

# Strathcona Christian Academy Secondary

## School Council Agenda

November 25, 2024 7:00pm The Commons

Attendance: Amanda Meints, Leanne Seelochan, Matthew Spronk, Lana Schmidt, Cathy Allen, Nate Peters, Teresa Tessier, Sandy Johnson

1. **Welcome/Call to Order** – Leanne Seelochan

Meeting starts: 7:04 pm

2. **Robotics course presentation** – Kallen Seelochan

-students in the robotics course are learning how to solder and are building robots for competitions

- Kallen is working on coding the Farm bot to plant seeds, water and pick weeds

Q. Lana – did you build the robot?

A. Kallen – No, it was built in previous years but hadn't been coded, so I am working on coding it.

Q. Cathy – Is there a lot of grant money for this?

A. Matt – Yes, we got a robotics grant and were able to use it to promote agriculture in urban centers and also emphasize sustainable growing

Q. Cathy – Is this for fun or are you aiming to do coding as a career?

A. Kallen – Both. I do want to do something in computer science or artificial intelligence, but I also just like doing it

Q. Matt – Is there an actual farm bot that you can buy that works like this or did you guys design it all?

A. Kallen – There is a farm bot, but we can program it to do different things, like weed picking and seed planting. I am working on coding these functions to work on a calendar, so it will automatically water or weed at certain times.

Q. Sandy – Is there a goal for what else you want to get it to do?

A. Kallen – yes, the seed planting is hard because it will only plant one seed at a time, so I would like to get it to plant multiple seeds.

3. **Approval of Agenda** – motion to approve – Teresa, seconded by Nate

4. **Approval of Minutes from May and October 2024** – postponed until January

5. **Math department presentation** – Lana Schmidt

- Lana is math department head, have 5 teachers in the math department – Nathan Klapstein, Jordan Krause, Madison Glombik, Jason Klassen and Lana Schmidt
- strong culture of math help at lunch or after school, a special shout out to Jason Klassen who has been doing a ton of math help to get the kids in grade 7 caught up on the things they missed with the curriculum change
- exploring ways of teaching besides direct instruction, Nathan and Jordan have been doing formative assessments as a way of checking knowledge, others are using vertical non-permanent surfaces to do math
- Dash 3 classes we are seeing success in math with kids who did poorly in junior high math
- department meetings once a month
- goal is to give your children the best Christ-centered math help that they can get

Q. Cathy Allen – what was the plan for the grade 7 math teacher when he received the new curriculum?

A. Lana – Jason just worked to identify and fill in the gaps of what they missed, and he has been using his lunch hours to help kids understand the concepts they miss

Cathy Allen – Yes and the dash-3 courses are the best because there is emotion behind math, kids get upset if they don't get math

A. Matt – our math results in our school have been really good for so long and a huge testament to that is the teachers, the culture you create and the work you put into the kids. We appreciate your passion for what you do and how you are willing to take on the dash-3s as well as your 30-1s. We want all kids, regardless of learning abilities to succeed at our school.

A. Sandy – I am excited to see more practical math coming into the curriculum. It's great to see kids as young as grade 4 learning about interest and money.

## 6. **EIPS Trustee Report** –Cathy Allen

### **Receipt of Trustee Resignation**

The Board accepted the resignation of Trustee Jacqueline Shotbolt, effective Oct. 31, 2024. As of that date, Shotbolt will no longer reside within the ward in which she was elected, disqualifying her as an EIPS trustee. As outlined in the Education Act, section 81(2), a by-election isn't required during the fourth year following a general election as long as the number of Board vacancies is less than the quorum, plus one. As such, EIPS will not hold a by-election. Instead, the remaining trustees will assume Shotbolt's duties

### **Board Governance Surplus**

The Board directed administration to allocate its governance surplus—\$39,592 as of Aug. 31, 2024—to the Leveraging Student Achievement Fund. Allocating these dollars to the Leveraging Student Achievement reserve will allow for schools to narrow the achievement gap. A plan will be discussed with the Board later in the year before these funds are used.

## **Trustee Election October 2024**

EIPS has begun preparations for the upcoming trustee election on October 20, 2025. The Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 sets new rules for local elections. This Act will amend the Local Authorities Election Act and the Municipal Government Act. EIPS is examining these new rules and how they will impact the election process. The Board of Trustees has started planning for the new Board of Trustees. It is important to plan for the onboarding of the new trustees, to support them in their roles and responsibilities.

## **Modular Classroom Request: 2025-26**

The Board directed EIPS administration to request funding from Alberta Education to address needed changes to several modular classroom units in the 2024-25 school year. If approved, the Division will:

- add two new modular classrooms to SouthPointe School;
- demolish two ageing modular classrooms at Westboro Elementary followed by a site reclamation;
- replace eight modular classrooms at James Mowat Elementary; and
- at Win Ferguson Elementary, demolish eight modular classrooms and add newer units there by relocating six modular units from Wes Hosford Elementary.

EIPS hopes a decision from the province comes in early 2025.

## **EIPS School Transition Planning Survey**

The EIPS Board of Trustees made the decision to relocate the senior high French Immersion program to Salisbury Composite High and balance senior high enrolment by redesignating senior high students living in the Lakeland Ridge attendance area to Bev Facey Community High. Both are effective when the new Sherwood Park replacement school opens, expected in the 2026-27 school year.

To ensure a smooth transition for students, staff and families, EIPS is consulting impacted stakeholders to develop an effective implementation plan. All impacted families are invited to share suggestions and concerns related to the transition. The survey is open from November 7-20, 2024.

