricular activities it was a good reminder of just how many are offered at SHS. There are over 40 extracurricular activities that could not be offered this year due to COVID, hopefully things will open up for the next school year.

Bus fees – there was a question if bus fees are going to change. Trish advised that the fees are still being reviewed at the division level and that if anyone wants to join in on the board meeting on, Wednesday March 24th they are welcome as the fees will be finalized at that time. A parent advised that they would not be able to attend the board meeting so asked if they could email Trish with their thoughts. Trish agreed.

Activities at school

It has been a busy few weeks with St. Patrick's Day celebration, Cereal Drop, Pink Shirt Day, Anti-Bullying week and Dare to Care program in Jr. High.

Kerri shared that the Dare to Care presentations went well. When the school had started to look at the program it was not online. Within a week of inquiring about an online Jr. High program the company had one up and running. The facilitator did a great job presenting online. It was just like the speaker was in the room. They provided tasks for the students to complete and there was back and forth discussion. The class reviewed the differences between bullying and conflict and what each looks like. There was discussion around how it is important to look for “nuggets of kindness” in everyone and find a way to help others if someone is hurt and how to make amends.

The Dare to Care Program will be filtered down to younger grades after spring break. Overall, it is a very good program and provides a toolbox of supports and it has been a great success.

Kerri shared that a parent session will be offered on the Tuesday evening of the Parent-Teacher Interviews at 6pm through google meet. Kerri will be providing a brief overview of the program and how to support your own child. An inquiry was made asking if parents could not attend if there will be another session in the near future. Kerri advised that this could be looked at.

SAIF Society - Presentations taking place offered by the SAIF society that focus on healthy relationship for grade 6 to 9s.

6) Trustee Report – Trish Murray-Elliott

Negotiation with ATA went very well and there is now an agreement signed and there will be no teacher strike. Trish advised that there was a lot of hard work on both sides for everyone involved.

Public school boards of AB give out awards for people's contributions. Last year Liz Col won in the category of special contributions to public education. This year Ray Soetaert has been nominated for his contribution to Truth and Reconciliation. Ray Soetaert has been helpful to the division as a liaison with First Nation communities and has assisted in connecting schools to Elders. Trish shared that the division is happy to recognize the great people that contribute.

What do School Trustees do? An information sheet shared around duties and activities that school trustees do. Trish advised that it is an election year and it is a good time for anyone interested to start thinking about if they would like to run or not. There is some information on the school and division website. Trish advised that being a school trustee can be a significant time commitment but that the role is fulfilling.

Council of the School Councils – Stephanie inquired if there will be monthly meetings. Trish advised that these meetings only occur once or twice a year but that she will look into when the next meeting will be, and share the information.

7) Old Business - none

8) New Business - none

9) Teacher's Report – Amy Cornet

Amy encouraged parents to attend PT interviews. Amy advised that it is encouraging that students are still attending in person as last year at this time students had switched to online learning. Amy advised that the students are very excited about school break.

10) Classroom Reports

a) Kindergarten Rep – Cheryl Reiter

nothing to share, no update

b) Primary Rep – Sarah Townsend

Sarah shared that there was positive feedback around in class field trips and that students really enjoyed the virtual read in that Trish did with the grade 2s. Sarah advised that there was some discussion around the possibility of a “Buddy Bench” being added to the playground. It was explained that a Buddy Bench is a brightly painted bench where students can sit if they are feeling lonely and have no one to play with. PFA advised that they could look at getting involved. Sarah offered to be involved in painting the bench when the time comes.

Lock down – from a parent perspective how do parents become aware if a lock down occurs? Shannon shared that communication primarily comes through email.

If there was a true emergency there would be use of a secondary form of communication through text or call. Shannon shared that there is a program called “Hour 0.” Hour 0, is a safety program used in every school across the division that would provide explicit directions to parents if an emergency was to occur.

Side parking lot – There was a question around any further planning on developing a side parking lot. Shannon shared that the treed area beside the parking lot was supposed to be an extension to the current parking 3 years ago due to huge congestion in the current parking lot during drop off and pick up. This congestion was largely due to the early learning programs. Operation and maintenance has changed hands three times since that time and the decision has been made that no further action will be taken to create an extension to the parking lot. The current drop-off method has freed up congestion. There are a few ways of doing things that will be held onto post covid measure like the staggered Kindergarten start and end times. Also, outdoor drop-off has worked well. There is still an opportunity for parents to communicate, which is important. The St. Albert Nature School was out to look at the treed area for programming. The area is uneven and some work would need to be done to make it a useable space. Trish advised that she could bring the matter forward to the board and advise when she has more information around a general timeline.

c) Elementary Rep – Melissa Knezacek

Melissa had to leave meeting, no update provided.

d) Jr Height Rep – Greg Hebbs

Greg not in attendance, no update provided.

12) Next Meeting – April 19th, 2021 at 5:30PM

13) Adjournment – at 6:11 pm

Minutes prepared by Catherine McQuade – approved at April 19th, 2021 meeting.