

**SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday, March 19th, 2024  
SAM Library | 7:00 p.m.**

**Decisions**

- Agreed to continue having Fundraising and Council meetings alternate times for the 2024/2025 school year.
- Explore the possibility of having the school council annual general meeting (AGM) the same night as the September welcome back barbecue.

**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  
Kevin Yee  
Jayson Loewen  
Paula Reque  
Tarena Martin  
Stephanie Morris  
Leanna Vanderwekken  
Stacey Fortuin

Jasmine Buller  
Kolby Iezzi  
Stephanie Ladouceur  
Alexandra Adams  
Celeste Fowler

## 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 (Feb 20th, 2024) are approved as circulated.”

- Approved online.

### 3.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

- None noted.

## 4.0 COUNCIL BUSINESS

### 4.1 Trustee Report - Trustee Allen

- Trustee Allen was not in attendance.

### 4.2 Council Business

- ASCA Grant follow-up ([Grant Guidelines](#))
  - [Workshop Brochure](#) - Effective Engagement in your School Community (\$300 + GST). Linda is waiting for ASCA to provide dates for the workshop.
  - Ideas to spend the remaining \$200: Support a speaker to come talk about e.g. bullying, building restorative practices in schools.
- School Council 2024/25 Calendar
  - Proposed Dates for 2024/25:
    - Move to Wednesday evenings? Trustees might be more available on Wednesdays than Tuesdays. The hybrid meetings open more opportunities for parents to participate no matter which evening. Children’s activities could affect the availability of some parents.
    - Sept 18th, Oct. 16th, Nov. 20th, Jan 15, Feb. 19th, March 19th, April 16th, May 21st.
  - Propose to alternate times with Fundraising Society between 6pm and 7pm start times.
    - Agreed to continue alternating times.

- Discussed possibly having the school council annual general meeting (AGM) the same night as the September welcome back barbecue. That way it's one night for families at the beginning of September. Discussed whether to have the fundraising meeting or school council meeting first. Consensus seemed to be to have the fundraising meeting first because there are more positions to fill. Consensus was to explore the possibility of having the AGM the same night as the BBQ.

#### 4.3 Sir Alexander Mackenzie School Reports

##### **SAM Education Plan Presentation**

- [Link to video](#) also posted on the website.
- The education plan is an ongoing process and we are always gathering feedback.

##### **2022/23 PAT Results: Report**

- This was the first time since the pandemic that provincial achievement tests were administered. Links to summaries for the school are below.
- [Math 6](#)
- [Science 6](#)
- [English Language Arts 6](#)
- [Social Studies 6](#)
- The staff reviewed the test results for patterns that could indicate opportunities to adjust learning across all grades.
- The curriculum has changed. Our grade six students will not write the PAT this year because our school chose to participate in a pilot of the new curriculum.
- The government is moving toward mandatory digital administration of the exams. We already do that in some ways. The questions will be on a screen. We chose to pilot the digital implementation this year.
- Will the province fund technology upgrades for schools to give exams digitally? No. Support will be technical support for the software.
- Will SAM participate in the new social studies curriculum next year? The school has not yet decided. The provincial government is accepting a feedback form until March 29.
- The province didn't try to pilot a PAT for the new curriculum this year.
- Did you have access to exam questions and results by question? Yes. Some of the best benefit of the PAT results is to look at results closely and across grades. Some very healthy conversations came about from that process.
- The mechanics of writing an exam can be a distraction that interferes with answering the questions. Could you ask for students to have an opportunity to practice using the exam interface? We hope and expect that the pilot will give teachers and students opportunity to access practice questions using the software interface.

##### **2024/25 SAM Calendar**

- The board of trustees approved the division calendar. That was used to draft a school calendar for next year with professional development and staff meeting days, holidays, and some events.
- [Review and feedback](#)
- Calendar is open to family and staff feedback.

- Discussed flipping the celebration of learning and parent-teacher interviews in the opposite order. Some parents missed having an opportunity to discuss challenges with teachers during the second half of the year. Students won't have achieved as many things in the first portion of the year to show in a celebration of learning. Interviews near the start of the year are helpful for building the home-school connection. Could the celebration of learning timeslots be shortened to e.g. half hour to leave time at the end of the night to book interviews with teachers? Discussed a possibility of giving students an opportunity to show their work and a station for parents to talk with teachers.

### **Review Proposed New School 2024/25 Fees**

- [2024/25 School Fees](#)
- Most of the fees remain unchanged. Teachers have the opportunity to request fee changes to provide different experiences.
- SAM Songsters fee was \$10 vs SAM Chorus fee of \$20, so the proposal is to raise the Songsters fee to \$20 to have them match and cover the cost of a shirt.
- Proposed climbing club clothing fee of \$25 so students can use their shirts as jerseys.

### **2024/25 School Year Update**

- Kindergarten: Full Day = 22, AM = 22, PM = 16
- Soccer Academy: 38 students enrolled & paid deposit
- ACE program: potential for 2 classes for next year, one grade 4/5 split and one 5/6 split. Depending on the number of students who enrol, we may have some shared experiences e.g. bring students together for art, music, other.
  - What can the division do to help teachers identify students who might benefit from the ACE program? Sent a brochure and discussed the program with the principals. The division is working to make teachers more aware of all of the division's programs, including ACE.
  - A parent noted that a student at another school learned about ACE at SAM from that student's teacher.
  - Financial barriers were an issue for some families to have students assessed. SAM was able to find ways to help with assessments for those situations so far.
- LOTS of community interest!
- Growth is great but can lead to awkward class sizes. Class sizes of 33 and 34 are too large but the school cannot afford three classes of low 20s.
- Some parents may have hesitated registering for soccer academy while waiting to learn what opportunities the students would miss. Would they have an opportunity to participate in climbing club, music, SAM Explores? Expect that soccer academy students will miss some phys ed, art (which can be incorporated throughout the day), wellness (which they would get through soccer academy), SAM Explores (including STEAM). Do not expect soccer academy to impact students' ability to join running club or SAM Chorus.
- Don't yet know classroom sizes. Don't expect a reduction in class sizes.
- We have 336 confirmed enrolments for next year compared to about 420 current students.

