

## SILVER SPRINGS SCHOOL COUNCIL

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

#### **Opening**

The regular meeting of the SILVER SPRINGS SCHOOL COUNCIL was called to order at 6:31 PM on November 21, 2023, in Silver Springs School by Loyce Sakuhuni.

#### **Present**

Board members: Loyce Sakuhuni, Erica Zaremba, Locke Vincent, Erin Benner, Rebecca Mayhew, Olivia Semmens, Lauren Locke, Kelsey Mountain, Chad Ravio, Sandra Zandvliet, Sara Gauthier,

Administration: Michelle Ryskamp, Danica Burrows

Teacher: Dana Downey, Morgan Campbell (student teacher)

Members at large: Katharine Goble, Marla Richardson, Michelle Downey, Shannon Chomstick, Catriona Davies, Chelsea Somerville

**Welcome/Call meeting to Order** – Loyce welcomes everyone.

#### **Approval of Minutes and Agenda**

CBE acknowledgement of the Land by Loyce

Reviewed and approved minutes from Tuesday Oct 10, 2023, Olivia and Loyce approved the minutes.

Lauren and Kelsey approved the agenda.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

##### **Michelle Ryskamp/ Danica Burrows:**

- Thank you to Erin and the parents for running a successful Halloween Howler
- Thank you to the fundraising committee, fun lunch committee and to Kara for organizing the conference meal for teachers
- The school has hired a new lunch room supervisor who will support the grade 3/4s in the library and the 5 / 6's in room 10
- Students participated in many community walks and learning on the land
- Grade 3 / 4s each spent a week at Open Minds Stampede School and 5/ 6s at outdoor school at Camp Chief Hector. This past month also included the Halloween Howler and Remembrance Day ceremony
- The Scholastic Bookfair is coming up soon
- The school is going to do some celebrations of learning for grades 3/ 4 and 5 /6, details will be announced later.
- Santa's workshop: Tues Dec 19
- Carol Singing Dec 20, 21,22
- Wonder days - based on topics or activities the teachers are passionate about. This will take place over 1.5 hours in the morning on these days. Wonder Days for the year are:



7235 Silvermead Road NW, Calgary AB, T3B3V1 P: 403-777-6070  
E: sssparentcouncil@gmail.com W: sssparentcouncil.weebly.com

- Nov 30, Feb 25, May 23. Students were able to make 4 choices out of a list and were grouped according to interest and age. Each group will have an equal number of different grades.
- The school is having a giving tree to support 5 families within the school community
- There was a discussion on whether a literacy night that was held in the past would be of interest to parents. Parents felt that there was value but timing might be challenging to ensure more parents can attend.
- Teachers are working on providing ongoing communication with parents. They will be sending home examples of student work with feedback every two weeks, alternating different types of work and different subjects.
- Silver Springs School is hosting 6 student teachers from UofC. These students are placed in every grade 3 /4 class as well as Mrs. Bates, Mrs Wilkes and Mrs. Ballinger. The student teachers will be at Silver Springs School until Mid December and then again from February until April.

#### School Development Plan

- Discussion on the school development plan. Data from student and parent surveys was collected and analyzed to identify a whole school focus and develop an action plan.
- The current theme is on new curriculum implementation. Through the lens of diversity and inclusion, Silver Springs School will focus on how to structure programming and assessment to support the broad range of student needs and abilities in school environment
- Current data shows that students feel they do not have a good understanding of culture, either their own or others
- Surveys demonstrated that students are still looking for ways to feel a sense of belonging, developing friendships and feeling included at school
- Approximately 27 % of kids were below grade level in literacy
- Silver Springs School did the optional grade 4 - 6 new curriculum last year, when only 1-3 was mandated at the time, which may have impacted the literacy numbers as some of the curricular expectations have shifted
- In mathematics, data demonstrates that there was greater growth in number patterns and algebra. The school's focus will be on number sense and numeracy.
- The focus will be on unpacking new curriculum and learning progressions, scaffolding various entry points for diverse learners.
- Professional Learning will focus on: - ELAL, math, Science, Physical Education and Wellness.
- Teachers are working on year-long blue printing and will be participating in professional learning communities (PLCs), which will focus on evidence-based instruction and development of effective literacy skills.
- Silver Springs School will be connecting with other similar schools to collaborate strategies.

