

SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, May 20 2025
SAM Library | 6:00 p.m.

Actions

New actions

- Jayson will review topics from 2024-2025 and draft an agenda to propose for next year.

Completed Actions

- Dawn will schedule Saffron Centre: Cyberworld Presentation - June 17th from 6-8pm @SAM
- Dawn will coordinate with principals at Hillgrove, Lorne Akins, and Paul Kane to suggest a schedule for 2025-2026 SAM school council meetings that avoids the dates of their school council meetings.

Previous Actions

- Parents may provide additional feedback about Supporting Positive Student Behaviours at SAM to Dawn Rothwell or Jayson Loewen (sc-chair.sam@spschools.org).
- Jayson will look into coordinating an evening workshop to help parents set up their children's phones with parental controls. Date to be after the Saffron Centre cybersafety presentation.
 - Decision: consider in the fall. Take suggestion to AGM.

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 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 SAM 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 Welcomes and Introductions

Principal: Dawn Rothwell

Trustee: Sheyanne Levall-Crouse

Chair: Jayson Loewen

Vice Chair: Celeste Fowler

Secretary: Christine McMurren

COSC Rep: Linda Marchand

Online moderator: Stephanie Ladouceur

Communication specialist: Stephanie Ladouceur and Stephanie Morris

Dawn Rothwell

Lise Classen

Kim Philips

Trustee Sheyanne Levall-Crouse

Celeste Fowler

Brandy Bolduc

Jayson Loewen

Megan Sillito

Stephanie Morris

Leanna Vanderwekken

Jazzie Buller

Chantell Grandy

2.0 MINUTES

2.1 Previous School Council Meeting Minutes:

Recommendation: that the minutes of the previous School Council Meeting (April 15, 2025) are approved as circulated.

- Approved

3.0 COUNCIL BUSINESS

3.1 Review the reply to our Letter to the education minister Re Literacy and Numeracy Screening Assessments

- The response did not seem to address our concerns.
- The letter discussed funding promised to schools. In the link they discussed an initial disruption learning grant, but that was for the Covid pandemic. They renamed it “literacy and numeracy support funding.” The breakdown for last year in our school division was \$56,000. SAM School received \$5,560.01. That left much of the funding to be heavily subsidized by the school.
- The letter indicated the government plans to expand testing to grades four and five.
- Testing is mandatory except where testing would harm the child. However, parents can request their children be excused for the testing.
- Trustee: will add this to advocacy meeting tomorrow
- Were any teachers consulted? None were referenced in the letter.
- Possible actions:
 - Send a follow up letter with facts about the assessments at SAM School. Thank you for replying and confirming there are no plans to work with teachers to

address the problems with these assessments: timing, class disruption, cost, harm to students, and lack of utility to teachers.

- Spread word among parents that we can excuse our children from the assessments.
- Use communication from the school in the fall to let parents know about the timing of the assessments and consider including a link to how parents can opt out.
- Draft infographic or poster that the school council can share about our advocacy work.
- Offer our school council's support to the related ASCA resolution.

3.2 Draft School council schedule for next year. What suggestion do people have that we can take to the AGM?

- Third Tuesday of the month avoids conflicts with Lorne Akins and Paul Kane, but conflicts with Hillgrove school council meetings, which affects ACE students.
- Suggest having an online option for attending the meetings.
- Jayson will review topics from 2024-2025 and draft an agenda to propose for next year.
- Discussing bullying and encouraging positive behaviour in schools near the start of the school year may help.

4.0 SCHOOL REPORT

4.1 Supporting Positive Student Behaviours at SAM: Sharing Feedback

- [Summary of Parent Feedback](#)
- [SAM Family Handbook 2025/26](#)
 - Changed the section for Supporting Positive Student Behaviours.
 - Added Guiding Principle Statement
 - Discussed learning opportunities for parents. Consider having a school council meeting dedicated to that topic, possibly an evidence-based information session.
 - Families want to be partners in education. If we all make the assumption that everyone comes to the table wanting the best for the kids, tension can be reduced.

4.2 Upcoming Events

- Breakfast for Dinner - Thurs, May 22nd
- SAM Track Meet - Thurs, May 29 all day
- Staff Meeting/PD Day - Mon, June 2nd
- SAM Showcase - Wed, June 4
- May Spirit Assembly - Fri, June 6
- Duathlon - Fri, June 6 (DIV 2 - Run, Bike, Run)
- Kindergarten Test Drive - Wed, June 11
- Division Track Meet - Thurs, June 19
- SAM National Indigenous Peoples Day - Fri, June 20
- Farewell/Spirit Assembly - Tues, June 24 (Kona Ice Truck for gr. 6 - 12:15pm)
- Last Day of Instruction - Wed, June 25

4.7 Division Policy Review

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

5.0 TRUSTEE REPORT

5.1 Trustee Report: Trustee Levall-Crouse

- John Allen presented a proposal to the City of St. Albert to change the area structure plan to show the Cherot site as a school (instead of high school). Our sister school division (GSACRD) asked for that site to remain designated as a high school. School council debated then voted to keep the site as a high school. Next the board needs to work on the site readiness checklist for a Cherot south school site.
- At the last board meeting, nominated Tylor Good, a first-year teacher at Hillgrove, for the Edwin Parr award.
- The division foundation statement was approved for a final draft, which was based on parent engagement workshop work in February.
- W. D. Cuts received approval for two portables, of the 52 portables requested for the division.

