

Strathcona Christian Academy Secondary School School Council Agenda

October 28, 2024 7:00pm The Commons

Attendance: Amanda Meints, Leanne Seelochan, Matthew Spronk, Brett Harke, Lisa Harke, Kevin Winkel, Cathy Allen, Teresa Tessier, Michael Janzen, Justin Tomkins

1. **Welcome/Call to Order** – 7:04 pm Leanne Seelochan
2. **Visit Bible class** – Pastor Jordie
 - gave an overview of Bible and CALM classes at SCA
 - starts every class speaking “with God all things are possible.”
 - vision for the class is heart transformation, not behavioral modification
 - journaling and Bible memory are a part of every class
 - are covering 7 units, including ultimate authority, moral boundaries, authentic faith, healthy friendships, spiritual disciplines, others first and wise choices
 - trying to balance assessment with having kids understand that their spiritual growth is not something to be measured
3. **Approval of Agenda** – motion to approve – Teresa Tessier
4. **Approval of Minutes from May and September 2024** – Lisa motions to approve September minutes, Teresa seconds; minutes for May postponed until November
5. **EIPS Trustee Report** –Cathy Allen

GOVERNANCE AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

The Board approved piloting a new committee for the 2024-25 school year—the Governance and Evaluation Committee. Throughout the year, the committee will review the Board Handbook, develop the Board retreat agenda, work on the Superintendent evaluation, Board self-evaluation and Board work plan, and prepare for the upcoming trustee election and related onboarding. After the year, trustees will determine whether or not to make Governance and Evaluation a standing committee going forward.

TRUSTEE REMUNERATION

The Board approved the trustee remuneration for the 2024-25 school year—unchanged from the previous year.

BOARD POLICY 24

The Board approved rescinding Policy 24: Personal Communication Devices. The guidelines for personal communication device usage in schools are now outlined in Administrative Procedure 145: Use of Personal Mobile Devices

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

EIPS did not receive funding from the School Construction Accelerator Program announced by Alberta Education. The new schools, replacement schools and new modulars will be most welcomed in Alberta school divisions to address enrolment pressures and ageing infrastructure. We will continue to advocate for our EIPS Capital Plan requests. The number one request is a Grades 7-12 replacement school for Fort High and Rudolph Hennig and the number 2 request is a replacement school for James Mowat.

PROGRAM UPDATE: READ AND LEVERAGING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The Board received for information an update on two literacy and numeracy intervention pilot projects: the Reading Enrichment and Development (READ) pilot project and a junior high pilot project funded through Leveraging Student Achievement. In 2023, EIPS launched the READ pilot project, a program aimed at improving student reading achievement through targeted intervention based on the science of reading. Seven schools took part in the program—five in Fort Saskatchewan and two rural schools. Each school received two rounds of intervention for a seven-week period, which included pre- and post-intervention assessments. In total, 50 students took part in READ, receiving intervention in four small-group sessions a week, with each session lasting 40 minutes. Post-intervention testing showed significant improvements for learners—specifically in the areas of letter identification, sounds and phoneme manipulation.

EIPS also used Board-allocated Leveraging Student Achievement funding to address learning gaps seen at the junior high level. In 2023-24, four schools were selected for literacy intervention and four schools for numeracy intervention—based on Star Reading, Star Math and Provincial Achievement Test scores. Schools received six weeks of intervention programming, totaling 12 hours of targeted instruction per student. In total, 55 students received literacy support, and 57 received numeracy support. Similar to the READ program, post-intervention testing demonstrated improved outcomes for students.

Thanks to the success of the READ pilot project, the Division has expanded the program to include all elementary schools across the Division. It's also reviewing next steps for the junior high pilot.

SUGGEST A NAME FOR THE SHERWOOD PARK REPLACEMENT SCHOOL

Students, families, staff and community members are all invited to submit suggestions for the name of the Sherwood Park Replacement School. This opportunity will be open from October 15-31, 2024.

Please contact me with questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Allen cathy.allen@eips.ca

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Q. Lisa Harke – is the Read program in just the pilot schools or applied to all schools now?

A. Cathy – It is in all schools now, and it benefits the struggling readers but also all others in the classroom.

6. COSC Report – Lisa Harke

- What is COSC?
 - Committee of School Councils
 - A group comprised of:
 - representatives of the school councils throughout the Elk Island Public School (EIPS) division
 - division trustees (those elected to serve on the Board of Trustees for EIPS)
 - administrators from EIPS central office (superintendent, associate superintendents, communications)
 - Meet once a month during the school year to engage in conversations that equip, support, engage, and develop school councils.

- Key Agenda Items from the October 1, 2024 COSC Meeting
 - Meet and Greet Opportunity for School Council representatives, school principals, trustees and EIPS administration
 - Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary
 - COSC Planning for the 2024-25 School Year
 - Setting of meeting dates and times
 - Potential agenda topics for the coming year
 - Advocacy surrounding public education
 - Artificial intelligence (AI) in schools
 - Mentorship
 - Parental engagement
 - Pilot projects the Division is exploring
 - School council three-year plans
 - School fee development
 - The public education funding model and three-year weighted moving average
 - Board Report from Trustee Cathy Allen
 - ATA Report
 - the ATA's focus is on advocating for the provincial government's support in funding public education
 - ASCA Presentation: The Work of School Council
 - 5 key areas of work for school councils: engaging, listening, communicating, fundraising/event planning/chaperoning/listening, providing advice, listening
 - [248948 \(albertaschoolcouncils.ca\)](https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca)
 - <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/download/files/248948>

7. **Alberta Council Grant** – Leanne Seelochan

- \$500 given to all school councils to spend each year, but they have carried over our leftover amount from last year, so we have \$621.92 this year.

