

WIN FERGUSON SCHOOL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting Date: February 24, 2025

Meeting Time: 6:00 PM

Attendees:

Tami Richert
Shelley R

Keri Busenius
Ralph SoroChan

Lainie Gratrix
Aly Moore

Jen Shea
Krisi from FCSS

Leah Kenchington
Ms. Vibe

Mandy Spiess
Ryan Frostad

ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF DISCUSSION
1	Call to Order
	Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm Introduction of attendees Leah did the reading of the Treaty Acknowledgement
2	Review of Agenda
	Motioned by Jen, seconded by Lainie-carried
3	Approval of minutes from last meeting
	Approval of previous minutes motioned by Lainie seconded by Shelley-carried
4	Administration Report

See attached report provided by Keri Busenius.

Additional notes on the report points:

Win received a grant for literacy intervention for grade 1-3 from March to early June.

PD day Jan 29th focused on effective practices for student writing and helping striving writers.

Grade 4 Students will be invited to make our mental break/microdosing instruction videos over the next few weeks.

Giant indigenous map at interviews – there was good attendance but always encourage parents to take the opportunity to take part in seeing these tools in use when available.

Working on inclusion and appreciation during Black History Month

Teacher Representative – Ms. Vibe Kindergarten A

Pink shirt day bingo! Kiddos got to choose 15 of 30 options to put on their bingo and very excited to get to choose.

Started U5 and kinder writing, Ms. Vibe has seen a lot of growth.

She is also doing STEM with the Kindies – they got to do some coding cars with mats similar to the bee bots and it was really well received by the kids. Ms. Vibe will be looking into other opportunities like this.

Engagement items

Thank you for the Bingo night! Food bank donations will be collected this week

7 teachings – this month is Honesty

Grade 4 parent/caregiver survey – was emailed out with the new process this year

Grade 4 student survey will be completed soon

Teacher Survey will also be coming out soon

Pink Shirt day on Feb 26

Kristi from FCSS

Transition between elementary and Junior High

-preparation for caregivers to prep the kids – some concerns are anxiety (and poor attendance due to this), change in scheduling and how to promote your kids to be independent learners, conflict resolution, bullying, communication ect. (2-3 hours)

Kristi has engaged Ecole park and James Mowet, both are on board to cover some of the cost of a presentations for April and a 45 minute Q&A session with Dr. Caroline Buzzanko.

SAFRON cyberworld focuses on internet safety

Foundations of communication (2 hours)

Peer relationships and conflict resolution – Natasha

Brightspace is another tool to use for visibility on kids attendance, & project completion. FCSS is working on putting a course together for this, aiming for this to be at potentially no cost.

Confirmation of cost and dates and locations are in process of being worked out but Krisit is looking for if Win Ferguson is interested.

Council inquired if this is eligible to the education grant. It was noted other schools are using some of their funds toward this. Win currently has \$740 of that grant that could be used towards this.

School operations

Proposed fees for 2025-2026 – consultation and survey info (75% responded the fees are as they expected)

Some notes from Keri:

There was a note that Sunridge changed the costs of their fees so the Ski and snowboard trip has increased.

Swimming lessons cost has gone up, this cost has been revised but Kerri wanted to note it may be difficult for this to remain for future years.

Noon supervision is included back in the school fees for the 2025-2026 school year – council raised a concern on TV use during lunch which the Keri will look into.

School registration is winding up.

Photographer for 25/26 recommendation – Offspring Studios (highly recommended) – it was agreed that Offspring Studios will be used for the photos next year.

Keri will be confirming if there is any privacy concerns on emailing class photos- if not these will be set home by Teachers.

Student agendas staff survey

-quite a bit of use, in the front pocket and parent communication. Staff will be doing training on how best to use.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF DISCUSSION
	It was noted by council that that smaller (or mid sized) agendas are more durable, if there is a price difference between these, this may be a recommendation going forward for cost savings.
5	Trustee Report
	<p>See the attached report provided by Ralph Sorochoan. Ralph is available to answer questions or concerns and can be reached via email at Ralph.Sorochoan@eips.ca or 780-417-8107</p> <p>Some additional notes from the Trustee Report: -Student transportation eligibility change. Historically eligibility was set as 2.4 KM, last year the new eligibility applied was grades K-6 1.0KM and grades 7-12 at 1.6 KM Starting next year eligibility the 1.6 for 7-12 will go back to 2.0, this will have a large financial impact as well as affect many students who were previously eligible. It is expected that the fees will increase Trustees have written a letter to MLA's and have secured and opportunity to speak to the minister but encourage all parents to write to their MLA's and communicate their concerns.</p> <p>The Board has approved sponsoring registration fees for school councils to participate in the virtual ASCA School Council Conference and Annual General Meeting on April 26-27th.</p> <p>OHS COR Audit – overall the division scored 91% (exceeding the mandatory 60%) Additional information is available in the Trustee report</p> <p>Board retreat – topics included budget priorities for the 2025-2026 year, Rural education sustainability, capital planning and student transportation.</p> <p>School status report 2024-2024 is available on EIPS.ca</p> <p>AERR report results are available on the EIPS.ca</p>
6	Standing Business
	<p><u>ASCA Workshops</u> \$740 available funds – course dates to consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can be used for FCSS presentations, all of the council are on board with using the funds toward this - Ms. Vibe asked if this could be open to teachers as well, it was confirmed that all are welcome to attend - Dates and times to follow as more information is available <p><u>Teacher's Wishlist</u> Fidgets for classroom – the PTA will supply \$800 total to cover this (\$50 per classroom).</p> <p><u>Photographer 25/26</u> Considerations for Offspring Studios, and Edge – confirmed we are going with Offspring Studios for 25/26 school photos</p>
7	Old Business
	Alberta Theatre rescheduled to March 31 st , 2025
6	New Business
	<p><u>Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)</u> If interested in attending there is Board Basics, Roles and Responsibilities – March 16-19pm city hall</p> <p><u>Christmas concert venue</u> Christmas concert Venue Poll results showed a preference to stay at the DOW (both the paper poll from parent teacher interviews and the online poll) School Council and PTA to further discuss cost coverages at a later meeting. Leah applied for a grant through DOW for potential assistance in covering the cost for next years concert. Once she has results she will update.</p> <p>Next COSC meeting: March 5, 2025 at 6:30pm virtual or in person at EIPS central service board room ASCA AGM April 26/27 (26 ½ day virtual at 9:30, 27 -8am full day in person)</p>
7	Adjournment
	Meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm. Next Meeting to be held April 28, 2025

