

Strathcona Christian Academy Secondary

School Council Meeting

February 24, 2025

Attendance: Aaron Camponi, Jeanette Puttick, Lisa Harke, Amanda Meints, Teresa Tessier, Leanne Seelochan, Kevin Semenchuk, Heidi Peters, Cathy Allen, Kevin Winkel, Kimberly Teeuwsen, Melissa Wall, Justin Tomkins

1. **Welcome** - Leanne Seelochan
2. **Opening prayer** - Leanne Seelochan
3. **Approval of agenda** - motion to approve by Lisa Harke, update to include English presentation and the names of Aaron and Jeanette as presenters, fix spelling of Teresa and Kevin's name
4. **Approval of minutes** from January 2025 - need to be approved in May
5. **Social department presentation** - Aaron Camponi
 - Carolyn McCune and Jonathan Bragg teaching social
 - Have a student teacher working with Aaron
 - Having 20-2 and 30-2 courses in Social as well, very positive for the students
 - encouraging more writing in social studies through doing source analysis, even at the grade 7 level
 - Black history month content being taught, trying to encourage inclusivity
6. **English department presentation** - Jeanette Puttick
 - Teacher changes include Carolyn McCune and Jonathan Bragg
 - Tanya DeRoo has left, Kevin Winkel not teaching English this semester
 - Jeanette teaching grade 7 and grade 12, rewarding to see the growth
 - Have introduced 20-2 and 30-2 streams for English this year, nice to have smaller class sizes
 - Field trip planned for 20s and 30s to go to the Citadel
 - Focus on reading comprehension and writing skills
 - Use Vretta for major assignments - prevents use of ChatGPT

Q. Heidi Peters - what are the challenges you see coming with the new curriculum?

A. Aaron - I haven't had a chance to look at it yet

Jeanette - I don't think there will be too many changes for ELA

Q. Heidi - I was hoping there would be more opportunity for public speaking and debate so kids can develop those skills

A. Aaron - Yes, it has become hard to do those types of presentations with chat gpt, but you are right, it is important to include

Heidi - Yes, chat GPT can only take you so far, but I think debates require you to think past chat GPT

7. EIPS Trustee report - Cathy Allen

2025 ASCA SCHOOL COUNCIL CONFERENCE AND AGM: REGISTRATION SPONSORSHIP

The Board approved sponsoring the registration fee for school councils to participate in the virtual 2025 Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) School Council Conference and Annual General Meeting on April 26-27—per school council up to a maximum of \$5,000. To qualify, members must be part of a school council with an active ASCA membership and apply before the registration deadline, April 7.

SCHOOL STATUS REPORT: 2023-24

The Board received for information the School Status Report for the 2023-24 school year. The report identifies enrolment numbers, school utilization rates and per-student costs within the Division. The data is presented by geographic sectors and on a four-year comparative basis to ensure the analysis is based on long-term trends and not isolated incidences (see pg. 36, "Board Package: School Status Report for 2024-25").

COR AUDIT

The Board received for information a report on the Division's 2024 Occupational Health and Safety Certificate of Recognition (COR) Audit Report. Annually, EIPS undergoes the voluntary COR audit to certify its commitment to occupational health and safety. Overall, the Division scored an impressive COR score of 91 per cent, exceeding the mandatory 60 per cent requirement. The Division's noted areas of strength include:

- use of policies, procedures and online resources;
- integration of health and safety in the workplace;
- emergency plans, first aid and security measures in place; and
- positive role modelling.

The audit also offered areas for the Division to work on in preparation for the recertification. These include awareness campaigns related to incident reporting, emergency drills, job hazard assessments, and general communication to enhance health and safety efforts.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION ELIGIBILITY

The Board received for information a report detailing recent amendments to the province's student transportation eligibility criteria, which take effect in the 2025-26 school year.

Specifically, the changes relate to student transportation and rider eligibility. Currently, Alberta Education considers an elementary rider, kindergarten to Grade 6, eligible for provincial student transportation funding if they live one kilometre or more from the school they attend. For secondary students, grades 7-12, riders are eligible if they live two kilometres or more from the school they attend.

In 2025-26, Alberta Education will increase the elementary eligibility distance to 1.6 kilometres—the secondary rider eligibility will remain unchanged. The change in elementary eligibility has significant financial implications for both EIPS and school families. For instance, EIPS will see a substantial reduction in funding from the province. That, in turn, will result in an inability for EIPS Student Transportation to maintain its current service level, potentially leading to higher student transportation fees for families. Short term, the province has committed to some transition funding for 2025-26. However, that won't be the case long term. Therefore, the Division needs to develop a plan to address the new criteria and communicate the change to school families promptly.

EIPS BUDGET 2025-26

- The EIPS budget survey data received from parent/guardians, grade 12 students, staff and community members help to inform the EIPS budget priorities.
- The provincial budget is expected to be released on February 27, 2025
- The Board of Trustees have scheduled budget meetings and discussions. (February – May)
- The EIPS Finance team will prepare the EIPS 2025-26 budget that will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval. This work is guided by the Government of Alberta Funding Manual for School Authorities.
- The Board will approve the 2025-26 EIPS budget at the May public board meeting. This will be submitted to the Government of Alberta.

BOARD RETREAT

The Board of Trustees participated in the annual 3-day Board Retreat in February. This is an opportunity to have deep discussions on governance related issues, the 2025 Board Work Plan and the Four-Year Education Plan.

