

ÉSCH/CHHS School Council Minutes
Monday, January 20, 2025
School Cafeteria

In attendance: Mike Kukurudza, Curtis Perrin, Jennifer Davies, Pat Grisonich, Karen Saffran, Troy Hale, Jodie Colbe, Erin Vossler

1. Welcome and Call to Order by Karen at 6:32 pm

a. Land Acknowledgement

b. Welcome and introductions

- Two teachers joined us tonight to talk about Fine Arts programs – (Art, Band, Drama)

2. Review of Agenda

We decided to move the teachers' presentation to the beginning of the meeting to be respectful of their time. **Modified agenda was approved Erin and seconded by Jodie. All in favour.** *The presentation notes will still appear at the end of these minutes.*

3. Approval of minutes from December 16, 2024

Jodie moved to approve minutes as written. Erin seconded. All in favour.

4. Reports and Information Items

a. Principal's Report (Mr. Kukurudza)

- Mike thanked Karen and Troy for representing School Council at the MHPD Expo of Learning (North) held in the CHHS cafeteria on January 16.
- High School exams run from January 21 to January 28, with students writing in the mornings and staying home in the afternoons.
- The Grade 7 Orientation for students in Grade 6 will be held on the evening of the 28th, giving students and families the chance to hear about programming and tour the school. School Council will be represented that evening.
- January 29 is a PD Day and the new semester begins January 29. Junior High students core courses will not change but Quarter 3 options will start after the break.
- Next meeting will be a discussion about Responsibility-Centered Discipline, an approach that uses a restorative, rather than a punitive, approach and helps students build skills such as perseverance, empathy and self-regulation.
- CHHS is currently hosting 14 international students. 50 Brazilian students are expected in the future.

A discussion about the benefits of the homestay program and cultural exchanges followed.

b. Trustee's Report (Mr. Grisonich)

- Pat and a number of other trustees spent the day with MLA Justin Wright, touring a number of schools and discussing important funding needs for the future.

c. Wellness Champion Report (Jodie)

- The school's Child and Youth Care worker, Danielle Lank, partners with community organizations to provide engaging teen activities and programming. The 'Go Girls' program from Big Sisters Big Brothers is being offered in school, as will the "Game On!" program for boys.

d. Financial Report (Mike)

- The current account balance is \$4079.48 and includes the \$500 Engagement Grant that must be spent by the end of the year.
- Troy, speaking in his capacity as President of Medicine Hat's Canadian Parents for French Chapter, noted that CPF would like to partner again with ESCH/CHHS to hold a Cabane à Sucre on March 15 at the school. This event celebrates French Canadian culture and features a traditional Quebecois meal, live music, and lots of maple syrup taffy on snow. Troy made a motion to give \$500 of School Council funds to CPF Medicine Hat to support the Cabane à Sucre event and pay for the lunches of the student volunteers. Jodie seconded. All in favour.

d. ASCA Grant (Karen)

- Karen spoke with Stephanie Williams about the potential of holding a joint presentation about sexual health with HUB school. Stephanie told her it was not HUB's initiative. Mike will speak with Clarie Peterson, Director of Psychology Services, to find out more. Other parent engagement events were again discussed.

5. Special Presentation – Fine Arts

Shrek the Musical: Mr. Perrin and Ms. Davies spoke about the amazing team effort required to present a school musical and all of the opportunities it provides to students.

- The current musical has a cast of students from Grade 7 – 12
- Students also have the opportunity to participate in the pit band, as technicians, lighting designers, set painters, costumers and choreographers.
- Former students have had the opportunity to come back to the school, bringing the skills they have acquired at post-secondary (e.g. Jocelyn Walters as voice director)
- CHHS's reputation allows it to get the rights to shows that other schools can't!
- Parent support is critical.

Theatre Arts: Theatre Arts is a High School program for students enrolled in the Sr. Drama, Choral Music and Musical Theatre classes who are in the Musical.

- Students receive credit for course work which extends beyond the regular school day, attending classes and afterschool rehearsals and completing projects.
- Completing this program provides the opportunity earn 15 total credits in a year.
- There is a theatre trip at Easter (this year to New York) where students get the opportunity to see Broadway shows, participate in workshops, and perform.

Band: Entry to Band is in Grade 7 and the program runs all year

- Senior band students have an annual trip (this year to Vancouver)
- For a high school entry point into music, CHHS offers Guitar (General Music 10/20/30)
- This program is available to any Sr. High student regardless of musical ability.

Art: CHHS offers Art as an option in Junior High and High School.

- Art Academy is now being offered to a blended group of 7-9, providing them with unique projects, trips to the Esplanade, and more time.

Some things to note:

- Except for Band, taking a fine arts course in high school is not dependant on having taken it in junior high.
- 30-level (Grade 12) Fine Arts courses (Art 30, Drama 30, Instrumental Music 30) can be used as part of a student's average for entry into many post-secondary programs.

Thanks so much to Curtis and Jennifer for telling us about Fine Arts programming at Crescent Heights!

6. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

***Next meeting:** In-person (cafeteria) and On-line (Zoom) Monday, February 24 at 6:30. Special Topic will be Responsibility-Centered Discipline.*