**Parent Council Executive Members:**

Lynn Walker, Chair

Karli Butler, Vice Chair

Hannah Parker, Communications Liaison

Rochelle Reed, Secretary

Candice Abraham, Wellness Committee

**Guests and DCE School Representatives:**

Helene Hewitt, Principal

Jay Robertson Vice Principal

Jenn Mikitka, Teacher Representative

Christa Gawron, Business Manager

Public Trustee: Trina Boymook

Guests: None

Parent Representatives: We had 4 parent representatives in attendance

**DCE School Council Meeting Minutes**

**Call To Order:** 6:36pm

**Treaty 6 Land Acknowledgement**

* Read by Chair

**Call for Agenda Changes**

* No changes requested

**Approval of Agenda**

* Motion: Robyn
* Seconded: Candice
* Passed: Yes

**Call for Changes to Minutes**

February 15, 2024

* Motion: Karli
* Seconded: Melissa
* Passed

**School Trustee Report – Trina Boymook**

* The Budget was released on February 29th. The education budget has increased by 4.4% to cover growth and inflation. Caution to fully cover anticipated growth and inflation would of required around 6% increase. Private schools have seen their funding increase by 13.5%. At this point we don’t know what this budget will mean for EIPS until we get the Budget manual and funding portfolio. The Board have a number of budget working sessions scheduled as we work towards establishing the 2024-25 budget.
* Sherwood Heights/Ecole Campbelltown replacement school has gone out to tender. We are expected to be in the ground this summer.
* The Board is expected to approve the reallocation of surplus dollars for its original purpose at our March 21 Board meeting. We will also be approving the Three-Year Capital Plan.

**Wellness Committee Update– Candice Abraham**

Pink Shirt Day Feedback

It was a great event. We sold 219 shirts and made $275 in profit. For next year, we discussed

possibly doing an art pin instead of a shirt that students could pin to the pink shirts that they

already have. This might increase the number of participants.

Playground Pals

* Counsellor Kelley Mitchell and I met by phone to discuss the logistics of the Playground Pals program. As per her instructions, this is how she wants it to run:
* 2x/ week on Mondays and Thursdays for three weeks for the weeks of April 8th, April 19th and April 22nd for training with leadership students and parent volunteers.
* Then the program will continue to run in full 2x/week for the next seven weeks (week of April 29th to week of June 10th).
* The program will run for grades 1 and 2. Each class will split in half and participate in one day.
* Call for about 2-5 parent volunteers to be able to participate in the first three weeks of training and then split up the weeks between them after that.
* Looking for a budget of $300 for Playground Pals equipment, which will come out of the clubs budget for the 2023/24 school year.

Mustang Mention Donations

* Lots of Donations already coming in after the first email out to parents
* Mellissa Presse (on fundraising) will store donations for us until we need them
* We will accept cash donations and gift certificates
* If you want your company mentioned as sponsorship then you can’t get a gift receipt
* We can thank a company in the Mustang Mentions

Sobeys Snacks

* Watermelon for Track and Field Days and Summer Sizzler.
* Track days to take place sometime in early to mid June

**Chair report – Lynn Walker**

1. Communication:

Social media platform update:

* Facebook DCE: 571 members
* Facebook DCE School Council & Fundraising Society: 296 members
* X (formerly Twitter) handle @DavidsonCreek: 117 following / 223 followers

1. COSC Update: Meeting March 6, 2024

**KEY AGENDA TOPICS**

* Board Report
* ATA Report
* Caregiver Education Series
* Canadian Parents for French – Alberta
* EIPS Annual Feedback Survey: For Parents and Caregivers
* What ASCA does for school councils and resolutions for the AGM
* Board-sponsored Registration Attendees

**BOARD REPORT**

EIPS Board Chair Cathy Allen presented the Board Report. From March 3-5, the Board of Trustees attended the Rural Education Symposium and had a lively discussion about the strengths, challenges and opportunities present in rural education. She also spoke about the Board Mythbusters campaign, sharing a [post from February](https://www.facebook.com/ElkIslandPublicSchools/posts/pfbid0KDP3s5D24dnoeQN8R4g377HVhhmhyBRwDmuUaLZCrGBN1S2voWM7MbRpHmZyk4owl). Stay tuned for more Board Mythbusters on EIPS’ [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ElkIslandPublicSchools/) and [X, formerly known as Twitter](https://twitter.com/eips).

