

# **Salisbury Composite High School School Council Meet Minutes**

February 25, 2021

## **Attendance**

Chair, Jacquie Surgenor  
Vice Chair, Gabe Chemello  
COSC Rep, Jennifer Fraser  
Principal, Sunny Sandhu  
Trustee, Annette Hubick  
Student Rep, Kayla Surgenor  
Parents, Caroline McKay, Cherylynne Horbachew, Dulcie Jarvin, Val Reid, Carly Tougas, Becky Galbraith, Heather Kupchenko, Jarret Mymko, Lisa LeBaron, Camille Campbell

## **Welcome/Introductions**

Jacquie Surgenor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

## **Agenda**

Agenda was accepted as with addition of

New Business: Student Rep Report from Kayla Surgenor

## **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes approved as presented.

## **New Business**

- a) Student Report by Kayla Surgenor
  - Academic students really enjoy the quarter system, gives us time to reflect upon what we have learned.
    - i. Gabe Chemello: What do you prefer the quarter system or semester system?
    - ii. Kayla: They prefer the quarter system, but if athletics are back in, it would be challenging due to away games, tournaments. If you miss classes in the quarter system, it is challenging to catch up.
    - iii. Annette Hubick: If academic students have the focus in the quarter system, would it be more challenging if students are not academic? How would that work? How are students and staff handling this?

- iv. Kayla: Teachers are doing well as they break up the class with breaks, so it feels like the semester system. Also, teachers are doing different projects, so it is easier to focus. We are not listening to instruction the whole time.
- v. Dulcie Jarvin: How do students who struggle in class handle the quarter system?
- vi. Kayla: I think they prefer the semester system, but I am not sure as I have not spoken to them about it. I struggled with Shakespeare, had trouble focusing but Math 30 was amazing, and physics was great.
- vii. Becky Galbraith (from Chat): I have a question for you. Do you find, or have heard from your friends that this quarter system requires courses to move too fast? It might be fine for courses that you are proficient at but what about the courses that are harder? Do you think that this quarter system gives students enough time to properly learn and retain the information?
- viii. Kayla: For me it does help build a stronger basis of understanding. Retention is better in the quarter system.

b) Quarter System Review by Sunny Sandhu

- Quarter system was not brought in for pedagogy but for safety (two classes instead of four – better for cohorts). The decision was made at the end of June.
- This year, the division will decide earlier for next year.
- When we look at at-risk learners, their test results were higher. We triage the at-risk learners to come up with a plan.
- Stay tuned for communication from Central Office.
- The quarter system does gravitate to better instruction.
- Last March we were ill-prepared, but now we have learned from that 172 minutes is long, but teachers chunk the instruction.
- This ties into staffing, numbers, budgets, enrollment numbers, hopefully we will know by April.
  - i. Heather Kupchenko: My daughter has ADHD, and the quarter system really helped her. She applied in class with what she has learned that day.
  - ii. Sunny: We have learned a ton this past year. We will be ready if we are in quarter system.
  - iii. Cherylynne Horbachew: I was disappointed in the quarter system, the gap in learning was a problem for us.
  - iv. Sunny: Yes, studies show though, that if there is a gap in learning, research shows opposite. Teachers review, but anxiety can increase so some students could have a negative result. Next year, we would do a better job of balancing courses in the timetable.
  - v. Carolyn McKay: Worked great for my student, but I hear from other parents that it was harder for the grade 10s this year. The challenge of 172 minutes was hard.

