

Meeting Minutes
Davidson Creek Elementary School Council
September 14, 2023 6:30 PM
360 Davenport Dr. Sherwood Park, AB

Board Members

Lynn Walker, Chair; Karli Butler, Vice Chair; Hannah Parker, Communications Liaison; Breanne Sweeney, Secretary (interim)

DCE Council Minutes

Chair welcomed attendees and gave a Treaty 6 Land acknowledgement

Attendance

Executive: Lynn Walker, Karli Butler, Hannah Parker, Breanne Sweeney

Wellness Committee: Candice Abraham

DCE Staff: Helene Hewitt, Jay Robertson, Christa Gawron, Jen Mikitka

Public Trustee: Trina Boymook

Parent Representatives: 7 Parent Representatives attended the meeting in person.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- June DCESC meeting minutes approved by Robyn and seconded by Christine
- DCESC AGM meeting minutes approved by Christine and seconded by Robyn

Trina Boymook, Public Trustee

- After ten years, I decided to step away from the Board Chair position at the end of my term. At the August 24 organizational meeting the Board elected Cathy Allen as the new Board Chair and Susan Miller as the new Vice Chair.

- Board approved in the spring a \$208M budget with minimal use of reserves. The Board will use reserves to extend the Career Pathway work for an additional year and to cover our commitment for year 2 of the Student Mental Health Strategic Plan. We are also reintroducing leveraging student achievement funds that will be made up of any surpluses that is turned back to the division by the schools to be redistributed through this initiative. 2023-24 is a tight budget with \$6.5M of additional funding that are targeted grants with the remaining \$2.2 addressing inflationary pressures. The Board received \$858K for classroom complexity. \$354K has been allocated to Early Learning and \$504K has been allocated to Specialized Supports for Schools for the following items:
 - a Speech Language Pathologist Assistant
 - a Speech Language Pathologist Assistive Technology
 - a Reading Specialist Consultant position.
- It is expected the recommendation for secondary French Immersion will be coming forward at the October 19 Board meeting. Parents will be notified once the report is uploaded to the website under Board meeting packages. Thank you to those that completed the most recent survey that went out mid-June.
- The Board will be identifying areas of focus for the Board's work and advocacy for the 2023-24 at our upcoming Retreat on September 18 and 19.
- The Board will be having a meeting with Sherwood Park MLA Kyle Kasawski on September 20.
- The Board will be kicking off the first Committee of School Council meeting of 2023-24 school year, with a Mix and Mingle being held on Oct 4 in the Boardroom where pizza will be provided to school council representatives and their principal starting at 5:15. I encourage you to send a representative to these meetings as it is a great way to learn from other school councils and to have a voice at the district level. The meeting will begin at 6:30

Candice Abraham, Wellness Committee

- Have been speaking to parents and teachers about what ideas could be implemented under the umbrella of the wellness committee
 - Walk or Wheel Wednesdays
 - To start October 4th, will be the same day as early dismissal
 - Info will be posted in the mustang memo and on Facebook.
 - A google doc shared among DCE staff will be created for teachers to tally who walked or wheeled to school that day.
 - If kids are being driven to school, parents can park a couple blocks away and walk in to school
 - Kids on the bus can do a lap around the soccer field for example to get some steps in that day
 - Literacy night
 - Scheduled for October 4, details to be provided under Admin report

- There will be a “book fair” where books can be donated up until the date to be available for families attending. Any family that comes to the Literacy night can have a free book, and each book after the free book can be purchased for \$1, cash only.
 - Bookmarks will be available with reading strategies for families to take home
 - Garbage cleanup
 - Previously held in spring during Strathcona County pitch-in week.
 - Kids will be included, parents are welcome
- Candice will be consulting with the School councillors for some mental health focused ideas, such as a wellness night that will include parents and provide things like outreach resources, mindfulness teaching and healthy eating sessions.

Lynn Walker, Chair

- Welcome back! Thank you everyone for their hard work last year, and the continued work you are already doing this year. It’s going to be another great year and I’m looking forward to continuing to work with all of you.
- Meeting dates
 - We are required by our DCE School Council operating procedures to have a minimum of five meetings to be held at the school each school year. Discussions were held at the June 13, 2023 AGM to adjust meeting dates in alignment with school priorities and activities, and switch to an alternate date to allow parents to attend other children’s school councils.
 - Meeting will all be held this year on Thursday’s from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the school library.
 - Dates for this year currently are:
 - September 14, 2023
 - October 12, 2023
 - January 18, 2024
 - February 15, 2024
 - March 14, 2024
 - April 11, 2024
 - May 9, 2024
 - June 13, 2024 (AGM)
- Vacant Secretary Position
 - This position concluded last year and we are looking for someone who is passionate about minute taking to fulfill this position. It is a 2 year term and requires you to attend all the meetings. I’d like to open the floor to any parents who has questions about the position and who be interested.

- Rochelle Reed has stepped up to cover this position for 1 year.
- Communication:
 - Social media platform update:
 - Facebook DCE
 - June 12, 2023 – 549 members
 - September 14, 2023 – 553 members
 - Facebook DCE School Fundraising Society
 - June 12, 2023 – 308 members
 - September 14, 2023 – 301 members
 - X (formerly Twitter) handle @DavidsonCreek
 - June 12, 2023 – 221 followers
 - September 14, 2023 – 226 followers / 119 following
- COSC Update (Council of School Councils). There are no new updates as the first meeting of the year will be held on Wednesday October 4, 2023.

Helene Hewitt, Admin Report

- Smooth startup to the year
- Meet the staff night was very successful, and having the kids teachers on the last report card of the year has gone over well
- Staff Update for new teachers
 - Mrs. Pietsch will be covering grade 5 for the time being
 - Mrs. Ennis will be teaching grade 2
 - Mrs Laurent is the new Kindergarten teacher
 - Mrs. Kotronis is teaching Grade 6
- The school is in need for noon supervisors, or for anyone who is able to step in as a backup. Contact the school if you are interested
- Actual number of students in the school is 654, up from the original 638.
- Grades 1 & 2 share lockers this year
 - This has kept the kids closer to their classrooms and decreased the travel time needed every bell as they come in the closest door.
 - Last year 25 minutes of class time was lost in the travel every morning and coming in from recess. This year that has improved significantly.
 - This has worked well but may need to be reassessed when snowsuits come into play
- Enrollment is predicted to trend downwards for future school years, as per Trina Boymook. If not, border changes or lottery systems will be considered
- Sherwood Heights will be starting construction in spring
- There is a new school site in Cambria if needed to help with enrollment
- School Events

- Family Dance September 15th, a volunteer has stepped up to be DJ
- Terry Fox run is Sept 22, the assembly is at 12:30 pm
- Orange shirt day is September 29
- Picture day will be Oct 3 and 4
- Kids are being assessed through Star assessments and with the gr 1-3 government criteria this month
- Fees will be posted later in September
 - A breakdown is on the website
- Fire drills and bus safety drills are in the works as well

Open Discussion

- Swim lessons will be K-3 only this year, grades 4-6 will get a ski trip instead
- Literacy night
 - A teacher group is working on the night.
 - Parents can sign up for sessions, it will be presented as a “menu”
 - Session offerings TBD, will be things like how class work extends to homework
 - May have elder/library presentation to supplement
 - Book donation will be started, parents can bring in gently used books to be sold for \$1 as a fundraiser. The first book will be free for all kids who attend.

Next meeting October 12 2023 at 6:30 PM

Adjourned at 7:50 PM