

ÉSCH/CHHS School Council Minutes

Monday, October 21, 2024

Hybrid – School Library and Zoom

In attendance: Mike Kukurudza, Shonna Barth, Karen Saffran, Erin Vossler, Troy Hale, Jodie Colbe, Abdul A., Tonielle P., Brittney L., Audrey G.

1. Welcome and Call to Order by Karen at 6:34 pm

- a. Land Acknowledgement
- b. Welcome and introductions
 - Participants were present in person and on-line

2. Review of Agenda

Erin moved to approve agenda. Troy seconded. All in favour.

3. Approval of minutes from September 23, 2024

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

4. Reports

a. Principal's Report (Mr. Kukurudza)

- Staffing update – because enrolment is 20 students below projection, the school is losing one full time position. This will be accomplished by not hiring a cover for a grade 8 teacher's maternity leave and by moving kids to different homerooms, with additional teachers supporting. A communication will be going home to Grade 8 families.
- The Junior High Leadership Conference 2024 welcomed over 250 students from all over Alberta to CHHS on October 19. This fantastic day was topped off by a very successful Junior High dance that evening.
- The Junior High football playoffs are underway and the Seniors will play on Friday night.
- The 3A Girls South Zone Volleyball Tournament will be held at CHHS November 15-16.
- The Grade 12 Graduation meeting is taking place in conjunction with the post-secondary fair at Medicine Hat College on Thursday, Oct 24 at 6:30.
- Grade 12s are each being contacted to be given personality assessments and given information about enrolment and program requirements so they are up to speed with what they need.

~ Parent Question: Could more information be provided about Parent-Teacher interviews prior to them happening? Some parents were not aware they needed to sign up for all teachers they wanted to speak to and were not aware that there might not be space for them if they left it too late

Discussion: More direction could be given to new families about how PT interviews work. Parents should be aware that they can reach out to their child's teachers at any time if they have questions or concerns.

b. Trustee's Report – Our trustee will be Mr. Pat Grisonich, who was not available for this meeting.

c. Wellness Champion Report (Jodie)

- Jodie connected with our school's Child and Youth Care Worker, Danielle Lank.
- Our Collective Journey is coming into the school Mondays at lunch and setting up outside the cafeteria to be available to do fun activities with kids.
- Tuesdays a community booth is set up which features resources such as McMan Youth Services and the Public Library.
- Tuesdays and Thursdays are open gym at lunchtime
- Spirit Week: Monday – Fall Flannel, Tuesday – Purple, Orange and/or Black, Wednesday – Spooky Hat/Headband, Thursday – Costumes, Friday – PJs
- Leadership has lots of activities on the go for Halloween
- A “Go Girls” Group is being started and will run for 7 weeks, focussing on physical activity, self esteem, etc.
- Suggestions for wellness activities are welcome from parents – there could also be opportunities for interested parents to support wellness activities.

d. MHPSD Council of School Councils Update (Karen)

- The Division Council of School Councils' first meeting was held on October 10. Chair this year will be Michelle Millington from Ecole Connaught and Vice Chair will be Gicela Cardona from George Davison School. Karen Saffran, from our council, will represent parents on the MHPSD Coordinating Committee.
- The [MHPSD Education Foundation](#) is looking for parent representatives to help this charitable organization that supports our schools. Anyone interested can contact Alicia Koch at aliciakoch@sd76.ab.ca. There are 4 meeting per year (Tuesdays 4-6 pm).

e. Financial Report

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

5. Business – Discussion and Follow-up

- a. [UNESCO World Teacher's Day](#) – staff has until the end of the month to use their cafeteria credit. A card and balloon were sent to the school in advance of October 5th.
- b. The [Alberta School Council Engagement Grant](#) (\$500) is available for our council to use. An idea that has been discussed before is to use the funds (and perhaps obtain more from elsewhere) to create a Welcome package for new families and translate it into a number of different languages. For example, a parent present shared that materials in Urdu would be of benefit to him. Discussion opened up to include the need for a general resource for parents with information and frequently accessed links, maybe QR codes, that could be found in a one-page document or perhaps on a fridge magnet. In previous years, council prepared a school “FAQ”. Perhaps this could be updated and shared, or could form the basis of the Welcome package.
- c. Speaking of engagement... our council needs to encourage parents, teachers, and students to participate in school council meetings. Parents often are only interested in council when there is a “hot issue” at the school. How do we get them to care. Teachers could be invited to give presentations on various topics of interest – a different teacher could come each time on a rotating basis so that the task is not too onerous. Students could be

encouraged to come with their parents, or could be invited, as they have been in the past, to come to speak about a specific issue or event.

- d. The discussion started above lead to the idea of our council evenings being more of an “event” than a “meeting”. Each meeting should cover a topic that might be of interest to parents. A parent mentioned being curious about what CTS (career and technology studies) courses are available and how students rotate through them. So, for our next meeting, we will have a presentation about CTS which will be helpful for new families with kids starting to take CTS courses but also cover how CTS courses work in Senior High. Tentatively, December’s meeting will explore the Fine Arts programs and activities our school.

- Parents – this is your chance! Please reach out with any ideas you may have for future meeting topics and special presentations. You can email council at chhs.chair@sd76.ab.ca

6. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm

Next meeting: In-person (library) and On-line (Zoom) Monday, November 18 at 6:30