



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL COUNCIL (COSC) MEETING

Meeting held at the Centre for Education, Boardroom, in Stony Plain, Alberta
On Tuesday, November 1, 2022, at 7:00 PM

Attendance:

Parkland School Division	Eric Cameron, Trustee Scott Johnston, Associate Superintendent Keri Zylla, Recording Secretary
Blueberry School	Heather Bader-Kopp, School Council
Copperhaven School	Amy Campbell, School Council
Duffield School	Cherie Lovsund, Principal
École Broxton Park School	Amber Ruben, School Council Cheri Day, Assistant Principal
Graminia School	Amber Darragh, School Council Angela Waterman, School Council
Greystone Centennial Middle School	Chantelle de Boer, School Council
Millgrove School	Linda Madge-Arkininstall, Principal
Parkland Village School	Lindsay Kuelken, School Council Rose Barnes, School Council Kimberly Whytock, School Council
Prescott Learning Centre	Chris Shaw, Principal
Spruce Grove Composite High School	Brenda Cryer, School Council
Tomahawk School	Fran Bell, Principal
Woodhaven middle school	Nealle Dickson, Principal

REGRETS:

Parkland School Division	Lorraine Stewart, Board Chair
High Park School	Catrin Thomson, COSC Chair

1. Call to Order

Ms. Cryer chaired the November 1, 2022 COSC Meeting in the absence of COSC Chair, Catrin Thomson.

Ms. Cryer called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Treaty Acknowledgement

Ms. Cryer acknowledged Treaty #6 and Treaty #8 Territory.

3. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Cryer welcomed COSC members and members introduced themselves.

4. Approval of Agenda

COSC 027-22 Moved by Amber Darragh that the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

5. Approval of Minutes

COSC 028-22 Moved by Ms. Bader-Kopp that the minutes of the October 4, 2022, Council of School Councils (COSC) meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED

6. Collaboration Opportunities for School Councils: This agenda item was tabled.

Associate Superintendent Johnston discussed some of the requests to provide a virtual option for COSC Meetings; however, there are a number of complications hosting this particular meeting as a hybrid, particularly with the number of speakers at COSC Meetings and the staffing supports that may be necessary to support a hybrid meeting. While members at the meeting agreed that 'in-person' meetings are preferred, there is concern for attendees, particularly from the west end and rural areas, that also have the extra challenges with winter roads. This matter will be explored further and discussed at a future meeting.

7. School Council Grants

Associate Superintendent Johnston shared with COSC that the Alberta School Council Engagement (ASCE) Grant application has been completed and sent in, and shared that there is some speculation that the provincial government may allow school councils who were not successful in utilizing their grant money in 2021-2022, carry over their grant money into the 2022-2023 school year.

Associate Superintendent Johnston noted that the Alberta Government Funding Manual that outlines the restrictions ([ASCE allocation information](#)) on the use of grant money. Although the Division can help councils in access their funds, it is the decision of each school council in the manner which their grant money is used.

Ms. Cryer reinforced the helpfulness of having ASCA members come into school councils to teach and support councils in a variety of ways, particularly for new members of councils.

8. Board Report

Trustee Cameron shared the Board Report, highlighting the following items:

- **My PATH & Outdoor Pursuits Program:** Connections for Learning and Duffield School students presented on their experiences in the MY PATH & Outdoor Pursuits Program at the October 11, 2022 Board Meeting. This program is proving to be highly successful.
- **Meeting with Minister of Education, Adriana LaGrange:** Board Chair Stewart, Vice-Chair Osborne and Superintendent Boyce met with Minister LaGrange to discuss a replacement school for Spruce Grove Composite High School and provincial transportation challenges for school divisions.
- **Advocating for the Alberta School Council Association (ASCA):** The Board continues to advocate for this important school council support group.

Trustee Cameron shared a number of items mentioned at the October 11, 2022 Regular Board Meeting, such as a Transportation Services Update, an update of PSD Operating Reserves, the Modular Submission Request, the School Naming Committee and an update on enrolment.