- last year we spend money on books on A.I. to give to parents

- can use the money for workshops for parents, programs to support multicultural and indigenous families, conference fees

- Need parents to start thinking about ways to use the money – what do you think would benefit parents and help parents engage?

Q. Michael – when does the year end? December or June?

A. Leanne – we still have lots of time, don't need to decide until February

Q. Michael – where was the gentleman who came last year to speak from?

A. Matt – ACSI, a speaker from the Alberta Christian Society who works with our SCA society.

Q. Michael – can we use it for religious content, or does it have to be a secular topic?

A. Leanne – no restrictions for religious content

A. Michael – How about a topic like “How to talk to teens?”

A. Kevin – We did a talk with Jordie about faith and phones and it was well received. I think the speaker and book combination works well.

A. Matt – I think we have really good speakers in our community that do a good job of drawing people in, so we don't have to spend a ton of money on speakers, we can use the people we have around.

A. Leanne – Yes we can combine money with other schools but it wasn't as successful in the past.

Parent-Teacher interviews - November 4th. We have a meal sign up to support the teachers and are still in need of a few more parents to bring food in, help set up and clean up. This is a great way to let teachers know they are appreciated.

8. **Society Report** – Teresa Tessier

- presentation on 2024/2025 priorities and the alternative program agreement

Alternative program agreement – agreement expires in 2025 but Society has extended the agreement with EIPS to 2030.

Priorities

1. *Capital and Funding* - we have had record setting enrollment, and are reaching capacity

- looking at what is our vision for growth, how do other alternative programs bring in capital funds? How could fundraising or alternative funding work for us?

2. *Spiritual Outcomes* – How can we measure this?

- work with ACSI expertise for next steps in evaluation, probably a survey called the flourishing faith index

3. *Continuity* – how can the board pass on the knowledge they have gained in the last five years and provide continuity for all of the volunteers working in the Society.

Matt – It is very fortunate that we have such a good working relationship with the Society and have had their support. I appreciate the foresight of the board and how they are working toward sustainability.

Teresa – Yes, and we also support the school through prayer on Monday mornings at 8:50am, and would love to have more parents come out.

9. **Principals Report** – Matt Spronk

-grade 7 retreat happened and had campus pastors lead and organize them

-8 of our students baptized at SPAC this past weekend, and it was great to see the connections between church and school and how this connection has drawn in students who aren't affiliated with any church

-9 volleyball teams, cross-country, flag football, and Brady Wagner won golf provincials

-Matt went to Safety in schools conference hosted by Edmonton Police Services, good emphasis on the importance of keeping our kids safe; we are blessed to have a school resource officer come to our schools (Constable Smith).

Awards night – had over 400 kids come out, but many students didn't come to receive their awards. Other schools do this in the afternoon during school time and we are looking for feedback from parents on what they think about having awards during school?

A. Leanne – We didn't come this year because they got honors but no other awards. Since so many kids got honors and weren't individually recognized, it didn't seem worth it to come. I do think its important for the award ceremony to be accessible for parents.

A. Matt – Yes, we had 400 students get honor roll or more and it was hard to balance honoring all of our students with the time it would take to recognize them all individually

A. Brett – I think there is something to be said about kids having their friends around to celebrate with them.

A. Michael – would it work to split them? Do honor roll during school and other awards in the evening?

A. Lisa – I did appreciate the one hour start-to-finish that we had at awards night.

School education plan – data informed decisions to plan school goals

- Goal 1 – Increase percent of families/students who agree learners are engaged in their learning and find school interesting

Q. Matt – is there anything else we can do to enhance student engagement?

A. Michael – are there stats and standard deviations on any of the numbers presented? Some of the differences are pretty close from year to year. Is the engagement of all of the kids declining or are there just a few who are dropping the numbers?

A. Matt – No, we don't have stats on this, but you are right. The number of responses in each measure also varies so we are just looking at general trends. I would say not as many are strongly agreeing that they are engaged.

A. Lisa – I have noticed that there is a lot of choice, and I appreciate that they have options on how to complete their work.

- Goal 2 – Increase in percentage of students who indicate SCS is a welcome, inclusive and respectful place for students

A. Leann – I appreciate this goal

Q. Brett – Where is the QR code for talking with the campus pastor?

A. Matt – There are some in the classrooms and on the bulletin board

- Goal 3 – Increase percent of families/students who agree students are taught skills, attitudes and behaviors to be successful in life and encouraged to be responsible and respectful, engaged citizens.

A. Justin – I appreciate that we have only 3 goals and are prioritizing these things

School education plan will be uploaded to the SCS website.

10. Meeting Adjourned/Closing prayer – Matthew Spronk

Meeting adjourns 8:53pm

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

