

Salisbury Composite High School School Council Meet Minutes

March 18, 2021

Attendance

Chair, Jacquie Surgenor
COSC Rep, Jennifer Fraser
Principal, Sunny Sandhu
Trustee, Annette Hubick
Teacher Rep, Jenna Willman
Parents, Becky Galbraith, Brenda Oliveros, Dulcie Jarvin

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 removed and added in Teacher Rep, Jenna Willman (FMNI), and Sherwood Heights

Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved as presented.

New Business

- a) Teacher Rep (FMNI), Jenna Willman
 - Jenna is the Teacher Lead for First Nation Metis Inuit at Salisbury. Every school has a representative. This is funded separately.
 - We track students at our school, every year it gets better.
 - We are greenlighting our outdoor learning space that we have been planning for the last few years. It is finally happening.
 - i. We will have rocks to form a circle, we learned lots from Elder Wilson and this is what decided to do to honour him.
 - ii. Two spots we were thinking of is a patch of grass by the bus loop by the trees. The other spot was closer to the road but might be too noisy for meaningful instruction.
 - Sunny:

- i. Very lucky to have Jenna here. We do have students self-identifying, and our numbers are going up. This shows that Sal is a safe place.
 - ii. Jenna does a wonderful job here; she is being too modest. Look at Orange Shirt Day and how that has grown.
- Jacquie Surgenor:
 - i. It is nice that the Outdoor Classroom is accessible, and it would be nice to see even our parents using it for meetings.
- Annette Hubick:
 - i. Will the county be helping with funding as they did at Lakeland Ridge?
- Sunny:
 - i. We have discretionary school dollars, not funded by the county.

b) Fees by Sunny Sandhu

- We must review fees twice a year, this is our second review.
- Operating on cost recovery. Vast majority of fees will remain the same. The following will have some increase:
 - i. Foods – 7%
 - ii. Commercial Foods – double amount
 - iii. Grad Fee – 5% increase
- Foods increase is due to the high cost of food.
- If a student can not make the cost work, we will figure it out.
- Extra-Curricular costs will remain the same depending on AHS regulations.
- Robotics will be \$60.00, same cost as in Fort High but they do have sponsorship with Dow Chemical.
- E-Sports has been approved, cost will be \$100.00 which includes competitions, technology. We had a meeting and we had 50 students who were interested.
- We are on par with other schools.
- We always take care of kids, that is how it is at Sal and through EIPS.
- Jacquie:
 - i. What is E-Sports?
- Sunny:
 - i. E-Sports is very competitive gaming.

c) Programming by Sunny Sandhu

- 1983-1984 population of Sal was 1800 students.
- Right now, we have 75% utilization, and we have 1200 students here.
 - i. Next Step is coming to Salisbury. Really good programming there for kids. Opened in September 9, 2011. Historically, a lot of at-risk students, but Next Step brought those students up, and graduated them. Perception of Next Step is that it is for bad kids, but that is

not the case. Many athletes attend Next Step because of the flexible programming.

- ii. Next Step will bring our utilization rate up. They will use a couple of our classrooms.
- iii. 2007 they moved to the location they are in now.
- iv. The same thing is happening in Vegreville.
- v. A couple of teachers will have a new space, will not affect Sal negatively. Work will happen in July, not major work, a few walls and doors.

- Jacquie:
 - i. Will Next Step be maintained as a separate school, with their own admin and staff?
- Sunny:
 - i. We are not sure yet what the model is. Will be where Continuing Education used to be, our conference room and the technical theatre room.
 - ii. Hopefully, in April or May we will have the answers.

d) Staff Recognition by Jacquie Surgenor

- 15 responses so far. Sent out the emails to the teachers. One response almost made me cry. It was about a student having problems and has made a connection with Mrs. Ackerman in the library.
- Would like to continue to do this.

e) Technology Discussion by Jacquie Surgenor

- This information first came up at COSC, and then also in Annette's report last month. What technology would this cover?
- Sunny:
 - i. There is a misconceptions on BYOD, at Sal we have 8 hardwire labs, which are predominantly used by English and Social. We also have Chrome Carts.
 - ii. Since 2013-2014 we have been upgrading our technology. At Salisbury we do have enough technology.
 - iii. If teachers need to access for summative and formative assignments, we have enough space for the students to access.
 - iv. We have lots of labs for the classes to use.
 - v. BYOD would be detrimental to have students always on a screen. We are lucky at Sal; we have enough technology to provide for our students. This is not the case at all schools.
 - vi. We are successful here as we are always adding to our technology.
 - vii. We also have assistive technology for students to access in our HUB.
- Comments:
 - i. If you are using technology in the classroom, I would expect the schools or Alberta Education to provide.