WIN FERGUSON PTA
MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting Date: February 24, 2025

Meeting Time: 6:00 PM

Attendees:

Tami Richert
Shelley R

Keri Busenius
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Lainie Gratrix
Ryan Frostad

Jen Shea

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Mandy Spiess

ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF DISCUSSION
1	Call to Order
	Meeting was called to order at 7:21 PM
2	Review of Agenda
	Agenda was motioned by Jen, seconded by Shelley-carried
3	Approval of minutes from last meeting
	Previous minutes were motioned by Shelley, seconded by Lainie- carried
4	Treasurer's Report
	<p>Current online banking administrator is Liz Ream.</p> <p>Liz presented the report. Month end Financials as of February 24, 2025 General Account: \$34,884.81 Casino Account: \$22,966.25</p> <p>Our available balance as of today is: General Account: \$11,041.12 after standing motions and expenses.</p> <p>Casino Account: \$16,366.25 after the \$1500.00 standing motion for next casino and other expenses.</p> <p>Additional Notes: -Combined available funds \$27,407.37 -Family Bingo -Treat Sale Revenue \$268 -50/50 Revenue \$235.50 donated to Food Bank. Crystal Hudson purchased items to add to the school's donation. -Still need receipts from Trish for chips and Janitorial fee still needs to be paid -Transferred: -Juice to hot lunch \$58.32 -Pop and chocolate to Treat Sake \$151.71</p>
5	Old Business
	<p>5.1 Purchased ozobots -the motion was revised to cover all funds required and these have been purchased</p> <p>5.2 Alberta Theatre -rescheduled see School Council meeting minutes</p>
6	Standing Business

ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF DISCUSSION
	<p>6.1 Wishlist - Fidgets have now been approved</p> <p>6.2 ASCA Courses upcoming - Council would like to use funds towards FCSS presentation but if there is anything leftover we could look to utilize remaining funds for an ASCA course.</p> <p>6.3 Family Bingo -Great job Trish and volunteers!! - 50/50 raised \$235.50 to be allocated to the Foodbank \$140 donations at the door and the \$235.50 funds were used to purchase goods that will be donated to the food bank this week.</p>
7	New Business
	<p>7.1 Wish list Ms. Vibe will be reviewing STEM activity ideas, PTA noted to let us know if there is anything that comes up between meetings and we can vote on supporting.</p> <p>7.2 Christmas concert poll -Council will discuss future cost coverage</p> <p>7.3 School council wide picnic/ hotdog lunch -Recommended to do this as a school wide hot lunch in June that is covered by PTA</p>
8	Committee Reports
	<p>7.1 Hot Lunch – Paige – Next hot lunch is Feb 28th - Subway</p> <p>7.2 Fundraising – Jared/Lainie – sheets provided to the school today - Lainie will be picked up by March 19th, Lainie will make a post explaining more information about this fundraiser and what kids will be taking home.</p> <p>7.3 Milk program – Lacey- no update</p> <p>7.4 Treat Sales – Heather- Next Treat Sale March 13th & 14th There was a question about if excess pop from the Bingo could be used in treat sales, the consensus was no, we will donate this to the food bank as well as the water. This treat sale will be a mixture of chocolate bars, chips and Hot Rods.</p> <p>7.5 Recycling program – Shelley – Deposit of \$600 submitted and another \$500 deposit incoming. Reminder: We are looking for a volunteer(s) to assist with this program for next year! Please let us know if you are interested.</p> <p>7.6 Casino – Discussion to be had in 2025/2026 school year – Letter sent that next Casino will be July, August or September of 2028 at the Camrose Casino.</p>
9	Adjournment
	<p>Meeting was adjourned at 7:48PM Next meeting to be held April 28, 2025 – Reminder No March meeting.</p>

WFG School Council – February 24, 2025

Ralph SoroChan

- 1) **APPRECIATION** – Thanks to everyone for engaging in your child's education!
- 2) **STUDENT TRANSPORTATION ELIGIBILITY CHANGE** – The Board received for information a report detailing recent amendments to the province's student transportation eligibility criteria, which take effect in the 2025-26 school year. Specifically, the changes relate to student transportation and rider eligibility. Currently, Alberta Education considers an elementary rider, kindergarten to Grade 6, eligible for provincial student transportation funding if they live one kilometre or more from the school they attend. For secondary students, grades 7-12, riders are eligible if they live two kilometres or more from the school they attend.