### **Report Card Update**

- Division directive to only release report cards in a digital format. They wanted a uniform approach across all schools so that parents had the same experience regardless of which school they attend.
- Will we still send the feedback form? Yes, we can still do that. Discussed at our last meeting the possibility of sending a feedback form with the final report card. Possibly a digital form or a paper form with an option to send photo of the form to the teacher.
- Several parents shared a preference for paper report cards and liked how the paper prompted conversations.

### **Parking Lot Safety**

- Looking at new signage in parking lot
- Potential cross walk indicated between rink and div 1 playground

### **Upcoming events**

- Thurs, March 21st: Spirit Assembly at 9:30am
- Fri, March 22nd: NO SCHOOL
- Mon, March 25 - Fri, March 29: NO SCHOOL -Spring Break
- Mon, April 1st: NO SCHOOL - Easter Monday
- Tues, April 2nd: Classes Resume after Spring Break
- Wed, April 3rd: Early Dismissal, Cupcake Day, No Kindergarten
- Wed, April 17th: Spring Concert

#### 4.4 Division Policy Review

- [Policy Review Process & Schedule](#)
- [Division Policy Manual](#)
- E-120 [Learning Resources Challenged](#)
  - Written Input directed to Paul MacLeod by April 4, 2024 ([paul.macleod@spschools.org](mailto:paul.macleod@spschools.org))

## **5.0 OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS**

### 5.1 Correspondence

- A request to add Mother's Day and Father's Day gifts as a topic at the next meeting.

### 5.2 COSC: last meeting Thursday, Feb 29, 2024 - Linda Marchand attended

## **6.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- None noted.

## **7.0 FUTURE MEETING DATES**

### 7.1 Schedule future meeting dates:

- Tuesday, April 16th, at 6pm
- Tuesday, May 21st, at 7pm

## **8.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned 8:42pm

### **COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

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



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

John Allen  
Kim Armstrong  
Stanley Haroun  
Sheyenne Levall-Crouse  
Kristi Rouse

**February 26, 2024**

**Public Board Meeting Highlights – for Trustee Use  
from the Public Board meeting of  
February 21, 2024**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board received as information a report outlining the key initiatives led by the Deputy Superintendent.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board provided direction to circulate the draft Board Policy E-120, Learning Resources Challenged and the accompanying regulations.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board approved an additional leave of absence for Trustee Stanley Haroun until September 1, 2024. Trustee Stanley Haroun's remuneration will not continue during this additional period of absence.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trustee Allen will continue to replace Trustee Haroun as the trustee Advocacy Committee chair on an interim basis until September 1, 2024.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trustee Allen will replace Trustee Haroun as the board representative for Sir Alexander Mackenzie Elementary School on an interim basis until September 1, 2024.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trustee Armstrong will replace Trustee Haroun as the board representative for Bellerose Composite High School on an interim basis until September 1, 2024.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board approved the regular minutes of the Board of Trustees held January 17, 2024.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board approved the special meeting of the Board of Trustees held January 18 and February 5, 2024.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board received as information the status report for policies/regulations/procedures currently in development.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board provided direction to administration for the preparation of the final draft of Board Policy C-130, Student Transportation and the accompanying regulations.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board provided direction to administration for the preparation of the final draft of Board Policy D-150, Support Staff Growth, Supervision and Evaluation and the accompanying regulations.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board provided direction to administration for the preparation of the final draft of Board Policy D-160, Support Staff Transfers and the accompanying regulations.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board adopted Board Policy F-100, Student Assessment.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board adopted Board Policy F-110, Student Conduct.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board provided direction to administration for the preparation of the final draft of Board Policy D-180, Resolution of Complaints/Concerns Regarding Division Staff and the accompanying regulations.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board approved Sir Alexander Mackenzie Elementary School and Lorne Akins Junior High School Soccer Academy Fees for 2024-2025.</li></ul>



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

John Allen  
Kim Armstrong  
Stanley Haroun  
Sheyanne Levall-Crouse  
Kristi Rouse

**March 14, 2024**

**Public Board Meeting Highlights – for Trustee Use  
from the Public Board meeting of  
March 13, 2024**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board received as information a report outlining the key initiatives led by the Curricular Services team.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board approved the division’s 3-Year Capital Plan for 2025-2026 to 2027-2028 for submission to the Alberta government.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board received as information the Budget 2024 announcement from Alberta Education.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board approved the continued utilization of the current location to house the Outreach program for an additional ten years. Upgrades will be made as necessary to make the building functional for a minimum of ten years.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held February 21, 2024.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board received as information the status report for policies/regulations/procedures currently in development.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board adopted Board Policy C-130, Student Transportation.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board adopted Board Policy D-150, Support Staff Growth, Supervision and Evaluation.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board adopted Board Policy D-160, Support Staff Transfers and Evaluation.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board provided direction to administration for the preparation of the final draft of Board Policy G-110, Educational Partnership and Sponsorships and the accompanying regulations.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board provided direction to administration for the preparation of the final draft of Administration Regulation D-680-AR, Local Authorities Pension Plan.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board adopted Board Policy D-180, Resolution of Complaints/Concerns Regarding Division Staff.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board approved the division wide student fee listing for the 2024-2025 school year.</li></ul>