#### **Parent Questions/Discussion:**

- How is the school implementing the new wellness curriculum as it appears very content heavy with less emphasis on physical activity? Teachers are finding it challenging to



bring it all in, but some parts of the wellness curriculum are being brought into other subjects (ie. financial wellness) so there is still an opportunity to work on physical activity.

**Teacher Report (Grade 3 / 4 - Dana Downey) :**

- She loves teacher at a small community school
- Her grade team attended the Calgary campus open minds - stampede school
- Mme Downey describes Stampede School as one of the most fun experiences she has ever had in her life. She found the experience to be relaxed and very engaging for students.
- Staff had worked very hard on supporting students to learn using different learning techniques and environments.
- She found that students were able to see the community of Calgary in a different way and connect to their own culture as Calgarians.
- Each class' experience was different depending on what was offered that week
- Students learned what the stampede does the rest of the year.
- The class read the book "The Box-Car Children and the Jewelry Thief" which is set at the Calgary stampede and they were able to see places that were mentioned in the book.

**EXECUTIVE & COMMITTEE REPORTS****Chairperson's Report (Loyce):**

- A grant is available every year for parent education. Please send ideas and information to Loyce on topics that parents would be interested in learning about.
- There is an opportunity to apply for a "Building Communities grant" which could potentially help support the cost of the picnic tables for the outdoor classroom. Historically this grant has funded CBE outdoor classrooms in the past. Sara is willing to take on the application, the deadline is Feb 1, with results known 8-12 wks later.

**Kindergarten report (Erica)**

- The student teacher has been a wonderful addition to the classroom.
- The kindergarten class loved the Halloween Howler, it was great for their age.
- The class has enjoyed adventuring outdoors for Fresh Air Fridays. The same two volunteers have come to help out.
- Mrs. Wilkes is half way through her standardized literacy assessment.
- The sugar pretzels were a challenging and messy snack for kindergarten.

**Key Communique Report (Chad):**

- Trustees were introduced
- Enrollment up with ~ 7000-8000 more students across CBE, which is ~ 14-15 standard elementary schools. 40 000 ELL students which makes logistics challenging.
- 12-14 schools will be refurbished, with hopefully some new schools to be built in the future, although nothing has been announced.



- The trustee can be invited to parent council meetings
- There was a discussion about volunteer recruitment, many different examples were shared. Silver Springs School is above what most schools are able to accomplish.
- The new curriculum is being worked through. They are looking at feedback and trying to improve or adjust it.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Discussion on Ever Active Schools program about active safe routes to Calgary. This is a program to support active transport to school. It would be for fall 2024 and require a parent council representative as well as administrative support.
- Benefits to this program would be: reduced vehicle congestion around the school and improve active living.
- EAS works alongside 10 school teams per year.
- The program would include 4 days in residence, a community walk about, and input from the community. Applications should be in soon.
- There were no volunteers to take this project on right now, it will be discussed at the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Dec 12 - motion to cancel December meeting by Loyce - approved by Sandra, seconded by Lauren

**Adjournment**

Loyce motioned to adjourn meeting at 7:49 PM was approved by Olivia and Lauren

**Next Meeting: November 21, 2023**

**Minutes submitted by:** Kelsey Mountain

**SILVER SPRINGS SCHOOL PARENT ASSOCIATION**

Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, November 21, 2023

**Opening**

The regular meeting of the Silver Springs School Parent Association was called to order at 7:49 pm on Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at the Silver Springs School by Loyce Sakuhuni.