6.0 OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS

6.1 Review actions.

Parent comment: the culture at SAM of parents connecting with each other seems well-known in the community.

7.0 FUTURE MEETING DATES

7.1 Schedule future meeting dates:

- Tues, June 17 @6:00-8:00 pm Cyberworld Presentation
- Tuesday, September 16 (7-8pm)

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

7:25pm

Board Updates - Trustee Sheyanne Levall-Crouse
Report to School Councils
sheyanne.levallcrouse@spschools.org
780.907.3039

Board Priorities for 2023/2024 include:

- Support Wellness for Students and Staff
- Support Engagement with Students, Families & Community
- Adapt to Change and Growth
- Support Connection & Inclusivity

Trustee & Senior Administration External Meetings:

Apr 9, 2025 - Division Night of Music

Apr 10 - 11, 2025 – PSBC Meeting

Apr 11, 2025 – ASBA Zone 2/3 Meeting

Apr 16, 2025 – Audit Committee Meeting

Apr 16, 2025 - St. Albert Public School Division – Public Board Meeting (1:30 PM)

Apr 23, 2025 - St. Albert Public School Division – Public Board Meeting (12:30 PM)

May 7, 2025 – Joint Advocacy Working Group Meeting

May 8, 2025 – Student Advisory

May 14, 2025 - St. Albert Public School Division – Public Board Meeting (1:30 PM)

May 15, 2025 – JUPA Meeting (Joint Use & Planning Agreement)

St. Albert Public School Board 2024-2025 Did you Know?

You can find the Board of Trustees edition of 'Did you know?' [HERE](#).

Policies for St. Albert School Division & links

All policies for our school division can be found [HERE](#).

Policies in review, the review process, and the planned review calendar can be found [HERE](#).

Partners In Education

The board believes we are partners in education and have a responsibility to ensure welcoming, caring, respectful, inclusive and safe learning and working environments. More information on our Partners in Education can be found [HERE](#).

Annual Education Results – November 2024

St. Albert Public Schools has downloadable versions of the Annual Education Results (November 2023/4, 3-Year Capital Plan 2025/26 to 2027/28 Annual Education Results Report), and the Four Year Education Plan 2022-2026 on our website. They can each be found on our [Governance Plan & Report page](#) of the St. Albert Public School Division website.

Budget Update

The budget came out Feb 2024. In the 2024 budget announcements, for [Alberta Education funding](#).

NEW SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Alberta Government made the announcement on March 19th that St Albert Public Schools will receive a NEW K-9 school in Cherot.

The board will continue to advocate the City Council to change the Area Structure Plan for the amenities site in Cherot to be changed from a high school to a school.

SAPS Presentation to the City of St. Albert Council Meeting

Board Chair John Allen, presented our capital budget to the City of St. Albert of May 6th With the announcement of Cherot's K-9, the new number one priority is a new high school in the North East.

AREA STRUCTURE PLAN

Chair John Allen presented to the City of St. Albert at the City Council Meeting on May 20th.

St. Albert Public has continued to advocate to the City of St. Albert to change the Cherot Amenities site from a high school to a school. While the developer donated the 25 acres to the city, we would require a maximum of 15 acres, freeing up an additional 10 acres for the city to add to the amenities site. Our school was approved with the Amenities School Check List.

We are currently the only school division that has been awarded a school for the Governments of Alberts School Construction Accelerator Program. There have been 423 admissions were submitted. There are still 393 proposals are waiting.

Kindergarten Count

The 2025-2026 Kindergarten registration count for May 9, 2025 is 572 students. The May 10, 2024 count was 592.

Alberta Budget

Earlier this month Alberta Government released the budget. We are waiting for a further break down to fully understand.

Upcoming Meetings, Board Meetings and Dates:

May 21, 2025 – Advocacy Meeting

May 22, 2025 – COSC Meeting

May 23, 2025 – Edwin Parr Awards

May 27, 2025 – Wisdom & Guidance Council

May 28, 2025 - St. Albert Public School Division – Public Board Meeting (1:30 PM)

May 29, 2025 – Outreach Graduation

June 1 to 3, 2025 – ABSAA Spring GM

June 3 to 5, 2025 – PSBAA Spring GM

June 7, 2025 – Paul Kane Graduation

June 9 to 13, 2025 – St. Albert Public Schools

June 11, 2025 – Advocacy Meeting

June 11, 2025 – St. Albert Chamber Luncheon

June 14, 2025 – Bellerose Grad

June 18, 2025 – Audit Committee Meeting

June 18, 2025 - St. Albert Public School Division – Public Board Meeting (1:30 PM)

June 18, 2025 – Indigenous Graduation

MARCH 19, 2025 - PUBLIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

THE BOARD RECEIVED AS INFORMATION:

- The board received as information a report outlining the key initiatives led by the Curricular Services team.