- vi. Sunny: Grade 9 to 10 is always a challenge, but it is a big transition for the grade 9 students incoming.

c) Course Registration Process by Sunny Sandhu

- Provincial budget came out today, and I will not decipher the education portion. Our student enrollment is very healthy. There will be a big shift with the returning grade 12 registrations due to the pandemic, as some students didn't do well online. Not sure, if it is due to the post-secondary costs, or not sure what they want to do.
- This week Sunny has been visiting the grade 12 classes and discussed their plans and options for next year. We are letting our students know that it is okay to return to school, to upgrade, etc.
- Projection for next year of 1160 students but with the R12's returning it would be over 1200 students.
- There is trauma in the school communities, and we need to do some healing. So, we are telling students it is okay to come back.
- There will be no staffing cuts here.
  - i. Jacquie Surgenor: Thank you for this message you are sending to students that it is okay to come back to school as parents, we should be doing the same.
- 800 registered in grade 10 and 11, over 700 have completed the form, and hoping to get all done next week. Our hope is to have all students registered before Spring Break.
- Typically, our registration happens in the cafeteria, forms go home and then parents sign. Once returned we have the students back in the labs for registration.
- This year, we will be doing registration like Open House, with recorded instruction being sent home in Sabre Scene. Students will then register for their classes online. Hopefully, done by Spring Break.
- Staffing/Budget are directly tied together. We want the staff to know before they go home before summer break.
- With Microsoft Teams, we can have 400 students doing registration at once.
- For the grade 9s, I will host an Information Evening, we are thinking of March 17. Through the junior highs will be done virtually as well.
- There will be a Grade 10 day, with pancake breakfast, tours, bbq – no other students in the building in the morning.
  - i. Jacquie: an FAQ addition to the video recording would be good.
  - ii. Sunny: Yes, good idea. Our counselling team is working through this.

d) Staff Recognition by Jacquie Surgenor

- We started this a few meetings back, and we can get this done so we can recognize the staff. I would like to this next week to share with the staff. Submit [here](#)

e) Programming Update by Sunny Sandhu

- Athletics – advocacy from our parent group, students and staff have been great. Rightly so. We were the first group to have the library open, lockers, theatre programs. Band is going, not the first school for that but we have learned from the other schools.
- March 1, the Sports Rec Program will be starting. This program is curriculum tied, cohorted and students receive credits. This program is off the timetable, just like SAIL is off the timetable or Jazz Band. So students, can play and receive credits. Grant Melnyk is looking after this.
- This parent group has been advocating for athletics and this is a step in the right direction. Kudos to our Athletic Director Mr. Melnyk and the rest of the phys. Ed. Department.
  - i. Brenda Oliveros: Thank you for doing this.
  - ii. Jenn Fraser: Thank you Sunny. I have been pushing for this at COSC. We have drama and band going, this is needed. The Athletic staff are really excited.
  - iii. Becky Galbraith: How are the students selected?
  - iv. Sunny: This was mentioned in Sabre Scene. Not inclusive, any student can ask to join. Go see Mr. Melnyk and he will get your student in a cohort group. If your student is interested, please see Mr. Melnyk, it is curriculum tied, and was some work getting this going into PowerSchool.
  - v. Becky: Thanks, my daughter is very excited to get back to sports.
  - vi. Jacquie: Thank you for doing this Sunny. I had a friend who spoke with Sunny and said that his heart was really in this for the students. So, on behalf of the school council, thank you and we acknowledge all you are doing for this.

f) Grad Update by Sunny Sandhu

- 6 months in and we are now seeing the daylight.
- Grade 12 Administrator, Mrs. Schultz is fabulous, she is in the hallways with the students and doing good work with them.
- Mrs. Schultz will be hosting two more Microsoft Teams Meetings for grad. Grad list will be posted tomorrow.
- Graduation rate is high, drop out low. Our grad will be an auspicious occasion. Grad list lets us see who has fallen off track and how we can help students get back on.
- Grad will be June 23, 24, and 25. Will we combine what we did last year and hopefully we will be able to do more.
- Grad photos are still going on. We had a week of grad photos at the school and that went very well. Grad photo booking site is on our website.
- Sooner, rather than later, more information will be coming in Sabre Scene.
- Grade 12 week happens before grad, with fun events for the students.
- This grade 12 class has gone through a lot, with almost ½ of their high school being in a pandemic.
- We will have options depending on what is opening.
- Staff video is happening.

