

MINUTES

from School Council Meeting Monday,
November 18, 2024
6:30 PM

In Attendance (15):

Jackie Anderson (Vice Chair)

Samantha DeCoursey (Student Council Representative)

Monique DeCoursey

Devid Gordulic (Teacher Representative)

Rebecca Gustafson (acting Assistant Principal)

Jill Herbert

Kelly Koban

Rod Leatherdale (Principal)

Shyla Locke (Assistant Principal)

Melissa Manolescu

Jennie March (Chair)

Kristy Marsh (Counsellor)

Lisa Slywka (Secretary)

Erin Stroud

Val Ulliac

1. Call to Order - Meeting was called to order by Ms. March at 6:44 PM
2. Land Acknowledgement – Ms. March read the EIPS Land Acknowledgement
3. Welcome and Self-Introduction by all attendees
4. Approval of Agenda
 - Motion to move *My Blueprint* presentation up to follow approval of minutes made by Ms. Marsh, seconded by Ms. Anderson
 - Motion to approve agenda made by Ms. Marsh, seconded by Ms. Herbert
5. Approval of Minutes (September 23, 2024 meeting) - motion by Ms. Stroud, seconded by Ms. Anderson
6. New Business - *My Blueprint* presentation – Ms. Marsh
 - Mr Leatherdale provided a preamble:
 - This platform can help students to determine what it is that they want to do for the rest of their lives, to determine their interests
 - Grade 7 and 8 to be provided with access first, then rollout will be gradual as students create their accounts
 - Parents will then be provided with a chance to access the account – method TBD – could be a parent evening
 - Goal is to onboard the students by January 2025
 - Ms. Marsh: *My Blueprint* is an opportunity for students to search potential careers and to see what they may be interested in trying
 - Mr. Leatherdale: *My Blueprint* is integrated with Power School, so course completion information is auto-filled within the platform
 - Meeting attendees were moved into the library computer lab, Ms. Marsh presented the platform.
 - Ms. Marsh: *My Blueprint* includes:
 - A learning style and personality typing quizzes that will match students to potential career pathways
 - Course planner that will provide information on the impact of completing each course on a career pathway
 - Graduation plan, Rutherford Scholarship tracker, and Canadian post-secondary institute qualification eligibility by university, college, and polytechnic

QUESTION: Which students have already been able to access the platform?

Ms. Marsh: Grades 9-11

QUESTION: Are you going to do this with the Grade 12s?

Ms. Marsh: Yes. The consensus among attendees was that Grade 12 students are still contemplating a path beyond high school. Access will be granted by appointment in the Counselling offices.

Mr. Leatherdale: We can expand access.

Ms. Marsh: We can try noon hours, Block 2 spares for Grade 12 students.

QUESTION: Does this platform show the range of scholarships beyond the Rutherford Scholarship?

Ms. Marsh: Not yet.

Mr. Leatherdale: we could request this of the platform's developers.

Ms. Marsh: Scholarships change frequently, and Counsellors can always provide links to the scholarships that are available.

QUESTION: Is this an app or a website?

Mr. Leatherdale: it is a website.

Ms. Marsh: Students can access it via myblueprint.ca/elkisland – students can use their EIPS login. Ms. Locke: There is a link to *My Blueprint* at the bottom of the EIPS website.

7. COSC Report – Anne Wasylyshyn absent, report read by Jennie March

- New COSC Chair, vice Chair, and Secretary were elected, 2024-25 meeting dates and hybrid meeting format were confirmed
- New topics proposed include public education advocacy, AI, EIPS pilot projects, school fees, public education funding model, 3-year weighted moving average
- Focus on the essential role of the school council and the ASCA
- EIPS Board Chair Cathy Allen presented news on 3 upcoming surveys: naming of the Sherwood Heights replacement school, upcoming school-year calendars, and transition planning for the French Immersion program
- ATA report – focus for the year will be advocating for funding of public education by the Government of Alberta (GoA)
- Mental health support strategy sessions are free and available for parents/caregivers of students, focus on anxiety, ADHD, depression, self-harm, technology, leadership skills, communication, resiliency
- Alberta Ed. is providing School Council Spending Grants of \$500 to each school council
- School spending accounts – Ms. March indicated that a meeting to discuss ways to use AJS' school spending account would be held early in 2025

8. Trustee Report – Ms. Miller

- Ms. Miller absent, copies of the report were distributed to meeting attendees. Summary:
 - Ms. Shotbolt has resigned as Trustee as of October 31 due to a move from the district that she was elected to represent. No by-election will be held as there are enough trustees to maintain quorum and to share workload.
 - Current population: 6th largest in Alberta, 1,540 staff, 42 schools, 17,750 students in Sherwood Park; Strathcona, Lamont, and Minburn Counties; Fort Saskatchewan, and Vegreville
 - Assurance reviews
 - Trustees are elected to represent public and are accountable to public and GoA for the \$200M annual budget and achieving the goals and outcomes in the 4-year Strategic Plan
 - The Annual Education Results report serves as the key planning and accountability tool for information sharing to stakeholders, aligns with Alberta Education's vision, mission, goals, outcomes, performance measures.
 - Trustees participated in Central Office departmental assurance reviews in early November
 - Trustee tours of schools will take place in late November
 - EIPS Calendar Survey closed October 21 with 5,815 respondents. Recommendations based on survey results will be made, discussed, and voted on at the November EIPS board meeting.

QUESTION: when is the draft of next year's school calendar usually released?

Ms. March: shortly after Christmas.