EIPS AUDIT COMMITTEE COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

EIPS is looking for two community representatives for the EIPS Audit Committee

- Approximately two meetings a year – in the spring and fall
- Starts in spring 2025 (May or June)
- This is a two-year term

- Honorarium is \$100 per meeting plus reimbursement for mileage
- The individual should have knowledge of audit standards and governance and understand financial statements, preferably those prepared under the Public Sector accounting Standards
- More information on the EIPS website
- Closing date is March 7, 2025

Please contact me with questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Allen cathy.allen@eips.ca

780-417-8109

Q. Kevin - What is the ASCA conference?

A. Cathy - Alberta school council association; it is the overarching body that supports school councils with speakers, print resources, etc to help school councils run properly

Lisa - the virtual conference is April 26th if anybody is interested in going, and the AGM is on the 27th.

8. **COSC report** - Lisa Harke

- Powerschool data breach
- Jr. High draft curriculum hasn't been received yet, discussed challenges of all grade 7, 8 and 9s receiving new curriculum at once rather than rolling it out
- Trustee elections will coincide with municipal elections this fall

Q. Heidi - In the past there was a parent who collected information to summarize what each trustee stood for so that all parents could have that information in one place. Is there someone who is doing that again this year? Did the Society do that?

A. Teresa - I will check with the Society and see if we did that last year or if we want to take that on.

Q. Leanne - Is trustee Allen going to have to run again?

A. Lisa - Yes, trustees run on a 4-year term and will have to put her name forward again

9. **Council information** - Leanne Seelochan

Eagles eye - PT interview night we will have two speakers coming in to speak to parents; funded through our council engagement grant

March 13 - Tony Harrison, racism isn't funny

March 17 - Sherry Lee - RCMP liaison speaking about online safety, drug use, vaping

- Hope to also provide meals for teachers during PT interviews, so keep eyes open for that opportunity to participate - ***PT Interview meal will be happening March 17th.***

10. **School council operating procedures** - Lisa Harke

Current operating procedures can be found on the school website at

<https://www.scasecondary.ca/about/school-council/school-council-operating-procedures>

- Link to presentation given at school council meeting can be found at:
 - https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1rcihMak0hHBnOttWUrm_A-nTfV4mpOfXqFcQkP0rWU/edit?invite=CMGy9c0O&exids=71471476,71471470#slide=id.p
- Proposed amendments will be formally voted on at the AGM on May 5th
 - Update mission statement
 - Update membership to reflect that all parents, even if they are society members can vote
 - Update AGM meeting to be held in May, not September

Q. Teresa - does this mean we should be having a highschool student here?

A. Lisa - Yes. In the past we have had some students come to share and so it is something we can look at.

Q. Leanne - In the governance section we need to update the principal section to include vice-principal or other delegate.

We will link these proposed amendments in the next agenda for May.

11. **Society Report** - Teresa Tessier

- Currently looking at ministry and budget planning
- Society report can be found at: <https://scasociety.ca/about-us/>
- Strong connection between school, church and society and the goals we have for our students going forward
- Want to put out a survey to gauge the spiritual health of our school, staff and alumni
- Key strategies for the next year include:
 - Developing student leaders
 - Supporting staff
 - Supporting parents

Lisa - I'm very excited about having student leaders. It was great to see them at the youth takeover weekend and feel their energy at church. If this is just the start, I'm excited to see where they can take this.

Jeanette - We had a really powerful PD day in January, we got to worship together and pray and it was great to feel God working in that way

Heidi - There is an open call for new society members. This is Nate's last year, so we need some people to step up and fill his place.

12. **Principal Report** - Kevin Winkel (he did a great job!)

- Processed 150 course changes for January, semester 2 is well underway
- Course selection for next year underway
- Last week grade 7 and 8 band trip was a success
- Grade 8 retreat happening this Friday, facilitated by campus pastors
- Fees
 - Survey sent out, parents appreciate the opportunities kids get but do not want to see a large increase in fees
 - Course fees will not be increased for the upcoming school year
 - Society fees increased by \$60 per students gr 1-12, \$40 for kindergarten, needs to be updated in fee schedule for next year
 - Will be a new fee added for Community kitchen to cover the food safety course
 - New course sports medicine 20
 - New Outdoor Ed course for high school students, fee is set at \$1500 but will be charged on a cost recovery basis and they will do a lot of cool trips

Q. Melissa - Mrs Jones mentioned that the fee for theater had been pulled by EIPS and so she has less money to fund theater?

- A. Leanne - we will check with Mrs Jones and Mr. Winkel will get back with an update
UPDATE: All musical theatre students will be getting a refund of the \$80 paid to be in musical theater. Going forward, starting next year, there will not be a musical theatre fee, a decision made by EIPS.

Q. Leanne - band trip fees for grades 7 and 8, that fee changed.

- A. Kevin - Yes, it went down

Q. Kimberly - How does the Missions trip get funded? It is not included on the fee list?

- A. Heidi - it might be because missions is not under EIPs, it is under the Society
Kevin - i will make a note and check

Q. Lisa - Do the kids in grade 9 get a highschool orientation for learning about course selection?

- A. Kevin - Yes, they will be told how course selection happens and what courses they need to take. It will be happening soon during the school day. Parents will get communication on this as well. **UPDATE:** Highschool course selection information day will be happening **March 12** during the school day.

Q, Heidi - The development teams have been awesome and we have loved how Symonds hosts mini-tournaments. It has made our school a leader in the community in this space.

13. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Next meeting: May 5, 2025 (AGM)