

**SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday, January 16, 2024  
SAM Library | 7:00 p.m.**

**DECISIONS**

- School Council will host a table at the kindergarten open house.
- Linda and Celeste volunteered to participate in the division stakeholder workshop Thurs, Feb 15th 9am - noon at North Pointe Community Church, 14025 167 Ave NW, Edmonton.

**1.0 AGENDA**

**1.1 Land Acknowledgement:**

We are grateful to live, work and play on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. This land is a traditional meeting ground, gathering place, and traveling route for many Indigenous people whose diverse cultures have enriched this land for generations.

We honour the Elders, Knowledge Keepers and other Indigenous voices who share their stories and wisdom with us as we work towards reconciliation in a good way.

We are treaty people and promise to work towards repairing relationships by showing kindness to each other and stepping gently on the land.

**1.2 School Council Purpose Statement**

*As we work to support and enhance student learning at SAM, we will participate in the SAM School Council in an advisory role to the principal where we will foster, develop, maintain, and reflect the culture of the school. To do this, we will create forums for discussion, provide opportunities for families to participate, and, to the best of our abilities, represent our various school community views and voices.*

**1.3 Attendees**

Dawn Rothwell  
Cam Makovichuk  
Linda Marchand  
Darla Loewen  
Celeste Fowler  
Sean Cheyney  
Tarena Martin  
Vaishally Bhatti  
David Pipella  
Ryan Phare  
Stacey Addison

Stephanie Morris  
Jasmine Buller  
Kari Dechamplain  
Jayson Loewen

## 2.0 SOCCER ACADEMY

Teacher Report: Mr. Jeff Paulus - Soccer Academy

- Jeff Paulus presented information about the soccer academy planned to start at SAM School in the 2024-2025 school year.
- It is exciting to have a soccer academy within the school system again. Professional clubs in Europe are commonly linked to school academies.
- St. Albert Soccer has one of the strongest female programs in the province. 38% of the players in our club are girls and we retain many of the girls instead of losing them from sport. Many of our coaches are females.
- St. Albert Soccer history goes back to 1955. Some school academies are not linked to clubs or to soccer people. We are able to know what St. Albert Soccer is doing and we can cooperate for the wellbeing of the child, e.g. when they train.
- In 2018, St. Albert Soccer obtained their National Youth License. We are one of only three clubs in the Edmonton area with that license.
- St. Albert Impact has a semi-pro team. This program at St. Albert Public gets attached to that.
- Why a partnership? Professional coaching. Shared resources. Complement each other. Some academies do a terrible job of the social aspect, cutting kids and doing things that are the opposite from what we want for children.
- We will have the best technical training of any school in the province. We will be very aware of the social and psychological aspects for children.
- Coaches are Jeff Paulus, Alesha Weicker-Pasternak, Erika Vecchio.
- Dawn will send Jeff's presentation to the entire school community after Jeff presents it to the board.
- It has to be fun or they won't play. That is true right up to the professional level and we can never lose sight of that.
- Futsal will be an introductory sport in the soccer academy. It is a standalone game played throughout the world. We will be the leaders in futsal in Alberta. We will get the start in grade four. Outside of being a standalone game, it is a fantastic soccer development tool.
- Bussing to the venues and back to school is included in the academy fees.

Questions from parents and answers from Jeff and Dawn:

- What will the program cost? The fees are being finalized and will need to be approved by the board. Part of the cost will be how much we can make use of the reciprocal use agreement with Servus Place. Transportation is a huge driver of costs of this program. We will try to utilize the resources we have during summer and spring seasons—the fields here and at Lorne Akins—but when we need to take players off site, transportation is the most expensive part. We are trying to keep the costs below \$200 per month.
- How many days will students play soccer? We are looking at six blocks across three days dedicated to soccer.

- Is there potential to be in both Academic Challenge and Soccer Academy? We don't know, but there could be. There is interest. It might impact rotating activities (STEAM, drama, outdoor ed) and wellness.
- We are a big believer in multi-sport experiences. Students will experience sports other than soccer.
- Jeff is a teacher in the district in addition to doing soccer academy, which helps him add the mental and social aspects to the technical training.
- What training did you think players would drop to free up evenings? This would replace the ICE (Impact Center of Excellence) training. Life is busy and sport is making it busier. Teams train twice a week, plus a game, plus a gym session, and soon families are out at night five or six days per week. This program can focus on making players better technically during the daytime and allow coaches to focus on the team. This frees up nights for families. That sport in school can help students succeed in school, especially children who are high energy.
- Three sessions per week will provide significant opportunities for touching the ball. The more ball-touches, the more player development.
- We will give everyone a chance to touch the ball. Some call it tiering, but a different way to think about it is to have players play with others at their level to maximize touches on the ball.
- Is there a cap or a minimum enrollment? When we start a new program, we expect to get the most interest from our current student population. The school is not banking the viability of this program on attracting kids from other schools. We talked about 24 or 30 students, but don't know if that is a grade 4-6 grouping or if we will get way more than that. We need enough student interest to pay the teacher FTE time for Mr. Paulus. The academy fees will cover SWAG, some equipment, transportation, and facilities.
- We might have groups of children train separately but in the same facility. Players will train with others similar in their soccer development. It is not about age or grade but about development level. Think about them as training groups, not age- or grade-specific.
- Do they play games? We will arrange friendlies. What a game tells is if the coach did their job. Games show if the coach developed the player during training. If they need to yell instructions the entire game, they probably did not do their job during training.
- Is there an option for a partial year? We are dedicated to the cost of facilities, instruction, transportation and cannot semester it. So the commitment needs to be for the entire school year.
- Do you see this program as inadvertently getting the city on board with lobbying for more soccer space? St. Albert Soccer has plans for its own indoor facility, which would then be available to this academy.
- Dawn is working with Jeff and Derek at Lorne Akins to find a date for more information. Jeff will present to the board tomorrow, and afterward we will have more information about what the board will decide for fees and other information.
- The division supports bussing to SAM school for students in the soccer academy, even if the students live outside the SAM school catchment.
- Does it interfere with clubs before or after school? The Soccer Academy at SAM should not interfere with any club participation. All transportation to and from Soccer Academy training will be contained within our regular school day.

