



**MINUTES OF THE
COUNCIL OF SCHOOL COUNCIL (COSC) MEETING**

Meeting held at the Centre for Education, Board Room, in Stony Plain, Alberta
On Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 6:30 PM

Attendance:

Parkland School Division	Paul McCann, Trustee Mark Francis, Deputy Superintendent Scott Johnston, Associate Superintendent Nadine Morrison, Recording Secretary
Blueberry School	Erin Craig, School Council Sarah Corker, School Council
Brookwood School	Megan Sider, School Council
Connections for Learning	Linda Labonte, School Council
Copperhaven School	Sheila Monteith, School Council
Duffield School	Cherie Lovsund, Principal
École Broxton Park School	Amber Ruben-Mercredi, School Council Kalena Feist, School Council, COSC Vice-Chair
Graminia School	Amber Darragh, School Council
Memorial Composite High School	Laurie Haak, School Council
Millgrove School	Anna-Marie Jackson, School Council Lesley Cameron, Principal
Muir Lake School	Tori Pudde, School Council Tracey Gilmour, Assistant Principal
Parkland Village School	Lindsay Kuelken, School Council Rose Barnes, School Council
Prescott Learning Centre	Jeremy Clements, School Council Chris Shaw, Principal
Spruce Grove Composite High School	Meg Dmytry, School Council Amy Smart, School Council
Tomahawk School	Fran Bell, Principal
Woodhaven Middle school	Nealle Dickson, Principal

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Feist called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. Treaty Acknowledgement

Vice-Chair Feist acknowledged Parkland School Division’s presence in Treaty #6 and #8 Territories.

3. Welcome and Introductions

Vice-Chair Feist welcomed everyone, Council of School Councils (COSC) members introduced themselves.

4. Approval of Agenda

COSC 01-24 Moved by Ms. Monteith that the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

5. Approval of Minutes

COSC 02-24 Moved by Ms. Jackson that the minutes of the December 5, 2023, COSC meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED

6. Deputy Superintendent Mark Francis

Deputy Superintendent Francis spoke about disciplinary actions (suspensions, disciplinary and expulsion) referencing the Student Code of Conduct, the Education Act, and PSD Policies and Procedures highlighting specific language used in these sources. He explained the suspension process and if escalated to a student disciplinary hearing, the intent of the hearing and options that are available to the Division. Details were provided on the increase in number of cases, causes for suspension, severity of cases, components that contribute (such as social media) and notable trends.

Deputy Superintendent Francis addressed concerns that the Code of Conduct appears to be different on each school website. He assured that even though each school develops their own code of conduct, they are saying the same thing only using different language.

7. School Council Collaboration

Vice-Chair Feist led a roundtable discussion with COSC members. Several school councils shared that the “One Small Thing” program from the last meeting was implemented and successful in their schools. Copperhaven has created a sub-committee to show staff appreciation.

Mr. Clements spoke about the weighted moving average funding model and is looking for support from other school councils. A draft letter to the MLAs was shared.

8. School Council Grants

Associate Superintendent Johnston shared that the money from the Alberta School Council Engagement Grant, \$500 per school council, must be used in the school year in which it is allocated. If school councils do not want to use the grant money for the Alberta School Councils’ Association (ASCA) Conference, the Funding Manual for School Authorities provides examples of parent engagement activities and projects that the funds can be used for.

9. Board Report

Trustee McCann outlined the process for school councils to access the \$6000 in funding that has been set aside from the Board Governance Budget. These funds are only to be used for the 2024 ASCA Conference fees. Trustee McCann shared his thoughts on school council and their importance to the Division.

Trustee McCann shared the Board Report, highlighting the following items, events, and Board decisions that the Trustees have been involved in such as:

- Alberta School Boards Association has the Edwin Parr Teacher Award for outstanding first-year teachers. The selection committee has been established to look at nominated PSD teachers and bring forward their selection;
- Survey of Interest: Parents/guardians of students in grades 4, 7 and 10 (and grades 4-12 in any schools with fewer than 120 students) are encouraged to fill out the Alberta Education Assurance survey;
- Connections for Learning, Spruce Grove Outreach has now moved to an annex at Ecole Broxton Park School;
- SGCHS staff were shown the potential design for the new high school and told the anticipated opening would be in 2.5 years;
- 2024-2025 calendar should now be available online, noting we are moving from 182 days of learning to 181 days of learning however the hours of instruction will remain the same;
- The Board is hoping to use the \$1.3 million surplus in the projected budget for a single large capital project;
- In regards to Premier Smith's announcement pertaining to human sexuality and gender identity, Superintendent Boyce's response was posted on our websites stating that we will continue to be "committed to the to the Alberta Human Rights Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms". The Division is following this matter and analyzing our existing processes.

10. Office of the Superintendent Report

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

- **Northern Opportunity:** Athabasca Delta Community School (ADCS) has short term opportunities for staff to work up North in Fort Chipewyan.
- **Technology Audit:** IBM was contracted to complete an audit of our technology services that including interviews with CFE staff and conversations with school base staff to see how to better improve those services.
- **Choral Celebration:** scheduled for March 18, highly recommended event to attend.
- **Indigenous Jersey:** Wabamun School worked with a local indigenous artist to create a basketball jersey with Cree language and indigenous artwork.
- **Jordan's Principle Funding:** PSD received \$3.3 million in Jordan Principal funding.
- **New Curriculum Training:** Last round of new curriculum training is complete.
- **Report Cards:** Report cards just went home, we saw a shift from 3 to 2 report cards per year. The hope is that parents will continually know how their child is doing through consistent communication and real time reporting.
- **Division Office Update:** Currently conducting mid-point meetings with the schools to review academic progress and initiatives.

- **School Calendar:** PD days/student days off are mostly constant from year to year. The majority of stakeholders surveyed around the division want our breaks varied from surrounding divisions.

Noting that two of our schools have alternate calendars: Entwistle and ADCS alternate calendars are supported by their communities.

Associate Superintendent Johnston responded to questions.

11. Principal Report

Principal Dickson provided reports on behalf of Principals highlighting the following:

- GCMS hosted a career fair consisting of a 15 min presentation showcasing different careers followed by students being able to have further discussions with the speakers of their choosing.
- Tomahawk had a family literacy day, seeing parents and students reading all around the school.
- Woodhaven held their second round of Den Days, a whole week of activities intended to build culture across the grades.
- Duffield welcomed a resident artist for the month resulting in artwork being created around the 7 Sacred Teachings.
- Report cards and PowerSchool: we are seeing schools at different stages of use as some started last year. Language, reporting and documentation are done regularly making report cards almost a non-event now.

Principal Dickson responded to questions.

Principal Bell reported that a teacher from Tomahawk school recently spent 2 weeks at ADCS, mentioning that the whole time the teacher was in Fort Chipewyan she was sharing her experiences with Tomahawk students and staff.

12. Items for Future Agenda

- Clarification on illness and the guidelines around sending kids to schools. Can the Strategic Communications department look into sharing this information?
- Social Media guidance, for proper use of Facebook by School Councils and copyright laws (especially for images)
- Would ASCA be able to come in and give a presentation at a future COSC meeting?
- Associate Superintendent Johnston brought forward idea of holding a celebrating at the final meeting in May.

13. Adjournment

Vice-Chair Feist provided closing comments and adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 12, 2024