- i. Jacquie: Kudos to Sal and Sunny for how grad was handled last year. Amazing grad for the kids last year during the start of the pandemic.
- g) ASCA Conference/AGM by Jacquie Surgenor
  - Conference will be last Saturday in April; the Sunday will be the Annual General Meeting to vote in board and advocacy resolutions. We will need someone to go on behalf of Sal to this meeting.
  - Dulcie Jarvin volunteered to attend. Jacquie will send Dulcie the information and will register her.

#### IV. Information Reports

- a) ASCA Report by Jacquie Surgenor
  - Massive funding cut of 70%. We have been regrouping, and we are still working on how we will still provide support. We are talking about donations.
  - Parents want to be involved and be heard.
- b) COSC Report by Jennifer Fraser
  - COSC meets first Wednesday of the month which was February 6.
  - There was an EIPS update on COVID. Libraries are open.
  - Budget out today, will be information coming out about that.
  - Tech Fees? Increase need of technology in schools. May have to bring in fee for technology or students can bring their own devices.
  - ASCA – advocated for school staff to get vaccine
  - Mark Liguori, Superintendent spoke about main goals for this year.
    - i. Make it to June – face to face learning, almost at one-year anniversary.
    - ii. Variants – if students/staff are quarantined would be for 24 days.
    - iii. Watching what is happening in the public, hopeful but cautious influx but moving forward.
  - Jacquie Surgenor: Yes, students need to be in school.
- c) Principal's Report by Sunny Sandhu
  - We are a month away for Spring Break and settling into Quarter Three.
  - 92% of population are in-school learning. Some were online for Quarter Two but are back for Quarter Three.
  - P/S/T Interviews on March 11. Stay tuned in Sabre Scene for information.
  - Registration is our focus, do not get me wrong, we always look after our students.

- d) Trustee's Report by Annette Hubick

#### **Report for Salisbury Composite High School Council**

February 2021

by Annette Hubick, EIPS Trustee

## **2021-2022 BUDGET**

- The provincial budget was announced on February 25, 2021. Immediately following the announcement, board chairs and superintendents were meeting to debrief with the Minister of Education.
- Education Minister Adriana LaGrange sent a letter to all school boards regarding the budget. Here are some highlights from this letter:
  - *“We are maintaining education funding ...”*
  - *“For the 2021/22 school year, over \$130 million will be provided to school authorities in COVID-19 mitigation funding to offset funding that would have been removed from the education system because of lower-than-expected enrolment in the 2020/21 school year ... I am committing that no school authority will receive less funding in 2021/22 than they did in 2020/21.”* This is good news for EIPS as we experienced a reduction in enrolment this year.
  - *“.. an additional \$40 million to the Learning Support Funding envelope.”* This envelope provides grants to support students with specialized learning needs and encompasses everything from English as a Second Language, Program Unit Funding, and nutrition.
  - *“These changes mean that school authorities will not be receiving their funding profiles immediately. The government has committed to doing so no later than March 31, 2021.”*
  - Note: the “additional funding” is within the context of “maintaining funding,” therefore, I’m anticipating that it will be a matter of shifting \$ between funding envelopes.
  - *“support for 14 new school projects”* (to be announced)
  - There was no indication whether any COVID-19 related costs will be supported through additional provincial (or federal) grants.
- EIPS Trustees have scheduled four additional caucus meetings in March and April to discuss the provincial budget and its impacts on planning for the 2021-2022 school year.

## **TECHNOLOGY FEE**

- The Division is contemplating implementing a technology fee to support the increasing need to acquire, install and maintain up-to-date technology resources and services to enhance student learning experiences in the classroom.
- A potential technology fee would be charged for each student except for those that are attending a school in which "Bring Your Own Device "(BYOD) is a current requirement.
- The fee would be an amount far less than that required for parents to purchase individual devices for their children.

