

Strathcona Christian Academy Secondary School Council

Meeting Minutes  
February 20, 2020 at 7pm

Present:

Aaron Box, Chairman  
Karla Alton, Secretary  
Alissa Ottahal, Council Member  
Krista Scott, Vice Chair  
Michelle Wylie, Treasurer  
Jon Elzinga, Principal, SCAS  
Symonds Botchey, Teacher, SCAS  
Wes Merta, Assistant Principal, SCAS  
Trina Boymook, Trustee, Elk Island  
Doug Wylie  
Aileen Bozic  
Carole Bossert  
Devon Marshall  
Charlene Gagne  
Roberta Friesen  
Michelle Drews  
Kimberly Barber  
Arron Camponi  
Jeff Hollinshead  
Angie Fehr  
Vicki Pepper  
Stephen Pepper  
Matt Matheson  
Melissa Wall

1. Welcome/Call to Order  
Aaron Box called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm
2. Opening Prayer  
Symonds Botchey opened in prayer
3. Additions to agenda  
Black History Month
4. Review and acceptance of minutes from January 15, 2020  
Vicki Pepper motioned that minutes be approved.  
Alyssa Ottahal seconded the motion
5. Trustee Report  
Trina Boymook went over budget information from what they know so far.  
The Board approved the 2020-2021 school fee parameters at their January Board meeting.  
They also approved amendments to Policy 23 – School Fees to incorporate the new school fee approval process that meet the requirement outlines in the Regulations.  
Trina participated in the round table budget discussion with the Finance Minister in Fort

Saskatchewan on February 5th.

The Board is focused on the upcoming budget. They are currently reviewing their priorities and goals with their strategic plan, as this will serve as the guide for decisions around future budgets. They are also examining their operations with the Superintendent. The Budget is going to be tabled on February 27th. The Board will be meeting for a full day on March 19 and 25 to develop their budget plan.

The new funding formula was released yesterday. They will be moving to a weighted moving average funding model. Major funding grants will decrease from 36 to 15 with only 2 being targeted grants. The new funding model will provide Boards the flexibility to respond to their local needs and there will be a reduction in reporting requirements which will reduce administrative costs. These savings will allow for more dollars to be directed to the classroom. High school funding will move to block funding and will be 10% higher than junior high funding. As of September 2020 high schools will no longer be funded on the CEU. A meeting is being held with Board Chairs and Superintendents the day following the budget announcement for a half day meeting where greater details will be received on our funding allocation and how the new funding model works.

The Board will continue its debate on the recommended student transportation fee structure at their February 20 Board meeting.

They are looking at a measured approach on how to approach funding to provide stability in the classroom.

New funding formula is a 3 year commitment of \$8.23 billion and provides greater flexibility to boards. It will allow a reduction of red tape.

Shifting from per student to weighted average.

There is a half day meeting on Friday for Superintendents and Board Chairs and they will receive the allocation of their budget.

Trina will have more to share with us once they have the budget.

<https://www.alberta.ca/k-to-12-education-funding-model.aspx>

Funding for SCA is still not fully answered until the budget fully comes out.

## 6. Old Business

- Jan 15th meeting review and debrief

Group exercise – take post it notes and write out attendee's questions from the night of Jan 15<sup>th</sup>.

Aaron and Jon are collecting feedback so they can try to finish getting answers from the Society or find those who can give answers that are still outstanding.

See Appendix A for all questions

Parent Question: Why not tabulate and account for the exact costs of the school and produce a balance sheet with exact numbers. We need clear and concise accounting. We need to establish ourselves with more formal influence and formal representation.

Aaron has since met with members of the Society board and has laid out all of these concerns. He has also met with Wayne Regehr and has consequently been advised to book a meeting with Greg Hochhalter. Aaron will be meeting with him late this week or next week.

The numbers that were presented were inaccurate on slide 19 and Aaron is trying to find accurate numbers and will continue to pursue the answers via the proper channels.

Discussion continued on the relationship between the school and church, the ambiguity of the funds, how this can be a healthy relationship between church and school, how time is of

the essence as registration for next year is upon us and general frustration of parents and staff.