- ii. At COSC, the discussion was diverse across the division. There are schools like the Huderite Colony who doesn't use technology. Always will be one school which is a "have school" and schools with a "have not".
- iii. Some schools fundraise for these things.
- Sunny:
 - i. Our budget is at 94% but 6% allows us to do some things.
 - ii. What is the use of technology and the benefit of learning?
 - 1. If they are all the time on the screen, are they paying attention to instruction?

f) Sherwood Heights by Jacquie Surgenor

- Sherwood Heights is an old school with significant challenges.
 - i. Great staff and custodial who do a great job looking after the building.
 - ii. Can't find parts for the boiler. Was a flood there on the weekend.
 - iii. Value scoping with Sherwood Heights, Sal, Clover Bar, Pine Street and Campbelltown
 - iv. Recommendation from the value scoping is to combine Campbell Town/Sherwood Heights to a K - 9 school on the same spot as SWH.
 - v. We had a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club but now they are building their own space.
 - vi. We are talking about this with other School Councils
 - vii. SCA passed a vote to support Sherwood Heights and write letters.
 - viii. In the Sherwood Park News the Francophone School is getting a new school. This new school will be built in the Ridge. Read that both MLA's were quoted that they were working closely over the last 18 months and that they were would get this new school. Where was the support for Sherwood Heights?
 - ix. More information to come on how to communicate with the public on this.
 - x. Motion: Salisbury School Council affirms our support to Sherwood Heights.

g) ASCA Conference/AGM by Jacquie Surgenor

- Dulcie Jarvin will go on our behalf. There are 11 advocacy motions that Dulcie will have to vote on.
- Jacquie and Dulcie will meet together to discuss voting if there is no objections.

IV. Information Reports

a) ASCA Report by Jacquie Surgenor

- ASCA AGM is coming up.
- We are looking for examples and stories on how school councils help students. If anyone would like to submit one, it does not have to be long.
- There is a worry that the government will look to other organizations for the parent voice.

b) COSC Report by Jennifer Fraser

- Everything we just talked about, we talked about at COSC.
- High schools in Sherwood Park not writing final exams – I brought this up as my son had to write but the other schools were not.
 - i. Mark Ligouri said every student will be writing exams and this must have been a miscommunication.
- Sports – Jennifer asked if sports were coming back. Mark Ligouri responded we need to just get through to June. Jennifer also asked if students go outside the school for sports? The response was yes, and he would support this.

c) Principal's Report by Sunny Sandhu

- Semesters and the return for next year.
 - i. We still think there was benefits to the Quarter System and we learned a lot.
 - ii. Mixed emotions at Sal, some were relieved, but some enjoyed as it suited their classes.
- Community Football is a go ahead.
 - i. We met with Mark Ligouri, and he gave a go ahead to use the school equipment.
 - ii. Shout out to Cam Fraser with his work on Community Football. Cam sent in a motion, and it passed.
 - iii. We met as a high school group, and we will give out the equipment so those kids can get out on the field and play.
- After school programming is 3 ½ weeks in and we have had lots of good feedback.
- Band concert will be planned and will be live streamed. Safety protocols are there, just like the drama productions.
- Returning Student Registration
 - i. About 1168 already for next year. Still about 80 to input.
 - ii. Goal to finish at 1200 +, then we will see the sections
 - iii. April/May start building our timetable.
 - iv. Virtually, recorded sessions were offered to the students for registration.
 - v. Return to near normal for next year.
- Comments
 - i. Thank you to Sunny for advocating for our kids.
 - ii. I would like to echo what Jenn said, thank you.
 - iii. Yes, me too. I have two kids in the afterschool program.

d) Trustee's Report by Annette Hubick
Report for SAL School Council

March 18, 2021

by Annette Hubick, EIPS Trustee

RETURN TO THE SEMESTER SYSTEM

- ▶ EIPS recently announced that for the 2021-22 school year, high school will be returning to the semester system.
- ▶ Thank you to all the parents and students who have shared their feedback at these meetings this year on the quarter-mester system as well as to school administrations who have spent a lot of time reviewing data and providing feedback.
- ▶ This was a decision of the Superintendent, supported by the Board.

