

**SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, May 21st 2024
SAM Library | 7:00 p.m.**

Decisions

- We are registered for ASCA Grant Workshop: Effective Engagement in Your School Community - June 19 @ 7pm in the SAM Library. If you want to participate in person or online, email SC-chair.SAM@spschools.org. Please specify if you want to attend online because we have limited online links.

1.0 Discussion

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 travelling 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 Welcomes and Introductions

- School Council Board introductions
- Review the *SAM School Council Purpose Statement*
- Review process for discussion

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.

- *For more information regarding the role of School Council, visit the [School Council Resource Guide](#) (Alberta School Councils' Association).*
- *For access to previous School Council meeting minutes, please visit the [SAM Website](#).*

1.3 Attendees

Dawn Rothwell
Cam Makovichuk

Linda Marchand
Celeste Fowler
Melissa Wojcichowsky
Lise Classen
Kim Robertson
Jarod Letendre
Jayson Loewen
Darla Loewen
John Allen
Stephanie Ladouceur
Kolby Iezzi
Stephanie Morris
Jasmine Buller
Paula Requa
Stacey Fortuin
Colleen Mayes
Leanna Vanderwekken
Tarena Martin

2.0 MINUTES

2.1 Recommendation:

“That the minutes of the previous School Council Meeting ([April 16, 2024](#)) are approved as circulated.”

2.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

None noted.

3.0 COUNCIL BUSINESS

3.1 Council Business

- The Principal and Council Chair recommended changes to our school council process:
 - Provide clarification re: agenda items (For Information vs. For Discussion)
 - Part of a challenge from the last meeting seemed to be that teachers expected to present the decision about family night for information and some participants expected discussion.
 - Recommend that the agenda identify which items are for information and which are for discussion.
 - How items appear on the School Council agenda.
 - Topics raised at prior council meetings will be considered for the agenda.
 - Topics suggested to the Council Chair will be considered for the agenda.
 - The Principal and Council Chair will decide if the topic is appropriate for group discussion or for private conversation.
 - Facilitation and moderation of discussions

- We need to be more formal in how we facilitate and moderate discussion. The Vice Chair will help moderate the conversation by giving people an orderly opportunity to share.
 - If the discussion becomes emotionally charged, we plan to end the discussion and invite people into private conversations afterward.
- 2024/25 School Council Calendar (Proposed Draft)
 - Tues, Sept. 17, 2024
 - *AGM & elections*
 - Tues, Oct. 15, 2024
 - *Education Plan - reflection & feedback*
 - Tues, Nov. 19, 2024
 - Tues, Jan. 21, 2025
 - *Education Plan - final document & presentation*
 - Tues, Feb. 18, 2025
 - Tues, March 18, 2025
 - *PAT Results discussion*
 - Tues, April 15, 2025
 - *2025/26 Draft SAM School Calendar (for feedback)*
 - *2025/26 Draft School Council Calendar (for feedback)*
 - Tues, May 20, 2025
- ASCA Grant Workshops
 - Effective Engagement in Your School Community - June 19 @ 7pm in the SAM Library.
 - If you want to participate in person or online, email SC-chair.SAM@spschools.org. Please specify if you want to attend online because we have limited online links.
- Questions
- Agenda items to consider for future School Council meetings

4.0 SCHOOL REPORT

4.1 School Report:

- SAM Showcase highlights
 - Parents shared positive comments about their experiences and the experiences of their children.
- Update on 2024/25 School Year
 - Posted for a grade five position and a grade four position.
 - Ryan Parker will move to Leo Nickerson, so one position will be for PhysEd.
 - We had 415 students in September 2023. We have 471 registered for September 2024. Division 1 classes are currently planned to have 20s and all but one division 2 grade is less than 30. Grade six is the only class right now in low 30 class size. Looking to expand ACE into two spaces. One class is planned to be a split class, a grade one-two split (22 students planned right now).