Trustees were excited to participate in both a Japanese delegation at Memorial Composite High School and a German delegation at Spruce Grove Composite High School. Trustees are looking forward to attending Remembrance Day Ceremonies, high school award celebrations, school council meetings, stakeholder engagements, and much more.

Trustee Cameron responded to questions.

9. Office of the Superintendent Report

Associate Superintendent Johnston shared the Office of the Superintendent Report, highlighting the following items:

- **[Bus Driver Recruitment Event](#)**: On Monday, November 14, 2022, Parkland School Division (PSD) is hosting a recruitment event at the Memorial Composite High School bus transfer station.
- **COSC Chair**: Good news! Ms. Catrin Thomson has agreed to continue the role of COSC Chair for this school year.
- **Athabasca Delta Community School (ADCS)**: PSD continues to support ADCS students and staff. At this point of in the year, Fort Chipewyan is dark outside for the greater part of the day, which may be an adjustment for employees new to ADCS.
- **PSD Email Addresses for School Council Chairs**: The PSD issued email address for school council chairs are the main and preferred method for communication with and from Division Office. Any new school council chairs experiencing difficulties with the set-up can contact Ms. Zylla.
- **Stakeholder Engagement Event – November 29, 2022**: Invitations for the Stakeholder Engagement Event will be sent shortly. This event hosts the Board, Executive Team, and a number of school administration and parent representatives. This engagement provides robust discussion on a number of items that contribute to the PSD Education Plan.
- **Financial Reserves**: The Government of Alberta has capped the amount School Authorities are permitted to keep in their operating reserves, anything over this amount may be recalled by the provincial government. This requires careful and wise budgeting by our school and Division staff.
- **Assessment and Assessment Data**: Schools are preparing their annual reports for the 2021-2022 school year. Once the data is obtained, it is compared with other provincial scores to see how students relate to the provincial statistics.
- **Vandalism at Graminia School**: There was a recent occurrence vandalism at Graminia School to the rainbow crosswalk in front the school entrance. Parkland School Division is taking this very seriously and in cooperation with the RCMP, we have requested they escalate their investigation, and they have listed this vandalism as a possible hate crime. We, at PSD, stand behind our students and staff and remain committed to providing safe and welcoming learning environment for all.

Associate Superintendent Johnston responded to questions.

10. School Council Reports:

School Council Chairs, COSC Representatives and Principals provided school information on the enrolment, amount of parent participation in the school council and fundraising groups they have. They also reported to COSC, whether council and fundraising group meetings are held on the same night and if they are generally the same people.

COSC members discussed how to recruit more parents into the important roles on school council and fundraising groups.

11. Principal Reports:

Principal Madge-Arkininstall provided a report on behalf of Principals highlighting the following:

- **Assessments** – staff are examining how to most effectively use the assessment information to assist their students' learning
- **Professional Development (PD) Days** – Staff try to utilize PD Days wisely, whether site-based or out of school. Administration is appreciative of their time to meet with Division Principals and take back that learning to their schools.
- **Literacy and Numeracy PD** – Grade 3 & 4 teachers are sharing and collaborating with teachers across the Division and within their own schools, and sharing resources
- **Parent/Teacher Interviews** – Many schools are hosting their meetings with parents in-person once again, and / or offering a hybrid or virtual option for parents to meet with their child's teacher(s).
- **Book Fairs** – School Administration are thankful to parents for supporting book fairs and other school fundraising activities.
- **Remembrance Day** – looking forward to assembling together and honouring veterans
- **Lead Team** – We are strategic with our time to learn and focus on the four priorities: Students & Workplace Wellness; Indigenous Ways of Knowing; Community, Equity, and Belonging; and Programming and Pedagogy

Administration is busy, but productive, and so thankful for those who continue to show up and for the support of the Division.

12. Items for Future Agenda

Possible agenda items: 'Meet the People' – Invite Division Office staff to facilitate discussion and provide information on items parents are curious about. Invite Wendy Kiever from Alberta School Boards Association (ASCA) to do a presentation. Programs of Choice and their resources, particularly for feeder schools, so future high school students are supported in future options.

13. Adjournment

Ms. Cryer adjourned the meeting at 9:06 pm

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 7, 2023