



Sturgeon Heights School Council Meeting

May 13, 2024

Attendees:

In-Person: Aaron Chute, Adriana DeLuca, Trish Murray-Elliott, Shayla McRitchie, Sara Townsend, Alice Funk, Stephanie Cordova, Gail Katzenback, Amy Skolski, Crystal Belanger, Melissa Knezacek, Krista Samis, Christine McMurren

Call to Order: 17:35

Treaty 6 Land Acknowledgement: 17:35 – Stephanie Cordova

Need new people for September. Tell your friends.

Additions to Agenda: N/A

Approval of Agenda: Melissa Knezacek + Gail Katzenback

Approval of Minutes: March 18, 2024 – Amy Skolski & Alice Funk

ACTION: Minutes not posted to school website - Aaron to work on it

Administrative Report: Aaron Chute

- Bathroom locks- girls' bathroom, metal plates
- Potholes fixed in our driveway
- Playground repairs: what does the division pay for versus the school? Hold tight as still sorting. Looking for sand but not sure if we are the only school that needs sand. Our wood frames are rotted. Alice suggested getting quotes for rubber. Does it make sense to put in a big amount if they are end of life? Sara went to ASCA for equity funding. **ACTION: Aaron will find out more for the short term.**
- Thanks to the open house as it was well-attended
- Sturgeon night of music – a really exciting, great display of talent and art. Musical theatre was able to perform. They also performed at volunteer tea and for the k-6 students
- Budget info – **See the exact excerpt Mr. Chute read following the Admin Report.**
- Request (class or peer) for next year is by email only
- Custodial - Dorothy contract was done, and the in-house cleaner is named Zach Evening person quit.

- Library improvements - bookshelves. Amy and Melissa helping in the library. Thank you
- Track and field- 5-9 tomorrow and k-4 June 17
- EA - Collette - stop sign - to help with buses getting out
- Thank you - staff appreciation - staff signed a card
- Glow dance thank you
- Personal electronic device policy for 24/25. 840-3 pm no devices including smart-watches
- Question: What about kids' anxiety? What tools are in place? Informing families is a piece to add in.

Previous Superintendent Budget Messages that were sent out to all families and staff:

[Budget 22-23 & Budget 23-24](#)

On March 28, 2024, the Division's Funding Profile for the 2024-2025 School Year was announced. For those of you who may not be aware, the Funding Profile provides an estimate of the division's expected operational funding for 2024-2025 School Year.

1. Overall funding has decreased by \$500 thousand dollars
2. This Division saw a decrease of \$1.4 million out of \$5.7 million in Stabilization Funding.
 1. Stabilization Funding was given in the 23-24 budget to offset prior funding decreases in support to students. The \$1.4 million dollars was being used to provide additional support in our schools for students. (Mental Health & Wellness coaches and additional Counseling Supports - which was part of our reserve mitigation strategy)
3. Other targeted grants were increased to offset this decrease of \$1.4 million, such as nutrition and transportation. Some of these grants are targeted and have to be spent in the areas they have been given for.
4. Unlike many other Boards, Sturgeon Public School Division over the last two years has been able to use reserves to provide additional supports to our schools through great initiatives that focused on Mental Health & Wellness, Learning and Counseling Supports and Smaller Class Sizes. Sturgeon Public School Division celebrates the fact that over the last two years we have been able to provide these additional supports to our students, where most other school divisions could not.
5. To provide this great opportunity to our students, the Division has been running a budget deficit over the last two years (Deficit info: 2022-2023 - (\$2.5M); 2023-2024: (\$4.1M)). As we move into more fiscally constrained times this is something that the division will not be able to continue as our planned reserve levels are being exhausted.
6. The Board still plans to draw on reserves for the 2024-2025 budget to help mitigate these reductions; however, it will have to be at a much smaller level than was planned in this current school year (-\$4.1M) because our reserve levels are being exhausted.

At this time, the Administration is still working through operationalizing the 2024-2025 budget and the total effect these changes will have on our division is unknown but **a reduction is expected.**

The Board will approve the budget May 28, 2024.