- Education Amendment Act, Bill 27, was passed on October 31:

- requires parental consent for the use of new names or pronouns for students < 16. Parents will be notified of new names or pronouns for students of all ages. Students fearful of parental backlash as a result of being notified will receive “assistance, prior to parental notification” – Principal’s responsibility
- A parental opt-in rather than opt-out requirement is now in place for topics related to human sexuality, gender identity, or sexual orientation as of September 1, 2025
- Supports are being implemented for information sharing with families, clear expectations for continuity of education during emergencies
- Bill 29 – would require policies ensuring that cisgender female leagues and division are “limited only to female-born” students and would also support the establishment of co-ed leagues, reporting requirements. Bill 29 has yet to be passed by MLAs.

9. Student Council Report – Samantha D.

- Halloween – a multitude of events took place – dodgeball, movies, pie-eating contest, treat bags – the newer events went really well, with a lot of participation and some great ideas. Budget: \$450
- Current focus – Senior High Winter Dance
 - Student council was sanctioned to start planning – will include food, music, games (?)
 - To be held Friday, December 6, evening, for likely 2 hours
 - Dance is moved to December as a November dance is too soon after the Fall Break
 - Theme – Winter Wonderland, colours red and gold, to be held in the Theatre Lobby
 - Budget: \$400, includes food, \$5 per ticket to be sold over 3 days, thinking that a ticket cap may motivate buyers
 - Teachers have volunteered, Samantha D. will also be asking for parent volunteers

QUESTION: is the Student Council aware that December 6 is the same day as the basketball tournament and the football banquet?

Samantha D: We’ll see how we can work with these other events or change the date. Student Council will meet Wednesday, November 19 and will discuss alternative dates.

QUESTION: Could the banquet be moved to the cafeteria?

Answer: TBD.

- Christmas events are being planned, and a lot of new ideas have been put forward that Student Council is looking to be implemented

10. Teacher Report – Mr. Gordulic

- This was a very positive first day back from Fall Break
- Basketball starting is very exciting
- Chem and Bio modules are wrapping up with some great experiments planned for this week

11. Administration Report – Mr. Leatherdale

- Welcome to 6 student teachers in various program areas, including French Immersion, Band, Drama
- National Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week:
 - Bullying via power imbalance. Categories – physical, emotional, psychological, social, discriminatory, cyberbullying
 - Students encouraged to speak to teachers, counsellor, contact the Kids Help Phone
 - Asst. Principals visited Grade 7 and 8 classrooms for a Post-it note session on “What makes you feel safe?”
 - A list of completed and anticipated events from September-December was provided
- Student/Parent/Teacher interviews took place in person in October, administration thanks parents for their participation
- Bamfield Trip – Samantha D indicated that the trip was an invaluable experience for her. Mr. Leatherdale indicated that the trip occurs biannually and that opportunities to expand attendance by other schools is being discussed
- Wicked Welding was hosted by the Christian Labour Alliance of Canada (CLAC), technical and creativity competition for Welding RAP students, more welding events and opportunities to come

- Volleyball game between SROs and students took place before break, was a great success, perhaps one for basketball will take place in 2025
- Post-secondary info session will take place in the gym Friday, November 22
- Grad report – Ms. Locke:
 - Poinsettia fundraiser is taking part now
 - Students at risk of not satisfying credit requirements for graduating have been sent letters
 - What will the event space look like? How many tables, what atmosphere? All TBD.
 - Next staff meeting focused on grad will take place in December, ticketing and pricing TBD
- Mr. Leatherdale: Fee Schedule meetings will be held in 2025 – goal is to reduce non-payment by reexamining fee rates
- The decision to remove fries from the daily menu has been reversed, with apologies from Mr. Leatherdale for the initial decision

QUESTION: will there be an opportunity to see the assurance review results at the January meeting?

Mr. Leatherdale: those can be provided prior to the January meeting.

- Mr. Leatherdale has resubmitted Ms. Nam’s funding request for improving sightlines in the main office and to improve the band storage area, which does not currently meet fire code. Another request to modernize the Cosmetology Lab has been made so that students don’t have to leave AJS to pursue aesthetics studies.

12. Other New Business – none

13. Old Business - Update on plan for French Immersion group – students in Grade 10 and younger

- Jessica Smith and Christine Gourley from EIPS provided information at the Nov 18 CPF meeting at AJS on how courses will be facilitated for students to complete their required courses to earn their French credits
- Ms. Smith encouraged parents to be very specific in their survey feedback
- No change in plans has been made to ensure that Grade 10 students will not have to move to Salisbury CHS for Grade 12. AJS will still accept Grade 10 FI students in the 2025-26 school year; they would have to move to Salisbury for Grade 11 and 12
- Concern was still expressed about the lack of consideration for students that are caught in the transition, praise for an increased level of attention from EIPS was also expressed

QUESTION: what will be the impact on staffing? Mr. Leatherdale: we don’t know yet, the issue is still very fluid, and EIPS is still collecting information

- Concerns related to lack of clarity on open- and closed-boundary schools within Sherwood Park were also expressed
- Consensus among FI parents is that the lack of decisiveness on the part of the district is frustrating

QUESTION: why can the move not be phased in to make the transition easier for students?

Ms. Gustafson: because of staffing – a lack of specialist staffing is limiting access to courses at schools.

QUESTION: then why can the district not adapt by allowing one teacher to teach at two schools, for example?

No answer was provided.

QUESTION: how possible will it be for AJS students who are forced to move to Salisbury to make sports teams, for example? Students will likely leave FI in order to be able to stay at a school where they have a better chance of playing the sports they love.

Ms. Anderson: every concern should be detailed in the parent survey.

14. CPF Report – no representative from CPF attended, but CPF focus is on FI transition – see #13 above.

15. Next Meeting – January 20, 2025 at 6:30 PM

16. Adjournment – meeting adjourned by Ms. March at 8:12 PM