- The fee would be used to offset the costs associated with:
  - purchasing student devices,
  - updating classroom computer labs or smart classroom technology
  - network related services including internet demands across the Division

## **CALL FOR MINISTER’S YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Minister of Education has started the recruitment process for the 2021/22 Minister’s Youth Council. They are looking for approximately 40 junior and senior high school students, ages 14 to 19, with diverse interests, identities, backgrounds and perspectives from all regions of Alberta. Of those 40, we will be accepting up to eight returning council members and at least 32 new members. The council aims to give students the opportunity to make an impact on education and build their leadership skills.

Students can apply until **March 24, 2021**. For more information and instructions on how students can apply, visit [alberta.ca/student-engagement.aspx](http://alberta.ca/student-engagement.aspx).

## **FEBRUARY 18, 2021, BOARD MEETING**

### ***ASCA Conference Sponsorship***

The Board approved the funding of registration fees for up to 15 School Council members to attend the Alberta School Councils Association conference. These funds come from the Board of Trustee’s governance budget. Supporting the development of school council leaders is an effective strategy toward achieving Priority 3: Goal 1 of our 4-year Education Plan, which is “Parent Engagement.”

### ***3-Year Capital Plan***

The Board approved the division’s 3-Year Capital Plan, which we are required to submit to Alberta Education and Infrastructure ministries on an annual basis. The top 2 priorities are:

1. K-9 replacement school for Sherwood Heights and Ecole Campbelltown.
2. 7-12 school in Fort Saskatchewan to replace aging infrastructure and relieve enrolment pressures.

## **ADVOCATING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION**

On the recommendation of the EIPS advocacy committee, the division has created a quarterly e-newsletter targeted to elected officials and community leaders. The objective is to raise awareness of and engagement in the value of public education and provide assurance that the division is delivering on that value. The goal is to generate champions of public education amongst this stakeholder group of “influencers.” The first one was distributed this week.

- In addition, I also attended a full-day Leadership Academy that was focused on advocacy. (I also attended two other PD sessions: “The Assurance Model’s impact on the Trustee/School Council relationship” and Learning Disabilities.)
- Chair Boymook and Trustee Seutter recently met with MLA Nate Glubish to review the results of the Sherwood Park Value Scoping study and its impact on EIPS’s 3-year capital plan.
- As has been the practice throughout the pandemic, our Chair and Superintendent participate in bi-weekly meetings with the Education Ministry on Covid-19-related issues.

## **PARENT ENGAGEMENT SERIES: FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS AND INUIT EDUCATION**

### **Session 3: March 16; 7-7:30 p.m.**

Language of this land: The importance of highlighting Indigenous languages; deepening understanding of relationship to land through language; what exploration of Indigenous languages can look like in schools.

The link to join this virtual session is on EIPS website and Facebook page

## **CAREGIVER EDUCATION SERIES**

Alberta Health Services is hosting a series of virtual caregiver information sessions focused on ways to support students’ mental health. The sessions are free and geared toward parents, caregivers, teachers and community members who want to learn more about challenges impacting children and adolescents. Session topics include anxiety, ADHD, depression, self-harm, technology, teens and teaching leadership skills, communication, resiliency, and more. Information on the sessions is on the EIPS website. [Learn more](#)



- Jacquie Surgenor: Technology Fee – we need to have meaningful engagement with parents to understand what this means. I think we owe parents the respect to know if there is an increase in cost of fees.
- Annette: I have brought this up. I have questions about this as well. I will of course be bringing this up and get feed back from parents. Elk Island Catholic had this, it about \$200.00/year but now have gone away from it and gone to bring in your own device. Please email me if you have any questions so we can have meaningful engagement.

e) Adjournment: Jacquie Surgenor at 8:00 p.m.

- Thank you for everyone for attending. Was a robust meeting. Thank you to Kayla for sticking this out.

Next Meeting: March 18 at 6:00 p.m.