- Have you talked with other schools about their experiences introducing an academy program? How did their programs grow in the early years? Yes, we talked with other schools, which is why we expect it will take a few years to grow the program. The division is not giving us extra money for teaching. They support with advertising and some startup costs. Consultants are paid out of user fees. We intend to grow this so the plan is to give it a three-year cycle. The district superintendent feels similarly that we need to give it time to grow.
- Jeff's time is half absorbed by Lorne Akins. He does not know if he will continue teaching at Lois E. Hole to make up the FTE and then be a consultant at SAM, or if he will be paid as a teacher at SAM.

### 3.0 COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

At this point in the agenda, supporters of Sir Alexander Mackenzie School are invited to make brief comments or ask a question of the council.

### 3.0 MINUTES

#### 3.1 Recommendation:

“That the minutes of the previous [School Council Meeting \(Nov 21, 2023\)](#) are approved as circulated.”

- Minutes were approved by email in November.

#### 3.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

- [Grade 6 Momento Survey](#) will be distributed on Friday.

### 4.0 COUNCIL BUSINESS

#### 4.1 Council Business

- None noted

#### 4.2 Sir Alexander Mackenzie School Reports

- Principal Report:
  - SAM Planning for 2024-25 School Year

- Kindergarten Open House - Tues, Jan 30th, 6-7pm
  - Decision: School Council will host a table
  - SIGIS will be present
  - Soccer Academy
- ACE Info Evening - Wed, Feb 21st at 6pm. We did a great job promoting and growing the program, and now it grew too large for one class. Planning to move into two spaces next year. We hope for another strong year of grade four students coming in so we can grow, not just crowd one classroom. We learned that twelve is too small and twenty-three is too big.
- Soccer Academy Info Evening - coming soon
- SAM Explores - Drama, STEAM, Outdoor Education: We continue to pilot the program. As we move into the planning cycle for next year, and potentially introduce another ACE class plus soccer academy, we are considering feedback. Do we look at continuing this into next year? Are there things we would do differently? We will actively reach out for that feedback.
  - Question: Do kids have opportunities to experience those things even in small areas through regular subjects? We took learning outcomes from the regular curriculum for which we could create a more unique, experiential opportunity through drama, STEAM or outdoor ed. Those same learning outcomes are still present and assessed in regular subjects. This is just another experience for them to experience those outcomes. You won't see SAM Explores on their report cards. Part of the reason for no reporting is because students go through experiences in cycles and there can be significant development from the start to end of the year.
  - Parent consensus seemed to be that students love SAM Explores.
- Polar Bear Club: Parent signing permission for students to join the Polar Bear Club would give opportunities for those students to go outside even when it is cold. There is no division policy barring going outside. We know our kids and families are torn because the threshold is different for different children and families. Some kids and their parents think kids should go outside no matter what temperature. Others think it's too cold to go outside. We are considering an opt-in Polar Bear Club for families who are ok with having children go outside, even when it is very cold outside. This would be for the whole-school recess. Staff are on-board with this.
  - A parent suggested: consider asking Cory feedback from parents when they had permission slips for going outside in the cold.
  - Discussed the concept and feedback from parents was generally supportive.
  - School administrators agreed to further explore the Polar Bear Club.

