

**SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, Nov 21, 2023
SAM Library | 6:00 p.m.**

DECISIONS

- None noted.

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
Trustee Allen
Linda Marchand
Jennifer Bowen
Heather Friedenthal
Lise Classen
Charlotte Robertson
Kim Robertson
Garry Phillips
Stephanie
Sean Cheyney
Colleen Mayes
Jayson Loewen

Whitney Visscher
Allison Hopkins
Celeste Fowler
Tarena Martin
Stephanie Morris
Jazzie Buller

2.0 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.

- None noted.

3.0 MINUTES

3.1 **Recommendation:**

“That the minutes of the previous [School Council Meeting \(Oct 17, 2023\)](#) are approved as circulated.”

- Minutes were approved by email and published on the school website.

3.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

- Donate Button on SAM Website
 - When the Donate button is used, it takes the user to Rycor -- from there they have the option of selecting whether they want to donate to a specific school, the division overall, or Appetite to Achieve. They also have the option of specifying "Other" and defining where they want it to go if their preferred option isn't listed. They can also choose whether it's a one-time donation or a recurring donation. This money could go directly to SAM.
- Parent Feedback for the SAM Education Plan 2022-2026. A survey will be shared with parents to provide feedback that will be used to incorporate in the presentation to the board in January.
- [Grade 6 Momento Survey](#) A printed letter to gauge interest in school apparel will go to grade six students to share with their parents and return to the school.

4.0 COUNCIL BUSINESS

4.1 Council Business

- None noted.

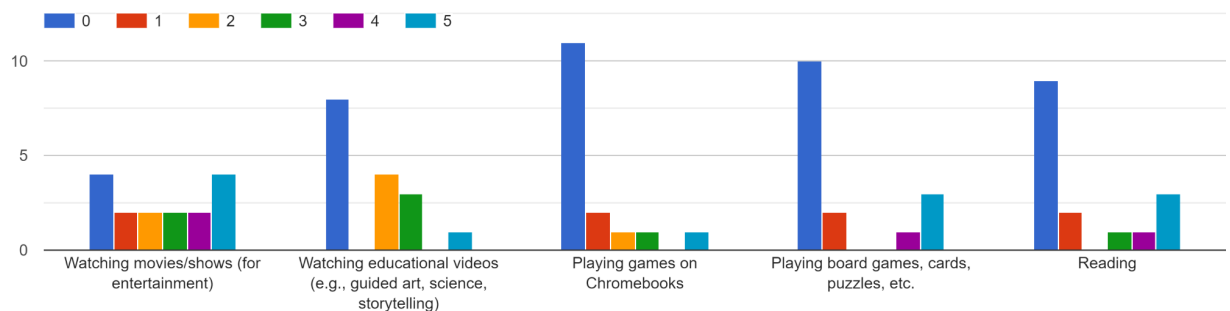
4.2 Sir Alexander Mackenzie School Reports

Teacher Reports:

- Soccer at Recess: *Charlotte Robertson & Lise Classen*
 - Soccer at recess is not going smoothly for division two students.
 - One teacher has temporarily suspended one class from playing soccer due to hurt feelings and consistent challenges.

- Conflict on the playground is common, no matter the activity—ball hockey, soccer, or even tag.
- Some students need to learn how to navigate through unstructured play. Through the pandemic, many children had entirely structured activities, so they now need to learn. We need to teach them skills of how to resolve conflicts.
- A teacher talked with a class about what would make soccer fun. Student responses included: be on the field, be positive no matter what, have fair teams, know the rules and play by the rules, know that at the end you’ll say “good game” and not brag.
- Parent comments:
 - The teachers are doing a good job—all the lessons you are building into it are impressive. Wow!
 - Some students noted that language (swearing) is a common problem.
 - Could parents learn what teachers are telling students so they can reinforce the messages at home?
 - A single person can sway an entire group toward negative attitudes and hurtful behaviour or toward positive attitudes and constructive behaviour.
 - A challenge can sometimes shift a player’s perspective: “So, you think you’re good and don’t want to play with that player? Are you good enough to get that less skilled player a goal?”
- Plans: Teachers plan to set up a field between the two soccer fields for grade four students to play soccer. Due to differences in size and ability to deal with conflict, it works best to keep students in their grade cohorts.
- Lunchtime Activities: All teachers who attended the last staff meeting filled out a survey about how often their classes participated in different lunchtime activities.