**ATA REPORT**

ATA Local No. 28 President Deneen Zielke presented the ATA Report, highlighting the North Central Teachers’ Convention, meeting of ATA Local Presidents and the ATA’s Political Engagement Seminar. She also spoke about the provincial budget and provided several statistics:

* In advance of the provincial budget, the ATA released their pulse survey results in regards to class size and supports, as well as [Statistics Canada information](https://teachers.ab.ca/news/alberta-ranks-last-education-spending-0) that found education in Alberta is the lowest funded in the country. Alberta needs $1.2 billion to reach the Canadian average and $600 million to reach mid-level.
* $394 million announced to operational spending; however, won’t notice it as enrolment growth this year was up 3.6 per cent at 28,000 students.
* $246 million increase of 3.6 per cent to instructional funding, but assumption is there will be an offset of decreases in grants to fund it. Albertans won’t know until the funding manual is released.
* 4.4 per cent overall increase to funding with 15 per cent increase to private school funding.
* 43 new school and school modernizations—12 get construction funding, 15 get design funding, 10 get planning funding, and don’t know about the other 10.
* Real spending per pupil is down 13 per cent over 6 years.

**CAREGIVER EDUCATION SERIES: March**  
Alberta Health Services hosts a series of virtual caregiver information sessions focused on ways to support students’ mental health. The sessions are free and geared toward parents, caregivers, teachers and community members who want to learn more about challenges impacting children and adolescents. Session topics include anxiety, depression and technology, while teaching leadership skills, communication, resiliency and more. [Learn more](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DEL0w4SZyxc2ZCapwgkYELLXyjb1kHU1/view?usp=sharing)

* Understanding Self-Injury
* Collaborative Problem Solving
* Junior High Jitters
* Resilience through Connecting, Caring, and Coping

**CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH – ALBERTA**

COSC Chair Kendra Roemer discussed [Canadian Parents for French – Alberta](https://ab.cpf.ca/en/)—a non-profit organization that furthers bilingualism by promoting opportunities to learn and use French for all those who call Canada home. On the website, you can find events, programs and resources geared to students, families and educators.

**EIPS ANNUAL FEEDBACK SURVEY: For Parents and Caregivers**

EIPS Associate Superintendent Ryan Marshall asked for COSC members help with promoting the [EIPS Annual Feedback Survey: For Parents and Caregivers](https://www.eips.ca/about-us/planning-and-results/annual-feedback-survey). He encouraged members to talk about the survey at school council meetings, parent-teacher interviews and other relevant events. A PDF of the survey questions and a survey QR code poster are available in the [March COSC meeting package](https://www.eips.ca/download/443150). If you’re looking for physical copies of the questions or posters, there are some left over from the meeting. If you’d like to pick some up from EIPS Central Services, contact [Emma Small](mailto:emma.small@eips.ca).

**WHAT ASCA DOES FOR SCHOOL COUNCILS AND RESOLUTIONS FOR THE AGM**

Representatives from the [Alberta School Councils’ Association](https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/) (ASCA) presented at the meeting. ASCA Executive Director Wendy Keiver discussed what ASCA offers to school councils, including learning opportunities, support services, resources and more. Brandi Rai, President of the ASCA Board of Directors, spoke about ASCA’s advocacy efforts and the [resolutions](https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/download/files/241024) that will be voted on at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). A [recording](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PuNlFDVe7kY) of the presentation is available for all COSC members unavailable to attend. The presentation was invaluable and a highly recommended watch for those looking to understand ASCA’s role.

