

**ÉSCH/CHHS School Council Minutes**  
**Monday, November 18, 2024**  
**School Library**

In attendance: Mike Kukurudza, Karen Saffran, Troy Hale, Jodie Colbe, Erin Vossler

1. Welcome and Call to Order by Karen at 6:33 pm
  - a. Land Acknowledgement
  - b. Welcome and introductions
    - Because we have not had a person step up to be secretary, Troy offered to record the meeting using Copilot for Microsoft Teams. This AI summary was put together with Karen's notes from the meeting to create these minutes.
  
2. Review of Agenda

Erin moved to approve agenda. Jodie seconded. All in favour.
  
3. Approval of minutes from October 24, 2024

Jodie moved to approve minutes as written. Erin seconded. All in favour.
  
4. Reports
  - a. Principal's Report (Mr. Kukurudza)
    - The grade 10 French Immersion students are writing the DELF B1 exam on Tuesday. This exam assesses their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills in their second language. Students who pass get a certificate of proficiency from the government of France.
    - The 3A Girls South Zone Volleyball Tournament held at CHHS November 15-16 was won by our senior girls! They are off to the provincial championships in Ponoka later this week.
    - The school is reviewing attendance and letters will be sent home for students who are flagged as having missed a concerning amount of school.
    - Letters will also be sent home to about 30 students who are in danger of not graduating, due to attendance or other reasons, to give them a chance to get back on track.
    - Senior High Awards for last year (2023-2024) will be handed out on December 19, coinciding with the return of students from university for the holidays.
    - Medicine Hat High School has decided to eliminate their graduation banquet due to the size of their grad class and the availability of local facilities, opting instead for a prom-like event without a meal. Crescent Heights High School is considering similar changes depending on what their families want. A survey will be sent out to gather feedback from parents of current and future graduates to understand their preferences regarding the graduation banquet. This survey will help determine whether to keep the traditional banquet or opt for a more affordable alternative.

**Discussion:** *Attendance Letter* – Letters are not intended for students with excused absences, but a parent suggests that a letter might be a useful reminder and a tool

to help parents deal with chronic absences by emphasizing their seriousness. Another parent mentioned that having a letter outlining excessive absences is important for accountability when children split their time in two different households.

**Discussion: Graduation** - Participants shared their experiences and opinions on graduation ceremonies. Positive feedback was given about the simpler, more personal graduation ceremonies held during COVID-19, where students walked across the stage individually, and families could take pictures at different stations. This format was appreciated for its personal touch and reduced stress. A parent of a child with anxiety shared that they would prefer not having a banquet due to the stress it causes. This perspective added to the discussion on the need for more inclusive and less stressful graduation events. The pros and cons of traditional banquets were discussed. Some felt that the meal was not a memorable part of the evening and added unnecessary costs, while others valued the tradition. A parent suggested partnering with local restaurants to offer discounts to graduates and their families as an alternative to the traditional banquet.

b. Trustee's Report –Mr. Pat Grisonich was not available for this meeting.

c. Wellness Champion Report (Jodie)

- Open gym sessions are available on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes for high school students, with open gym every day for junior high students.
- The "Our Collective Journey" program continues to run on Mondays at lunchtime, offering activities like coloring and trivia for students.
- Jodie highlighted various events, including movies in the cafeteria on Fridays, a book giveaway by the Medicine Public Library, and a community booth set up by the Women's Shelter for Family Violence Prevention Month.
- A "Culture Club" has been started for students to share their various backgrounds.
- A student has started an Autism Awareness Club that is getting lots of interest.

d. Financial Report

An updated amount was again not available at the time of the meeting but is estimated to be over \$3000.

5. Alberta School Council Engagement Grant (\$500 to spend this year!)

- a. Previous discussions have included ASCA courses, a multilingual welcome sign, translating school information for newcomer parents, and having a QR code that links to important information for new families, whether on a magnet or sticker.
- b. The challenges of accessing school information were again identified by parents.
  - Parents are frustrated by receiving multiple messages from the school but at the same time find it hard to locate specific information when needed. Suggestions were made to improve the school's website by creating a dedicated parent section with easy access to important information, such as the school calendar, cafeteria menu, and wellness activities.
  - Making it easier for parents to access and understand important information is essential for engagement. Some of these improvements would not require grant money. however, advertising that information (QR code/sticker) or using digital

tools like [Loom](#) videos for tutorials on various topics, could use extra funding and should be eligible for the grant.

- The use of Loom or similar video software to create short instructional videos for parents on how to use Edsby and other school systems might be an initiative that benefits other schools in the Division as well.
- The critical piece here is to figure out how to get the work done.

#### 6. Planning: Topics for Future Meetings

- December 16-** CTS: Career and Technology Studies Explained: Mr. Kukurudza is working with Kelly Pitman and Erin Sawicki to put together a presentation for next meeting. This will need to be advertised widely in order to be a success. Because it will be close to the holiday season, the council should think about providing refreshments (cookies, hot chocolate, etc.). Karen will meet with Mr. K. to discuss further.
- January 20** – Fine Arts Programming: This meeting will fall a few weeks before the start of “Shrek – The Musical” and will be a good chance to highlight drama/theatre arts, band, and art. The new Junior High Art Academy can be discussed along with the benefits of using a 30-level fine art course for post-secondary entrance.
- February 24 (or March 31)** – The various clubs and sports offered in the school could be discussed, including the new e-sports club.
- As always, parents are invited to send in suggestions for topics for future meetings to [CHHS.Chair@sd76.ab.ca](mailto:CHHS.Chair@sd76.ab.ca)

6. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm

*Next meeting: In-person (cafeteria) and On-line (Zoom) Monday, December 16 at 6:30*