EIPS will then review the feedback provided and begin developing a draft transition plan, considering local needs, program and outcome requirements, and strategies to enhance student achievement. In early 2025, the Division will share the draft plan at a public feedback session, collecting any input stakeholders may have. It will use that data to create a final version for the transition.

## **Bill 27: Education Amendment Act, 2024**

This Bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on October 31, 2024. If passed the legislation and regulatory amendments for education continuity during public health and states of emergencies would be expected to come into force on January 1, 2025, except sections regarding school authority policies, which would come into effect on September 1, 2025.

### **Bill 29: Fairness and Safety in Sport Act**

This Bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on October 31, 2024. If passed the legislation and regulatory amendments will come into effect Fall 2025.

### **Unaudited Financial Report: 2023-24**

The Board received for information the Unaudited Financial Report for the 2023-24 school year—September 1 to August 31. The Division ended the 2023-24 school year with an overall surplus of \$3.16 million, which includes operating revenue and expenses, school-generated funds and asset retirement obligation expenditures. The surplus is more than budgeted, by \$4.21 million, primarily because of unbudgeted, one-time revenue obtained through the sale of Division IP addresses. The surplus funds increase EIPS’ operating reserve—available for use in future years (see page 127, “Unaudited Financial Report: 2023-24”).

### **Unaudited Accumulated Surplus**

The Board received for information the Unaudited Accumulated Surplus Report as of Aug. 31, 2024. The Division’s accumulated surplus totals \$11.5 million, which includes investment in:

- Board-funded tangible capital assets (\$7.75 million);
- the asset retirement obligation (-\$10.33 million);
- capital reserves (\$2.49 million); and
- unrestricted surplus, operating reserves (\$11.59 million)—below the province’s maximum balance, including a one-time exception—and in excess of its recommended 1% minimum balance.

NOTE: The operating reserves include reserves from Central Services (\$627,000), schools (\$944,000) and the school-generated fund (\$2.28 million).

Also, included in the operating reserves is the Division Unallocated Reserve, which EIPS maintains to cover emergent issues, manage price fluctuations and stabilize funding in the future. The Division Unallocated Reserve is at \$7.35 million. As such, the net reserve transfer for 2023-24 is \$5.2 million, which includes an operating surplus of \$4.18 million and a surplus of \$1.02 million from current-year transactions for unsupported capital assets (see page 144, “Unaudited Accumulated Surplus at Aug. 31, 2024”).

Following the report, the Board approved the motion: “that the Board of Trustees direct the Superintendent to create a draft Administration Procedure that outlines processes and guidelines for the accumulation, use and carry-over of school generated funds, to be brought to January 9 Caucus meeting for feedback.”

Please contact me with questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Allen cathy.allen@eips.ca  
780-417-8109

7. **Council Grant** – Need to submit by December 30, but we don’t have a quorum tonight. Since there will not be another council meeting until January, the parent input from this meeting will be considered, and Matt and Leanne will meet to determine the best course of action.

- suggestions for grant use: Saffron center presentation
  - Indigenous culture night
  - Robotics organization can talk to us about A.I.
  - Library has educational tools that we could inform parents about (SOLARO)

Nate – those do all sound good. I would say I would like to see the SOLARO stuff done and how to use it. It has also been good to have Saffron center come in.

Sandy – the library would probably cost very little so I don’t know if that would use up the grant. Another option is we attended an SRO conference that was really good and they reached out and offered to do a presentation

Matt – We have also had Tony Harrison reach out to our students about anti-racism and the presentations have been good.

Leanne – yes, those are great presentation topics, and even if they don’t use our grant money it would be good to present that stuff to parents

8. **Society Report** – Nate Peters

- Financials 1: Costs and benchmarks presentation

Society presentations can be found on the Society website at: <https://scasociety.ca/about-us/>

9. **Principals Report** – Sandy Johnson

- boys won Div1 metro volleyball championships
- both jr. varsity boys and girls went to provincials; boys took home silver and girls got seventh in volleyball
- the band is off to Nationals in Toronto

-Community kitchen highlighted in EIPS news, have CBC coming to do a piece on it

-Assurance review: is a reflection of what happened in the previous year and a vision for what we want in the future

-met with Ardrossan, Lamont and Vegreville

-data pulled from assurance review surveys and EIPS annual feedback surveys

-highlights included an increase by 10% in students feeling school was safe, caring and welcoming; strategies that led to improvement were bringing in effective speakers (Toni Harrison, U of A black students association), positive admin presence and restorative discipline practices

-areas for growth include students not feeling engaged even though they are performing well; strategy is to continue student advisory committee, have more professional collaboration, give students more autonomy and good feedback

Q. Sandy – what role do parents play in cultivating a safe, caring and welcoming school? How can parents influence student perspective on engagement?

A. Leanne – my kids are introverted so I do have to influence them to get engaged and ask for feedback. Parents need to equip their kids to talk to teachers.

A. Matt – A lot of students either don't feel comfortable seeking feedback and asking questions. Some of it is technology.

A. Teresa – I think the conversations you have at home are important, parents need to support teachers and I think we need to talk positively about teachers and their kids experiences.

A. Nate – how much of it is tied to student-student relationship and how much of it is social-media related? Parents need to be on top of that too.

A. Matt – the new rules for cell phones and the way we were able to crack down on cell phone use in class in the first few days of school has helped a lot and has made it easier to address cell phones in class

**10. Meeting Adjourned/Closing prayer – Leanne Seelochan**

Meeting adjourns 8:44 pm

**Next Meeting November 25, 2024 at 7pm in the Commons.**