- Stakeholders Workshop - Thurs, Feb 15th 9am - noon
  - North Pointe Community Church, 14025 167 Ave NW, Edmonton
  - Topics this year include inclusivity and diversity.
  - Linda and Celeste expressed interest in participating.
- January Report Cards
  - Available to families on PowerSchool on Monday, January 29th at 4pm. Paper copies will also be sent home with students the same day.
  - [Student and Parent Reflections](#): Questions are intended to engage the home connection. It is an opportunity for parents and child to look through the report card together and reflect on some questions. The hope that it strengthens the engagement families have around the progress report.
  - Last year we discussed at the school council what parents were hopeful for from the report card experience. We noticed that when it was just online, some parents missed downloading it. The paper report card encourages interaction between parent and child. One purpose of these moments in time is to prompt discussion about how things are going. The kids are an important part of the conversation. Also, the school wants your feedback because it helps us learn and grow.
- Upcoming events:
  - Div 1 Winter Carnival - Jan 25th
  - Div 2 Ski/Snowboard Trip - Jan 25th
  - Spirit Assembly - Jan 26th
  - Report Cards Issued - Jan 29th
  - Kindergarten Open House - Jan 30th
  - PD Day - Jan 31st (No School for students)
  - Teachers' Convention - Feb 8 & 9 (No school for students)
  - Stakeholder's Workshop - Feb 15th
  - Family Day - Feb 19 (No school)
  - Academic Challenge & Enrichment Info Evening - Feb 21
  - Family Movie Night - Feb 23
- Division Policy Review
  - [Policy Review Process & Schedule](#)
  - [Division Policy Manual](#)
  - December Review: Support Staff Growth, Supervision & Evaluation (D-150) & Support Staff Transfers (D-160)
  - January Review: Learning Resources (E-120), Educational Partnership & Sponsorships (G-110), Local Authorities Pension Plan (D-680-AR)

#### 4.3 Trustee Report - Trustee Allen

- We couldn't have a trustee with us at today's meeting. See attached for a general report.

### 5.0 OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS

#### 5.1 Correspondence

- None.

#### 5.2 COSC update from Linda, with comments from Dawn and others:

- The school calendar is changing next year. They plan to change spring break to align with Edmonton instead of with St. Albert Catholic. The provincial school divisions were about 50/50 who would have each week for spring break. Edmonton Public is a big division and what they do sometimes drives what others do. As boards voted on calendars, there was a significant change in that 50/50 to align with Edmonton's calendar. Some families provided feedback that not aligning can be complicated for them. Spring break would be March 24-28, 2025, then day in lieu March 31, and back to school on Tuesday.
- Another significant proposed calendar change is no early dismissals on Wednesdays. We heard from the community that half-days are difficult for child care and many families prefer a full day at another time. The division looked at creating entire days that have a staff meeting and professional development time. That will give additional long weekends for families. That will impact kindergarten, who will have school on those Wednesdays.
- Suggestion from a parent: If the November COSC meeting is when options like school calendars are discussed, please consider having a school council meeting after the November COSC meeting so that families can provide feedback.

### 6.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- None noted.

### 7.0 FUTURE MEETING DATES

#### 7.1 Schedule future meeting dates:

- Tuesday, February 20th, at 6pm
- Tuesday, March 19th, at 7pm
- Tuesday, April 16th, at 6pm
- Tuesday, May 21st, at 7pm

### 8.0 ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned 8:31pm

## COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

**Chair:** Linda Marchand  
**Vice Chair:** Celeste Fowler  
**Secretary :** Jayson Loewen (Stephanie Ladouceur, Paula Requa)  
**COSC Rep:** Linda Marchand (Celeste Fowler, Jazzie Buller)  
**Admin Team:** Dawn Rothwell (Principal)  
Cam Makovichuk (Assistant Principal)  
**Trustee:** Trustee Allen



Notes from January School Board meeting:

<p>The board received as information a presentation on the St. Albert Public Schools Soccer Academy.</p>
<p>· The board received as information a report on the career education development in our division.</p>
<p>· The board approved the amended calendar to reflect that the dates of spring break as outlined in article 3.3 of Board Policy B-170, School Year shall not apply, and that the dates of spring break for 2024-2025 be from March 24, 2025 to March 28, 2025.</p>
<p>· The board approved the Preliminary Deductions from the Instruction Block for 2024-2025.</p>
<p>· The board approved the Basis of Allocation for 2024-2025.</p>
<p>· The board provided direction to circulate the draft Board Policy G-110, Educational Partnership and Sponsorships and the accompanying regulations.</p>
<p>· The board provided direction to circulate the draft Administration Regulations D-680-AR, Local Authorities Pension Plan.</p>
<p>· The board approved the December 13, 2024 public board minutes.</p>
<p>· The board received as information the status report for policies/regulations/procedures currently in development.</p>
<p>· The board adopted Board Policy B-170, School Year and the accompanying regulations.</p>
<p>· The board provided direction to administration for the preparation of the final draft of Board Policy F-100, Student Assessment and the accompanying regulations.</p>
<p>· The board provided direction to administration for the preparation of the final draft of Board Policy F-110, Student Conduct and the accompanying regulations.</p>
<p>· The board adopted Board Policy A-140, Site-Based Decision Making.</p>
<p>· The board adopted Board Policy D-130, Professional Staff Reduction and the accompanying regulations.</p>
<p>· The board received as information the Quarterly Financial Report for the three months ended November 30, 2023.</p>
<p>· The board received as information the 2022-2023 Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) Funding Final Cost Report.</p>