How many times during a typical 5-day week do each of the following activities occur during lunchtime in your classroom?



Other activities noted by teachers: no other activities - just eating lunch and chatting with friends, some older students help out in younger grades at lunch, students get to visit with each other, paper crafts, free time booklets, read or draw.

- SAM School kept the lunch supervision fee at \$60 per year per student to help offset the cost of lunchtime supervision. Certified teaching staff and educational assistants share the supervision inside and outside at lunchtime. There is more supervision in division one than two. The revenue brought in last year to support

supervision was about \$17,000. The expenses were just over \$30,000. The school fees being charged do not cover the costs for lunch supervision. Some other schools hired outside lunchtime supervisors, which is still a paid position and not necessarily less expensive. Some feedback was that supervisors who are not part of the school culture daily have not yet built the relationships with the students and have a more challenging time reinforcing lunch time behavior expectations. The teachers supervisors do not increase the costs as they are salaried employees. EA supervisors contribute to the costs as we pay hourly salaries (and benefit time).

- How many classes do you have per supervisor? Kindergarten and grade one have one supervisor per class. Grade 2: one per two classes. 3 and up: one per three classes. Grade 2 and 3 classes have some grade six helpers.
- The supervision schedule allows each staff member to have a 30-minute lunch break.
- Do you have enough supervisors? Yes, meets the needs and safety requirements.
- Is watching TV at lunch a method to compensate for fewer supervisors? Seemed like no. Shows seem to settle students and to be a calming thing. Most children don't sit and watch TV, but talk, draw, and play. They did the same before the pandemic.
- Would larger groups of students allow more efficient lunchtime supervision? No, would likely assign more supervisors in a large lunchroom.

Principal Report:

- *Potential Soccer Academy at SAM.* The division approached SAM school about the potential to start a soccer academy. There is growing demand, especially among girls. SAM gets students within its boundary, but does not draw students for other programs, other than Academic Challenge (but that has special entry requirements). We are actively pursuing the potential for a division two soccer academy. Discussions involve Kevin Jones and Jeff Paulus from SASA, and Derek Herman, the principal at Lorne Akins.
 - The structure might be Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday for a grade four-five group training in the afternoon during blocks 7-8. Soccer training could replace when other students go to STEAM, drama, gym, or music.
 - In the shoulder seasons, students would train on the outdoor fields. During winter, training would likely be at the Player Development Center in Riel. Servus Place is difficult to book.
 - It would be a user-pay program. What the user would pay for is not teacher costs but costs of transportation to the field, equipment, and rental of the facility. We would try to make it as affordable as possible. It is not a competitive league but for students interested in developing their skills.
 - Jeff Paulus has quite a soccer resume: he is currently the Technical Director of SASA, he used to be technical director of the Scottish United soccer club, was head coach of the NAIT men's soccer team, and Edmonton FC club. Jeff Paulus would teach the soccer academy training blocks and is very excited about the opportunity.
 - Training at this age would be not more than an hour per day.
 - The program would be year long.

- Plan is to start advertising during the Kindergarten open house on January 30. Registration likely will be in March.
- Can students sign up to try for a few months? Will ask, but that seemed not like how most sports academies worked.
- Would you consider doing a rec academy? The division is set on soccer to compete with the other division and because they already have a rec academy.
- SAM School Logo: silhouette of a bear.
 - The submitter recommended a few words to go along with the logo (Confidence, Leadership, Grit) and included a write-up that noted, “The black bear embodies everything SAM represents as a school. The bear represents leadership, confidence, courage, strength, and grit; perfect qualities to foster in students. Since SAM already has Asiniwaciy as their Ambearrister, the continuity of a bear theme is quite fitting ... As a parent of SAM students, I love the idea that confidence, leadership, and grit are being reinforced as those qualities that are invaluable pieces in strong character building.”
 - School council attendees had a positive reaction to the chosen logo.
 - Logo will be revealed at an upcoming assembly.
- SAM Spirit Assembly: SAM Spirit Awards & SAM [CARES](#). The Leader In Me program brought whole-school learning around central themes. When we decided to not continue with that program, we wanted to continue leadership but found we were missing that whole-school aspect. We are trying to reinforce qualities that we want to see more at SAM. The CARES award is something anyone can nominate anyone else for. The idea started in the caught-being-good concept. CARES stands for Cooperation, Assertiveness, Responsibility, Empathy, Self-control. We will present awards at a school assembly. Three randomly selected nominees will play plinko for prizes during the assembly.
- School Photos Update: LifeTouch contracts were discontinued (by many schools) and replaced by Smart Photography. They will do class photos, yearbooks, and are willing to do sibling photos on the class photo day.
- Technology renewal & impact on school budgets - deferred the topic to the fundraising meeting.