Adriana DeLuca

- Grade 9 LA PAT. The whole school respectfully kept calm and quiet
- Academies - kids would normally register in the fall but this year, they will register in May/June to allow for more preparation time
- Lottery system for Sport and Rec academy to ensure different kids get in
- Question about the format of PATs- all online. Division could choose. We are not doing the paper option as it didn't line up with the online version.

Teacher's Report: Shayla McRitchie

- TWOSE - grade 2 for sound
- TWOSE - grade 3 for dinos
- Kinder – spending lots of time in the forest. Thank you for dressing your children in appropriate clothing
- Grade 1 - raising butterflies
- Miss Cornet puts activities in the forest for younger grades. Hammocks and slack lines
- Grade 4 - fort Edmonton
- Education and mental health well - worry worms were a hit
- Options - kids are loving it
- Jr high - rugby and finals
- Innovate 360 - waterpark
- Lots of grades are using Dixons pond
- Comment from a teacher – Could we do that dance on a colder month because Playground became a distraction?

Trustee Report: Trish Murray- Elliott

- grade 9 farewell. What is the theme? Formal
- Ardmere Lagoon Litigation: On Feb. 28, 2024, Ardmere discontinued substantive appeal. On March 5, 2024, an appeal of the costs award was heard by the Court of Appeal of Alberta. On March 12, 2024, the Court of Appeal dismissed the costs award appeal, therefore original court decision and costs awards decision stand.
- Updates to Policy 110: Welcoming and Inclusive, Safe and Healthy Environments to more broadly encompass all members of our school community including volunteers.

- Calendar for 2025 – 2026 school year has been approved and is available on website.
- Three Year Capital Plan 2024 - 2027 is available for viewing on website. Top two priorities for 2024 are: Priority 1 - Gibbons / Landing Trail replacement with one school in partnership with the town of Gibbons and Priority 2 - Morinville Public School replacement changing grade configuration to K-6 to alleviate capacity pressures at Four Winds
- Why You Should Stop Texting Your Kids At School – If it is not something you would come to the school and knock on the classroom door and pull your child out of class to say, do not text it during school hours, as it is distracting and disruptive to everyone.
- Insurance for Parent Fundraising – have some examples of rates, fundraising association has received some quotes. Alberta School Council Assn also offers insurance and has info regarding coverage on their website.
- Budget Assumptions 2024-2025 were approved, available online. Special Board Meeting scheduled for May 28, 2024 at 5:00 regarding budget. Jurisdiction Profile from AB Ed publicly available. Board is working through 2024-2027 Education Plan and 2024 Budget.
- Budget Cuts – over all down \$500,000. Decrease of \$1.4M in Stabilization Funding (from \$5.7M to \$4.3M), some targeted grants were increased such as nutrition and transportation.
- Over last two years SPS was able to provide additional supports due to reserves which have now been exhausted. Division was fortunate to have the extra reserves to use to support our schools but knew it was not sustainable ongoing. Budget must be finalized and approved by May 28, 2024.
- Approved at the April 24 Pubic Board Meeting, name change from Ecole Morinville Public School to Morinville Public School.
- Month of the Military Child is April. This year Guthrie School hosted Teal-Up Day in support of military children across our schools, featuring a pancake breakfast, displays of military vehicles and weapons and a helicopter landing.
- Feedback summary of Engagement Evenings – visual summary shared.
- Transition to Adulthood Fair, May 23, 6:00 to 8:30 at Bellerose High, features info and presentations on opportunities, supports, services, educational pathways, as students with intellectual disabilities transition to adulthood. Families look at options as early as Grade 8.

Sturgeon Heights Fundraising Association (SHFA) Report: Alice Funk

- teacher appreciation, track and field and dance are our fundraisers.
- balance \$24,205

Parent representatives: No reports

New Business: Sara

- funds to library refresh. Sara and Melissa got a tour. Asking for money in SHSFA
- Kindergarten bins are old and ugly. Maurie will label

Old Business: None

Next Meeting: June 17, 2024

5:30pm in-person only off-site. The location will be emailed.

September AGM Date: September 23, 2024

Meeting Adjourned: 18:53pm

*minutes taken by Stephanie Cordova

Future Meeting Dates:

June 17th

September 23rd