In 2025-26, Alberta Education will increase the elementary eligibility distance to 1.6 kilometres—the secondary rider eligibility will remain unchanged. The change in elementary eligibility has significant financial implications for both EIPS and school families. For instance, EIPS will see a substantial reduction in funding from the province. That, in turn, will result in an inability for EIPS Student Transportation to maintain its current service level, and lead to significantly higher student transportation fees for families. Short term, the province has committed to some transition funding for 2025-26. However, that won't be the case long term. Therefore, the Division needs to develop a plan to address the new criteria and communicate the change to school families promptly.

Key Concerns:

- Impact on Families: Over 686 students within EIPS will be affected by the 1.0-kilometre distance criteria change effective the 2026-27 school year.
 - Financial Implications: The amendment is projected to result in a funding shortfall exceeding \$415,000 for EIPS. This deficit may lead to reductions in transportation services or increased fees for families. Even a substantial increase in fees will not recoup the loss of funding.
 - Service Disruptions: If we choose to no longer provide transportation service to students who do not meet the distance eligibility criteria, this will pose significant challenges for families who rely on transportation services for access to education.
 - Trust and Policy Consistency: The initial reduction to 1.0 kilometres was a commitment to improving accessibility. The revision to 1.6 kilometres undermines this trust and raises concerns about the government's commitment to its policy objectives.
- 3) **ASCA CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP** - The Board approved sponsoring the registration fee for school councils to participate in the virtual 2025 Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) School Council Conference and Annual General Meeting on April 26-27—per school council up to a maximum of \$5,000. To qualify, members must be part of a school council with an active ASCA membership and apply before the registration deadline, April 7.
 - 4) **OHS COR AUDIT** - The Board received for information a report on the Division's 2024 Occupational Health and Safety Certificate of Recognition (COR) Audit Report. Annually, EIPS undergoes the voluntary COR audit to certify its commitment to occupational health and safety. Overall, the Division scored an impressive COR score of 91 per cent, exceeding the mandatory 60 per cent requirement. The Division's noted areas of strength include:

- use of policies, procedures and online resources;
- integration of health and safety in the workplace;
- emergency plans, first aid and security measures in place; and
- positive role modelling.

The audit also offered areas for the Division to work on in preparation for the recertification. These include awareness campaigns related to incident reporting, emergency drills, job hazard assessments, and general communication to enhance health and safety efforts.

- 5) **SCHOOL STATUS REPORT: 2023-24** - The Board received for information the School Status Report for the 2023-24 school year. The report identifies enrolment numbers, school utilization rates and per-student costs within the Division. Data is presented by geographic sectors and on a four-year comparative basis to ensure the analysis is based on long-term trends and not isolated incidences (p.36 "[Board Package: School Status Report for 2024-25](#)").
- 6) **BOARD RETREAT** – The Board of Trustees participated in a 3-day retreat February 10-13, in Fort Saskatchewan. Some of the important topics of discussion included budget priorities for the 2025-26 school year, rural education sustainability, capital planning, and student transportation.
- 7) **REMINDER: ANNUAL EDUCATION RESULTS REPORT 2023-24** - The Board approved EIPS' *Annual Education Results Report 2023-24*, an Alberta Education reporting requirement that provides school families and community members easy-to-understand information about the Division. It also serves as a mechanism to improve accountability and transparency with local stakeholders. The *Annual Education Results Report 2023-24* features detailed information about how EIPS is doing relative to Alberta Education's performance measures; how the Division supports students to achieve the best possible outcomes; and its successes, challenges and priorities moving forward. Now approved, the Division will submit the report to Alberta Education on November 29. After sending it to the province, EIPS will also post it online and share it with stakeholders and the Committee of School Councils. To read the full report visit, eips.ca.
- 8) **CAREGIVER SERIES: JANUARY AND FEBRUARY SESSIONS** - Recovery Alberta offers free online programming for parents and caregivers of children and youth. Sessions are offered through Zoom. The list of [January and February 2025 sessions](#) is now available.
- 9) **NEXT BOARD MEETING** – The next regular Board meeting takes place on March 20, 2025, at 10 AM. Board meetings are held in the Elk Island Public School boardroom. EIPS also livestreams public Board meetings on its YouTube channel.
- 10) **INQUIRIES?** - If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at ralph.sorochan@eips.ca or 780 417 8107.
- 11) Have a wonderful week!