- Division Policy Review
 - [Policy Review Process & Schedule](#)
 - [Division Policy Manual](#)
 - November Review: Assessment (F-100 and F-100-AR)
 - December Review: Support Staff Growth, Supervision & Evaluation (D-150) & Support Staff Transfers (D-160)
- Upcoming events:
 - Tues, Nov. 28th - Grades 4, 5, 6 Drama Field Trip “Elf the Musical”
 - Wed, Dec. 13th & Thurs, Dec. 14th - Winter Concerts
 - Fri, Dec. 22nd - Last Day of School before Winter Break
 - Mon, Jan 8th- Classes Resume

4.3 Trustee Report - Trustee Allen

- This school council asked for a primer on the [provincial three-year funding model](#) for schools.
 - When the UCP government took over in 2018, they decided to simplify funding for schools across the province. The previous model had schools report how many students were enrolled in September, then the government would send money. That was inefficient because schools needed to carry over money from the prior year. On top of that, there were 35 grants for special needs.
 - The government simplified it to 12 grants. They decided to fund based on the government's March budget and how many students a school expected to have the next year. 50% of funding is based on the prediction of next year's enrollment. 30% is current year's enrollment. 20% is based on the prior year's enrollment.
 - That works really well for shrinking school divisions. In a growing school division, the money you project to need is greater than the weighted average will fund.
 - St. Albert Public had an \$800 shortfall in classroom funding per student (of about \$7000). In the first year of the weighted-average funding model, the government gave a catch-up grant partway through the school year. There was no catch-up grant last year and unlikely for this year.
 - The effect is that students who just came to the school division will be funded at 50%.
 - Our division's students are funded at 100% because the division drew down reserves, but this was the last year we are likely to do that because the reserves will be gone.
 - Yesterday in a meeting with the premier of Alberta, she expressed an understanding that it was true that the funding model under-funded schools in growing divisions. She expressed an openness to explore changes.
 - The change was intended to prevent under-funding shrinking school divisions, and it achieved that, but now growing schools are under-funded.
 - The government does not want school divisions to carry a reserve. They have a rule to carry not more than 3% of operating expenses—that is a very limited amount. They prefer that divisions approach the government when needs arise.
 - Have school boards proposed better funding models? Yes! Trustee Allen even wrote one himself. They will find a way. They are not stupid. In general, governments work.
- The School Board suggested scanning around other school divisions related to special needs in the classroom. The board heard results of that research.
- Had an Alberta School Boards Association meeting.
 - St. Albert Public initiated two papers, one around funding and other for cross-ministerial work, that both passed.
 - The Minister of Education attended for a speech and Q&A.
 - The premier spoke and did a Q&A.
- Attended Teacher Employer's Bargaining Association meeting. Current contracts will end in 2024. We will start another round of negotiation.
- School Board Meeting
 - Chambers local business awards. A former trustee received an award—Cheryl Dumont received the biggest award the city gives out.

- Board meeting was short—37 minutes long. There was little business on the agenda.

5.0 OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS

5.1 Correspondence

- None noted.

5.2 COSC: Next meeting Thursday November 23

6.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- None noted.

7.0 FUTURE MEETING DATES

7.1 Schedule future meeting dates:

- Tuesday, January 16th at 7pm

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

- 7:35pm

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