- We have a serious funding challenge and keeping most classes under 30 with only one split class was very difficult.
- Discussed the survey to collect Input for 24/25 Class Placements. Teachers review the input to help recommend classroom compositions. The questions proved useful last year and the same set were used for the second year in a row. The school administration cannot accommodate requests to avoid or prefer a split class.
- Student technology: Due to cybersecurity risk, the division is ageing-out certain devices. School administrators are working with the division on evergreen policies. Next year's budget has a good portion of money to order 50 Chromebooks to replace some that will be retired. The school does not have autonomy over what devices we order but must follow guidance and standards set by the division.

4.2 Upcoming events:

- Fri, May 24th - Class & Sibling Photos
- Wed, May 29th - SAM Spirit Assembly
- Thurs, May 30th - SAM Chorus at Provincials
- Wed, June 5th - Early Dismissal & Cupcake Day
- Thurs, June 6th - SAM Track Day
- June 10-14th - St. Albert Public Schools Pride Week
- Tues, June 11th - Grade 6 Immunization
- Mon, June 17th - District Track (gr 4-6)
- Wed, June 19 - Grade 6 Social Studies PAT
- Fri, June 21 - National Indigenous Peoples Day
- Fri, June 21 - Metis Jigging Assembly 10am (followed by SAM Spirit Assembly 10:30am)
- Tues, June 25 - Farewell Assembly
- Wed, June 26 - Last Day of Classes, Gr. 6 Waterpark, Report Cards Issued at 4pm

4.3 Division Policy Review

- [Policy Review Process & Schedule](#)
- [Division Policy Manual](#)

5.0 TRUSTEE REPORT

5.1 Trustee Report - Trustee Allen

- Students in Alberta are funded less than in any other province in Canada. In a growing division, there is not enough money in the budget to ensure things like no split classes. Three enormous expenses in any school division are staff, facilities, and technology. The government, divisions, and auditors are changing rules around technology, which means it will get more difficult. St. Albert schools are growing faster than funding can respond. Administration at school and division does everything possible to make sure every dollar goes to students. We fight for more space. We need more school buildings (not modulars) and more staff. We are running out of space and we are under funded. We hope you can get the information that you need and advocate at the municipal and provincial levels. The government has some corrective measures: it is easier and more compact to get

special grant funding; next year there will be a mid-year correction for students who joined after funding was set (but funded at half a student). We advocate for funding for teachers, buildings (not modular buildings), and technology.

- What can parents do to advocate? Talk with MLAs (Marie Renaud or Dale Nally)
- Appointed MNP as auditors for next 5 years.
- Received funding manual, which shows we will get a few dollars less per student than last year.
- Long service awards in April. 106 staff who were in the division for more than ten years.
- Student advocacy and student leadership: met with three students from middle schools and three from high schools to hear their feedback.
- Met with city council and other St. Albert divisions to discuss common topics. Largest topic was transportation and traffic around schools. ES Gish, Jensen Lakes, and Bellerose were hot-spot locations.
- Presented the division's capital space plan to St. Albert city council and asked for more school space. As the city plans for growth, they need to plan additional schools. Friction in setting school sites occurs when deciding location, which school division gets the site, and which grades the school will be for.
- Plan to attend a meeting about artificial intelligence.
- June 10-14 will be Pride week.
- Draw attention to the division policy Selection of Teaching and Learning Resources policy (old name was Learning Resources Challenged). Received good input and expect final revision at the next board meeting.
- Alberta School Board Association annual meeting in Calgary in June.

6.0 OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS/

6.1 Correspondence
None noted.

6.2 COSC
No update.

7.0 FUTURE MEETING DATES

7.1 Schedule future meeting dates:

- Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024 (*proposed 7pm*)

8.0 ADJOURNMENT
8:49pm

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Chair: Linda Marchand (SC-chair.SAM@spschools.org)
Vice Chair: Celeste Fowler
Secretary : Jayson Loewen (Stephanie Ladouceur, Paula Requa)
COSC Rep: Linda Marchand (Celeste Fowler, Jazzie Buller)
Admin Team: Dawn Rothwell (Principal) (dawn.rothwell@spschools.org)
Cam Makovichuk (Assistant Principal)
(cam.makovichuk@spschools.org)
Trustee: Trustee Allen