BUDGET 2021-22

What we do know:

- ▶ Allotment for education in Alberta will be \$8.3 billion overall - the same level of funding provided last fiscal year. This is for all facets of education: the department, private schools, public schools, etc. It also includes spending from board reserves and school generated funds.
- ▶ Minister LaGrange has stated that school divisions would receive the same amount of money as they were given for the 2020-21 school year.
 - There's no decrease in funding despite the drop in enrolment many school divisions saw this past year, which would have impacted the Weighted Moving Average (WMA) upon which the new funding formula bases allocations.
 - Government termed this "COVID-19 Mitigation Fund", which is essentially responding positively to the strong advocacy by boards to be "held harmless".
 - Normal WMA rules mean they would "claw back" in 2021-22 the "extra" we got this year (\$1.9M estimated) due to lower than projected enrolment in September 2020.
 - EIPS had "deferred" (put aside) this revenue to lessen the impact for next year. We are waiting to hear back from Alberta Ed and our auditors as to how that \$1.9 M should be recognized. Likely, this will result in a larger surplus/reserves for this year.

- ▶ Learning Support Funding grants will provide an additional \$40 million to the Learning Support Funding envelope
 - SLS, PUF, ESL, FNMI (Services & Supports)
 - Socio-Economic, Geographic, School Nutrition (Community)
 - There has been a lot of board advocacy for increases to PUF so we are anticipating the government may direct the funds there.
- ▶ Student Transportation System Administration grants will remain the same.
- ▶ All the other grants are subject to change.
- ▶ We do not anticipate receiving \$6.1M from the Federal government for COVID.
- ▶ No additional COVID funding other than what is in our funding envelope; we do anticipate we will have to budget for COVID-related costs next year, such as PPE, sanitizer, cleaning supplies and services.
- ▶ Standard costs for certificated staff will go up as we have more staff at the top of the grid -- the "average cost" increase—and we will have to contend with inflation on goods and services.
- ▶ We will know more details by the end of March and Budget is due May 31 – no extension despite late release of funding envelope.

What we do not know

- ▶ What areas will be reduced in our funding envelope to accommodate the COVID-19 Mitigation funding --- because the bottom line will not change – could be base instruction, O&M, IMR, Bridge Funding.
- ▶ We also do not know which grants our portion of the \$40M will be applied to and if that will impact our allocations
- ▶ The impact of recently announced employee benefits premiums increases.

Why we don't have answers yet?

- ▶ Budget was only released at a high level.
- ▶ First time ever – no funding manual released yet.
- ▶ Funding manual has all the rules on how the grants in each of the funding envelopes are calculated and the restrictions, if any.
- ▶ This is critical to our work – we know there are going to be changes and we need to see the details to figure out impacts to grants and impacts to schools and departments.

Capital - Buildings/Modulars

- ▶ We know 14 new builds were approved this year and that unfortunately, EIPS did not have any projects on the list.

- ▶ They did put \$90M into the modular program this year so we are hopeful that we will receive funding for the cost to move 4 modulars from Sherwood Park to SouthPointe in Fort Saskatchewan – it costs over \$100,000 to move each modular.

Sherwood Heights

- The Board was deeply disappointed by the news that the request for a replacement school for Sherwood Heights Junior High (which would have also replaced Ecole Campbelltown) was not on the government's list of capital projects. We are discussing next steps.
- So far, one school council has voted to send a letter to their MLA to express their support for SWH and the Committee of School Councils Chair is meeting with EIPS board Chair to explore ways that COSC can help.

Bill 52 – Recall Legislation

The Alberta Government has included school board trustees in its recently introduced elected officials recall legislation.

- ▶ While the legislation is still at the Bill stage, we don't yet know how the regulations will work—and we are hoping for an opportunity to share that feedback with the Minister of Education and the Minister of Justice so, if needed, amendments can be made and regulations put forward that are effective but fair.
- ▶ We have a lot of questions about the proposed legislation, specifically as to why the rules are different for local municipal officials and school trustees than for MLAs. For instance:
 - Different periods during which signatures can be collected for a petition. For MLAs and municipal councillors, a petitioner has 60 days but would have twice that amount of time (120 days) to gather signatures for the removal of a school trustee.
 - If petition requirements are met, a councillor or trustee would be immediately removed from office, but for MLAs, the petition would trigger a recall vote and then, if upheld, a byelection would be called.

The legislation should be equal regardless of the position held.
 - Will the Division be required to carry the cost of any part of the process, administrative or otherwise? If so, this will impact resources available for the essential work we do.

e) Adjournment: Jacquie Surgenor at 8:07 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 29 at 6:00 p.m.