Parent Question - If parents decided not to pay their society fees can they be told they can't come?

Trina answered that no, they cannot keep your child out of the school. The only fees that are mandatory are the actual school fees like woodworking, clothing and textile fees etc.

Mr. Merta – This group here has started to function well and there are positive things happening with the staff but there are still a lot of questions to be answered.

Aaron needs a lot of prayer and petition from parents and administrators. He wants to do this so we honor God. We need to give this process the right timing.

Trina – we are part of the alternative program so she doesn't want anyone to walk away thinking that alternative Christian programming will go away.

Jon – Thank you for asking questions and have helped them out in many ways. Would like to close this conversation off by saying that they are starting to understand more and with that there comes more clarity and that there is hope.

- Take aways/action items

Society sent out some information and that is a start to resolution

The fees are not going up.

Ministry plan – next week the school council Chairs have been invited to sit in the Society boardroom to discuss the ministry plan.

Capital projects – talked to Elementary Chair and Principal and what might some requests might be. What should our fees go towards moving forward.

## 7. New Business

- Letter to Elders Board requesting formal parent representation on the SCA Society Board. Krista had previously asked about Governance structure. She dove into the bylaws of the Society. Section C under membership and they talk about how it's constructed. The membership consists of the Board of Elders.

The Board of Directors can be: a SPAC representative, 1 or 2 reps from among the Elders, the Chair of the SCA elementary school council, the Chair of the SCA secondary council, 3 members of SPAC and up to 3 members at large from the SCA community.

It is unclear as to why Devon and Aaron aren't on the Board of Directors and would like to write a letter to ask that Aaron and Devon's position be included in the Society.

Would like to see the Society membership that is comprised of the parents.

Would like to have a couple other people to collaborate on the letter.

Show of hands who would like to be involved in this working group: Aaron Box, Krista Scott, Devon Marshall, Steven Pepper, Vicky Pepper, Angie Fehr all volunteered

All those in favor to presenting the letter with out showing to council – 14 in favour  
1 opposed.

We will start a working group, write a letter and can circulate to attendees of this meeting.

- letter to EIPS requesting the lease agreement through FOIP (sec.65 sub. 1 and 2 of the Alberta Education Act)

Aaron has attained a copy of the lease agreement. You must show ID to view. He can provide an electronic copy.

- letter to SPAC, SCA Society and EIPS requesting ALL teachers receive keys and alarm codes to the building.

EIPS Admin. Procedure 543 <https://www.eips.ca/about-us/administrative-procedures/543>

Every other school has keys and access to their building. Teachers here do not have the same access and this is an obstacle to them gaining access to our building.

Motion that the letter be drafted – Devon Marshall

Kimberly Barber seconded

Motion passed

Working group will draft the letter.

Have letter sent to group prior to the next meeting. All were in favour.

- Capital project letter/presentation

Would like to put forward to the Board of Elders and Propco (property management).

Upgrading network cabling – the school's network cabling is cat 5 which is over 15 years old and is no longer up to date. Elk Island is not allowed to do the upgrade at SCA as it a privately owned school. The project would be approximately \$100,000 and we would like to see this done this summer.

North Gym Refurbished Proposal – there are a variety of issues. Equipment that does not meet standards, logo that needs to be replaced, flooring updates, painting and more.

Approximately \$60,000

Smaller flooring replacement project – Commons carpeting is ripped and needs to be replaced, would like to see vinyl planking. Upstairs has many stains on the carpet. Would like to see vinyl planking in these areas also. Estimating \$25,000

Can Aaron take this to his ministry meeting next week and present and endorse it? All were in favour – passed

#### 8. COSC report

Aaron would like us to go through the document below and note what speaks to you and what you might like Aaron to take note of. It gives us a parent voice that the Minister of Education listens to.