Board members: Loyce Sakuhuni, Erica Zaremba, Locke Vincent, Erin Benner, Rebecca Mayhew, Olivia Semmens, Lauren Locke, Kelsey Mountain, Chad Ravio, Sandra Zandvliet, Sara Gauthier,

Administration: Michelle Ryskamp, Danica Burrows

Teacher: Dana Downey, Morgan Campbell (student teacher)



7235 Silvermead Road NW, Calgary AB, T3B 3V1 P: 403-777-6070  
E: [sssparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:sssparentcouncil@gmail.com) W: [sssparentcouncil.weebly.com](http://sssparentcouncil.weebly.com)

**Members at large:** Katharine Goble, Marla Richardson, Michelle Downey, Shannon Chomstick, Catriona Davies, Chelsea Somerville

**Welcome (Loyce):** Welcome to the Parent Association Meeting

**Approval of Minutes**

Reviewed and approved minutes from Tuesday, Oct 10, 2023 approved by Katharine and Olivia Olivia and Sandra approved the agenda.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Administrative Report:**

- Nothing new to report

**Treasurer's Report (Lauren):**

- Nothing new to report

**Healthy Hunger (Kira):**

- Since the last meeting there was an Edo fun lunch and Mr Pretzels snack - Kira is looking for feedback as these are new restaurants.
- Mrs Wilkes reports that the pretzels were very sugary and messy, sugar got everywhere.
- Edo was a success, with \$365.55 profit
- Mr. Pretzels: \$235 profit
- Michelle is not hunting families down to cover lunches, she scaled back this year to ensure profit was not being used to cover other lunches. She could put a notice in a newsletter if families are needing a lunch, however this may cause many families to request.
- Michelle is aware of a few newer families who could use support and will talk to them in the new year.
- Kira will let us know how much is in the donated pot

**Fundraising Report (Sarah and Sandra):**

- Team fund - \$1505, penalized \$75 because we didn't get enough units from one vendor
- Purdy's - \$742
- total: \$2172.42
- last minute reminders helped
- We could ask parents at the beginning of the year to sign up to an email list to be advised about fundraiser - maybe at kindergarten orientation

**Casino Report (Leeanne):**

- No news to report, we have not yet received our slotting letter



**Social Media Report (Locke): N/A****Special Events (Erin):**

- Halloween Howler was a success, came in under budget
- Donation of extra prizes, went through prizes really quickly
- There were many volunteers
- Set up went smoothly
- The Special Events team is gearing up for Santa's workshop
- Bins will be by the gym during conferences for donations
- A group will be put together to organize the donations
- Everyone is encouraged to keep their eyes open for Dad deals - struggled with Dad and teenagers
- Erin will talk to parents who own businesses in the community - they could donate stickers or something

**Discussion:**

- The casino wishlist amount was brought down by a few thousand
- Results from the parent survey about where parents wanted to spend the money was discussed, although the survey asked what parents wanted to spend their own money on, not casino money.
- It was requested to have a more specific breakdown of fine art supplies. \$1000 for art supplies and \$2000 for music. The music allotment includes fixing the old xylophones or purchasing new ones, and getting xylophone stands. It was reported that the xylophones are the same age as the school and many are no longer functional.
- A discussion on the artist in residency being 27% of the total fund, how can we reduce this. Ms Ryskamp mentioned that she budgeted for the maximum and it might not be that much.
- Are we giving teachers enough resources to support diverse learners - including access to technology? \$28 000 of the fund is allocated to areas that directly impact students.
- Some parents found that any extra money should be allotted to PE residencies as the students really enjoy these and get a lot out of them. This idea was supported by all of the parents on the council.
- Education matters - is a donation site where people can donate directly to Silver Springs School. The school has to sign up for a project, and then could advertise for a specific project. Large projects that we are looking into include: PA system for the fym and moving the basketball nets to the side of the school that is used for recess.
- It was discussed that these projects could be put out to the community for donation.
- Parent Council will purchase a Christmas tree for the school.

**MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL****Motion for Approval:**

7235 Silvermead Road NW, Calgary AB, T3B 3V1 P: 403-777-6070  
E: [sssparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:sssparentcouncil@gmail.com) W: [sssparentcouncil.weebly.com](http://sssparentcouncil.weebly.com)



Loyce motions to approve the \$ 73 500 from casino funds to support the school, approved by all.

**Adjournment**

Loyce motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 PM and was approved by Lauren

**Next Meeting:** January 16, 2023

**Minutes submitted by:** Kelsey Mountain



7235 Silvermead Road NW, Calgary AB, T3B 3V1 P: 403-777-6070  
E: [sssparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:sssparentcouncil@gmail.com) W: [sssparentcouncil.weebly.com](http://sssparentcouncil.weebly.com)