* Integrate Climate and Biodiversity Education Throughout the Curriculum from K-12
* Funding for More Assessments of Learning Disabilities
* Improving Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) in Alberta Classrooms and Shared Environments
* Equity in Playground Funding
* Preserving Safe and Inclusive Spaces for 2SLGBTQI+ Students
* Resource Support for French Immersion Teachers (Available Before Implementation of
* Curriculum Changes)
* Enhanced Reporting of and Support for Class Size and Complexity

**BOARD-SPONSORED REGISTRATION ATTENDEES**

The Board-sponsored registration for the ASCA Conference and AGM is full for 2024. The nine attendees are:

* Amy Prenc-Perry, Clover Bar Junior High
* Andrea Brown, École Campbelltown
* April Childs, Lakeland Ridge
* Christan Rasmussen, Westboro Elementary
* Jordana Feist, James Mowat Elementary
* Kendra Roemer, Mills Haven Elementary
* Kim Scott, Sherwood Heights Junior High
* Krystal Gibson, Salisbury Composite High
* Tawnia McQueen, Wes Hosford Elementary

On **March 15**, EIPS administration will take care of registering these nine individuals for the conference and AGM. If something has changed, contact [Emma Small](mailto:emma.small@eips.ca) before this date.

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES**

* **March 11-15:** [Substitute Appreciation Week](https://www.eips.ca/calendar#month/2024/03/event/2024/03/11/531117)
* **March 11-15:** [Week of Inspirational Math](https://www.eips.ca/calendar#month/2024/03/event/2024/03/11/539907)
* **March 15:** [EIPS Round Dance](https://www.eips.ca/calendar#month/2024/03/event/2024/03/15/541698)
* **March 22:** School Closure Day (schools closed)
* **March 25-29:** Spring break (schools closed)
* **March 29:** Good Friday (Central Services closed)
* **April 1:** Easter Monday (schools and Central Services closed)
* **April 3:** Early Dismissal

**Principal Report – Helene Hewitt**

**2024-25 Final Fees Decision:**

* Request a $10 increase to noon supervision fees to offset possible deficit and to potentially hire more staff
* Request only minimal extra-curricular fee increases to cover increased costs for example, increase bus costs for swimming, etc.

**Celebrations**

* Pink Shirt Day was a success!
* Running Club competition was a huge success with 3 out of 6 team making the finals and girls placing 6th overall and boys 12th overall
* Clubs are a success - Pokémon Club, Badminton Club started. Choir is ready to sing at the Oil Kings Game
* DARE program coming to an end soon
* PL day: Teachers worked on collaboratively scoring descriptive writing to ensure continuity between grades given and to create a writing continuum across the grades. Used time to discuss next steps for supporting writing skills at each grade level.
* Our tipi is back up and we have been having regular smudging opportunities that are well attended
* This is the Week of Inspirational Math

**Upcoming Events**

* Volunteer Appreciation Event April 26 in the afternoon (time TBD) - save the date
* Josh Classan Weather Watchers coming to DCE April 30
* Hats On for Mental Health - May 1
* Pancake Day - May 31
* Family Dance - May 10 could we get a parent committee to help pick a theme, decorate and run concession?
* Kinder Information Night - May 14

**Early Enrolment Forecasting**

* Our preliminary numbers are looking great with a total of around 651 students
  + Kinder - 70 Grade 4 - 105
  + Grade 1 – 78 Grade 5 - 99
  + Grade 2 - 76 Grade 6 - 99
  + Grade 3 - 120
* We have not begun staffing or determining number/arrangement of classes yet

**EIPS Survey Time**

* Did you take the [survey yet](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KBG7F3Z)? So important that you share your feedback about our school!
* Facebook posting? Tell your friends! Instagram posting coming soon!

**Staffing Update**

* Mrs. Mikitka is going on a medical leave soon

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday April 11, 2024, 6:30pm to 8:30 pm

Meeting Adjourned at 8:03 pm.