

Stettler Elementary School Council Meeting Dec 2, 2024

Attendance: Jaime Comchi, Nikki Anderson, Kate Syson, Ashley Hunt, Jolene Kobi, Greg Hayden, Nicole Ghesquiere, Becky Scott, Chelsea Bellair, Amy Dorn

Your Council: Chair – Jaime Comchi; Vice Chair – Nicole Ghesquiere; Secretary – Nikki Anderson for Maria Cara

Call Meeting to Order 7:00 pm

Meeting Minutes for Nov 4, 2024 Meeting: Jaime proposed the approval of the meeting minutes for Nov 4 meeting, Nikki approved and Nicole seconded

Presentation and Approval of Agenda: Nicole approved and Amy seconded

Clearview Representative Report: Visited Erskine and Donalda Schools. Attended Fall General Meeting, met with Premier and Minister of Education. Communication is good and seems like they are listening. The policy committee is doing an awards revamp and is looking for nominations and input. Currently dipping into budget reserves, there is little additional money available with 30 new schools a year plus renovations. Issues include complex classrooms, curriculum development, vaping, charter schools, EA needs, transportation needs, staff retention. Base funding increase based on inflation, Alberta is currently 1000 below the national average. Director of Facilities, Russ McKay, is retiring. He has been on staff since 1991.

Principal's Report: Raised \$2424 so far with WaterFirst.ngo. Looking for someone for installation of tetherballs – Winter Market funds purchase.

There has been an increase in the use of racial/sexist/homophobic slurs used in the school. Administration is making a plan to educate students and parents on the issue and would love any input from the community. Dr. Syson will be visiting classrooms to have discussions on why these words are NOT ok, what the history of some of the words (particularly the n-word) are, and what the consequences of continued use will be. The disciplinary policy is available online in the student handbook. There was a unanimous decision at council meeting that serious action be taken to ensure this is stopped immediately. Ideas such as joint effort with sports coaches, posters with information, and a Q&A session with BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and other marginalized members of the community were put forth. Further information to come in January.

Please attend council meetings! It is the best way to have a say in what happens at your child's school!

Fundraising Society Report: Perogy fundraiser a success! Sold \$1890. Pickup is Dec 5.

New Business:

1. PE Class. Concern expressed about weights being used in PE. Will be discussed at Dec Staff meeting. Different equipment can be obtained if necessary.

Old Business:

1. ASCA engagement session – see attached
2. Bake Sale – All parents to bring 2 dozen baked items to Christmas Concerts for fundraiser.

Next Meeting January 13, 2025

Meeting Adjourned 7:55 pm

Personal Notes - Nicole G

From ASCA Engagement Meeting - Nov 23/2024

Sponsored by FitSetNinja

- Get kids moving through fun and exciting obstacle courses which build teamwork and collaboration skills.
- Out of Calgary/edmonton
- For K-9

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/1029667182>

Tim Gourlay

tim@fitsetninja.com

Attendance: around 70 (62-73)

Past President Rai

Updates for testing

- Beginning in the 2024/25 school year, enhancements to the early years literacy and numeracy assessment requirement will include:
- Mandatory screening assessments in September and January for all students in grades 1 to 3, with a follow-up assessment in June for those students requiring additional supports after completing the January assessment.
- Mandatory screening assessments in January for all students in kindergarten, beginning in January 2025.

<https://www.alberta.ca/early-years-assessments>

Phone policy

- has been largely successful amount students and staff. Review for parents who need it.

<educ-standards-use-personal-mobile-devices-social-media-schools-parent-guide-2024-08>

New bills

- Health/sex ed is opt in instead opt out
- States of emergency protocols
- Sept 2025
- Advocacy policies, 7 new policies to protect lgbtq students, majority opposed to the new bill 27 in concern for safety of students
- Collecting data to prove this is unsafe from areas already following bill 27.
- 16-17 parental notified if there is a name nor pronoun change
- 15 under is a permission for change form
- <https://www.assembly.ab.ca/assembly-business/bills/bill?billinfoid=12050&from=bills>

Funding models

- looking at changing from 3 year prediction to an average of last, current and future predictions.

Shortage of staff due to short funding, ab spends the least of all provinces on education considering the surplus's in funds available

- Education Funding: <https://www.alberta.ca/school-construction-accelerator-program>

- Student, Staff & Family Mental Health

<https://www.alberta.ca/mental-health-in-schools>

Poll

- about advocacy importance on topics discussed
 - how important is it for ASCA to continue to advocate for these ASCA Member perspectives? ASSESSMENT and STANDARDIZED TESTING: 63% Very Important
 - how important is it for ASCA to continue to advocate for these ASCA Member perspectives? LEGISLATIVE CHANGES IMPACTING STUDENTS: Standards for the Use of Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media in Schools: 47% very important
 - how important is it for ASCA to continue to advocate for these ASCA Member perspectives? LEGISLATIVE CHANGES IMPACTING STUDENTS: Bill 27: 61% very important
 - how important is it for ASCA to continue to advocate for these ASCA Member perspectives? EDUCATION FUNDING: 80% very important
 - how important is it for ASCA to continue to advocate for these ASCA Member perspectives? STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH: 71% very important

Keynote Tammy Schamuhn

- Speaker was in a car accident, unable to attend. Break.

Sharing:

- how is mental health in your schools
 - Mental health improved by new phone policies
 - Talk of teacher appreciation methods from teacher appreciation week to coffee carts.
 - Much talk about different events and fundraisers in schools, largely parent involved
 - Many schools trying other options and events instead of Christmas concerts such as carolling etc
 - Student mental health, I mentioned how wonderful our Student Resource Room (SSR) is for mental health of staff and students.
- How to engage parents in high school:
 - Providing childcare tripled some involvement from parents
 - ASCE grant ideas: family engagement, ASCA conferences, mental health, public speakers, home educational support

Kindy Joseph, assistant deputy minister

- Bill 27: changes, preserving freedom of choice, many amendments of genders/ pronoun changes, human sexuality and gender equality, as well as learning during state of emergency. If these are passed they will be new policies from school boards regarding these changes. Sept 2025 if passed. These should be discussed with school councils during engagement sessions with our board. Parent engagement helps plan these policies, in the same way the phone policies were created. Via surveys etc.
- How to proceed if opt in is missed by parents: Information goes out 30 days in advance but are not required to opt in by a certain date.
- Funding 24-25 focused on adding staffing support, building on student mental health supports,
- Staffing solutions: rural staffing issues as well as ea support, slp/ot and councillors etc, challenges noted in urban areas as well. Working with school authorities to address these issues trying to find qualified staff. Working closely with post

secondary on bursaries, rural practicum bursaries to keep those people in the area and reduce lack of staffing.

ASCA information and operations

- PD council learning opportunities, also individual sessions or mini coaching sessions
<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/school-councils/workshops/book-a-workshop>
- Also pd opportunities for fundraising associations
- Self directed modules available for councils
- Update council information - SC Contact Update - Receive News from ASCA:
<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/contact/current-contact-information>
- Went over agm information, what they do, who they work with and seeking nomination for board members. Advocate on a larger scale, nominations due April 2025
- Asce grants, support councils and parent engagement
 - Information regarding the Alberta School Council Engagement (ASCE) Grant:
[Alberta School Council Engagement \(ASCE\) Grant: Alberta School Councils' Association](#)

Closing and thank yous