ASCA resolutions link <http://email.boxclever.ca/t/r-l-jhjjeut-uyhhblro-y/>

#### 9. SCAS Calendar/Admin. Report

Student Teachers – there are a couple new student teachers here and there may be more in the coming month

Next week is Encounter with a theme of Peace

Sr Boys basketball are ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the province

Girls are ranked 7<sup>th</sup>

Prayer request for Wes Merta. Trying to get a shipping container down to Belize and Wes has come up against many regulations and requirements. Container is still here in Edmonton. Matt Mattheson is taking a team out. Please pray for them.

We are one of the only Jr Highs that doesn't have a noon hour supervision fee. We currently use our Educational Assistants to do lunchtime supervision. They then get a different lunch break which is when students are back in class. Jon would like to know our opinion on whether we should implement a fee to cover this. Fees could be anywhere from \$10 to \$40. Discussion ensued on lunchtime supervision fees and it seems there is support that this is reasonable.

This number will be included in the meeting in March which will include all fees.

Saffron came in for grade 8's doing a presentation on internet safety. They are doing free presentations for the month of March. We are looking to bring them in. Their presentations include: bullying, healthy relationships, sexual assault and leaders of change. What do you think would be helpful for grade 7 and 9's?

Discussion ensued and it seems appropriate Bullying for Grade 7 and Healthy Relationships for Grade 9

There may be some investigation as to what Saffron includes and what WAIT includes in its presentations to students. If it's largely the same then perhaps Leaders of Change may be more appropriate for Grade 9.

Black History Month – There is a rich history and wondered if the school is open to do something to recognize this. The school is definitely open to this and it was noted that Social 9 went over key figures and are going over Black Loyalists in Nova Scotia.

10. Closing Prayer – Carol Bossert closed in prayer  
Devon Marshall – motioned to adjourn the meeting  
Krista Scott – seconded

Meeting adjourned at 9:53 pm

## **Appendix A**

### **Positives**

So many parents in attendance (indicates interest)

I appreciated Janet Vader's comment at the end of the meeting that our kids' education is 100% Christian component (as opposed to the percentage on the pie chart) – Christian teachers + worldview

Fees not going up 2%

Appreciated the follow up email/communication

### **Questions I Have**

What exactly is an alternative program of EIPS?

Why is the church responsible for capital and not EIPS?

### **Governance**

School Council Charis for SCAE and SCAS need to be Society Directors

Why is the Society membership the Board of Elders? The membership should be the people who write the cheques and understand and prioritize student need.

Would it be beneficial for the Society to model themselves after Edmonton Christian/Fort Christian? I.e) Parent run

### **Parent Voice**

How can parents be heard by the Society? How can there be greater accountability?

How can parents continue to have input in decisions being made?

Maybe we could learn who the parents on the Society are so we could communicate with them directly.

### **Finances**

I would like an item by item expenditure report on the monies I'm spending on Society fees.

What is my money being spent on?

Still the question of the money received from EIPS that goes directly into church budget.

Accountability?

Are the school fees indirectly funding the church?

How much of my children's tuition goes towards church building projects?

In 2017/2018 the church received \$205,826 for rent for SCS. Why is this money not being used towards our capital fee... we can reduce our tuition.

Why pay site improvements as a tenant in our capital fees?

Who is the mortgage through for SCE?

Are we the only ministry of SPAC that pays \$20,000 management fee?

Why are 60% of our Society fees going to the church? And if there is good reason for this, why don't we get a tax receipt for that portion?

"From the audit Wayne posted after. SCA facility contribution \$1,243,110. SPAC Society recovery for school activities \$1,189,481. Where is the \$166,190?"

Will the Society completely eliminate the commitment fee now that there is not a need for it? If not, what is the commitment fee being used for?

Why does the high school rent from EIPS go to SPAC and not to the Society? \$743,561/annum

**Society's Role**

It was stated that SCA is not a ministry of SPAC. Then why am I even paying fees to the Society? Why do I want them involved at all with my kid when the Society does not have my kid's education and best interests in mind.

Where are the minutes from the last meeting?

**Ministry/Philosophy**

So SCA is a ministry of SPAC?

What does the partnership look like between SPAC/Society and SCA?