THE BOARD APPROVED:

- The board approved the division's 3-Year Capital Plan for 2026-2027 to 2028-2029 for submission to the Alberta government.
- The board approved the division wide student fee listing for the 2025- 2026 school year.
- The board approved the student transportation fees for the 2025-2026 school year.

THE BOARD PROVIDED DIRECTION:

- The board provided direction to circulate the draft Board Policy A-101, Division Foundation Statement and the accompanying regulations.
- The board approved the regular minutes of the Board of Trustees held February 19, 2025.
- The board received as information the status report for policies/regulations/procedures currently in development.
- The board provided direction to administration for the preparation of the final draft of Board Policy E-140, Field Trips and the accompanying regulations.
- The board provided direction to administration for the preparation of the final draft of Administration Regulations E-610AR, Class Size.
- The board provided direction to administration for the preparation of the final draft of Board Policy G-100, School Councils and the accompanying regulations.
- The board provided direction to circulate the draft Board Policy F-120, Student Suspensions, Disciplinary Hearings and Expulsions and the accompanying regulations.

THE BOARD ADOPTED:

- The board adopted Board Policy C-120, Flags and the accompanying regulations.
- The board adopted Board Policy E-110, Learning Resources and the accompanying regulations.

APRIL 16, 2025 – PUBLIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

THE BOARD RECEIVED AS INFORMATION:

- The board received as information a report outlining the key initiatives of the financial services team.
- The board received as information the quarterly financial report for the six months ended February 28, 2025.
- The board receives as information documentation from Lora Pillipow, Deputy Minister of Education, on February 27, 2025, regarding the update to the Provincial Budget 2025-2026.
- The board received as information the new K - 9 school announcement for St. Albert Public Schools in Chérot.
- The board received as information the funding announcement for a modular study in St. Albert.
- The board received as information the announcement of additional literacy and numeracy support funding.
- The board received as information the status report for policies/regulations/procedures currently in development.

THE BOARD PROVIDED DIRECTION:

- The board provided direction to administration for the preparation of the final draft of Administration Regulations D-650-AR, Alternate Part-time Teaching Agreements.

THE BOARD DIFFERED:

- The board differed authorizing the Chair of the Board, together with the Superintendent of Schools, to sign the School Site Joint Use and Planning Agreement on behalf of the St. Albert Public Schools Board of Trustees to the May 28, 2025 Public Board meeting.

THE BOARD APPROVED:

- The board approved the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held March 19, 2025.

THE BOARD DIRECTED:

- The board directed the superintendent to suspend immediately and until further notice any and all student travel into the United States of America.
- The board directed administration to review and assess the current procurements with entities from, or related to, the United States of America, such as American subsidiaries. The board encourages administration to contract the board's goods and services with Canadian suppliers and other free trade partners, in concert with the procurement guidance from Alberta Education.

THE BOARD ADOPTED:

- The board adopted Board Policy E-140, Field Trips and the accompanying regulations.
- The board adopted Administration Regulations E-610-AR, Class Sizes.
- The board adopted Board Policy G-100, School Councils and the accompanying regulations.

May 14, 2025 – PUBLIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

THE BOARD APPROVED:

- The board presented a certificate to Tylor Good, first year teacher at Hillgrove School, in honour of being St. Albert Public Schools' nominee for the 2025 Edwin Parr Teacher Award
- The board approved the minutes of the April 16, 2025 Public Board meeting.
- The board approved the minutes of the special meeting of the Board of Trustees held April 23, 2025.
- The board approved the division wide student fee listing for the 2025- 2026 school year.

THE BOARD ADOPTED:

- The board adopted Administration Regulations D-650-AR, Alternate Part-time Teaching Agreements.

THE BOARD DECLARED:

- The board declared June 9th to June 13th as Pride Week in St. Albert Public Schools.

THE BOARD RECEIVED AS INFORMATION:

- The board received as information the schools 'and division services' resource and distribution allocation for 2025-2026.
- The board received as information the status report for policies/regulations/procedures currently in development.

THE BOARD DID NOT APPROVE:

- The motion failed to pass that the Board of Trustees of St. Albert Public Schools asserts its support of our American teaching and support staff, students, parents and caregivers and all other American stakeholders during this very difficult time in the relationship between Canada and the United States Administration, and to assure them of our unwavering love and support.

THE BOARD PROVIDED DIRECTION

- The board provided direction to administration for the preparation of the final draft of Board Policy A-101, Division Foundation Statement and the accompanying regulations.
- The board received as information the announcement of two modular classrooms for William D. Cuts School.