

Elbow Park School Council Meeting MINUTES

Location: Learning Commons & MS Teams

Nov 20, 2024 (6:30 to 8:00 pm)

Attendees:

Admin: Jason Fech and Erin Warburton

President: Meghan Zubot

Secretary: Melissa Sawatzky

Departing Executive: Katie Clayton

With regrets:

Vice-President: Peter Doyle

In-person: Amy Norman, Trevor Sawatzky, Natalie Carleton, Risa Desai, Erin McCaffery Mannas, Tamra Bergen, Christie Martin, Katie Robinson, Kaitlin Santoni, Amanda Kousinious, Emma Doyle, Abbey Sather, Russ Berdusco, Ella Witcher, Kim, Natalie Carleton, Ella McMillan

Quorum achieved (minimum of 9)

1. Approval of Agenda (1 minute) - Meghan Zubot

A. Katie Clayton second; approved

2. Last Meeting Follow-up (5 minutes) - Meghan Zubot

A. Approval of [Minutes from Sept 19, 2024](#) council meeting

B. Katie Clayton second; approved

3. New Business

A. Completed council events:

a. Fall Fair (docs in EPS office with a guide)

i. \$6,200 cost - losing \$32

ii. Costs in the binder and circulated

b. Halloween Dance and Haunted House

i. \$3,000 budget - made a bit of money

c. Fun Lunch

i. Parent feedback that set up time could be longer for future fun lunches

B. Upcoming events:

- a. Fun Lunch: Wednesday Dec 4
- b. Winter Concert: Thursday Dec 12
- c. Christmas hampers starting up - boxes being prepped tomorrow at 1pm

C. Community of School Councils (COSC) update

- a. <https://www.cbe.ab.ca/get-involved/schoolcouncils/Documents/20241023-COSC-Presentation.pdf>
- b. Increase of ~5,000 students this year
- c. Lowest per student allocation in Canada
- d. Jason - added a note from the [Fraser report](#) - AB went from third highest funding per student to tenth (lowest) over a 10 year period (per student funding has remained flat since 2018 although overall budget has increased)
- e. Modular classrooms: lack of common spaces

D. Grade Volunteer Opportunities

- a. There was a meeting with room parents to explain the role and also talk about the changes with volunteering set-up (initiatives get split over grade levels)
- b. Kindergarten: Winter concert
- c. Grade 1 and 2: Muffin Mixer
- d. Grade 3 and 4: Fall Fair
- e. Grade 5 & 6: Halloween Dance and Haunted House
- f. All grades: Hampers, Appreciation Committee, Mountain of Warmth

E. Read-a-thon: March 2025

- a. Logs how many minutes they read each night and family members pledge money
- b. Another school did this and raised around \$20k (with 500 kids)

F. Residency discussion

- a. Junior Achievement (Grades 5 and 6) - Grade 4 provides materials but not instruction
 - i. Instruction financial planning and thinking about money
 - ii. Link to curriculum through loans and debts
- b. Suzie Vidori - author coming in to work on writing storytelling
- c. Centennial in 2026 for the school - artifacts from the community, interviews with grandparents etc
- d. Art residency opportunity with the outgoing artist from M&M
- e. A comment that having work come home from residencies and regular curriculum is really appreciated to see where kids are at and what they are working on

4. Administrator's Report (45 minutes) - Jason Fech

- A. See principal's report for in-depth overview
- B. School fees have to be paid in powerschool account
- C. Schools only pay 37% of GST so there is sometimes a small surplus collecting field trip fees - this goes toward general studies if surplus
- D. Field trips have to be paid when the trip occurs (this is a provincial system decision)
- E. Focus on functional writing skills has been a focus and they're seeing improvements both there and numeracy complex problem-solving (compared against own test results, no PAT was done last year so difficult to compare outside currently) - although not clear yet from province, school is preparing for full PATs this year
- F. Also a wellness 'goal' of improving a sense of resiliency
- G. Society - parents support more messages about the 'membership fee' and birthday books. More to come on this in upcoming society meeting, but there are changes to bylaws and how funding is coming in that needs to be looked at to ensure strong participation but also not excluding any parent voices.
- H. Parent teacher interviews - book with multiple teachers if needed. Do not book back-to-back slots. Comment that it would be nice to book in at end of year as well. Typical in CBE to only meet once a year. Student-led interviews could be taken out and changed to PT only.
- I. Winter carolling concert - Dec 12 (rehearsal at 9AM for extended family) and 6:30-7:30 with 2 seats per family. 3 sets of 2 for auction or raffles.

5. Meeting Adjournment (1 minute) - Meghan Zubot

- A. New agenda items
- B. Question about Rideau and limited capacity for Grade 7 - Mrs. Warburton explained a long-term movement to use a somewhat unused space in Belair for CBE homeschool and then Windsor Park school opens to K-4, and Elboya becomes 4-9. This means it would open room there to accommodate Inglewood students who currently attend at Rideau Park.
- C. Next meeting: Thursday January 23, 2025 (1:30 to 3:00 PM)