

Avondale School Council Meeting Agenda and Minutes
Wed, Oct 18, 2024

1. Call to Order 6:33 pm
2. Introductions- Lynn Vanderveen, Mark Sandul, Angelina Burrows, Tracey Thiemann, Jae LeClerc, Steve Ward, Andre Oulette Regrets: Naomi and Dylan Bressey, Emerald Rosvold
3. Approval of Agenda- Mark moved Angelina seconded
4. Approval of Minutes from Sept 18, 2024-Angelina moved, Steve seconded
5. Treasurer Report-\$188.92
6. School Board Report – Andre Oullette (Insert here)
7. Administrator’s Report – Tracey Thiemann Principal’s report here – see below

[Alberta School Council Resource Guide](#)

8. Actions from last meeting
 - Welcome to our new School Council
 - a. Chair- Mark Sandul – Introduced himself
 - b. Vice Chair- Emerald Rosvold
 - c. Secretary- Angelina Burrows- Introduced herself
 - d. Treasurer- Naomi Bressey & Angelina Burrows
 - e. Meeting minutes have been linked to the newsletter/website School Council section in newsletter with updated contact info and important information.
 - f. Naomi Bressey, Mark Sandul and Angelina Burrows have signing authority for Avondale School Council bank account. Naomi will set up banking appointment to make these changes. This meeting needs to be set up.
9. New Business
 - a. Traffic Safety-action plan
 - The southwest side crosswalk is not well lit and it is busy.
 - Discussed the possibility of the AMA program- Tracey will continue to work with AMA. She wondered whether our school would be approved as it is a busy crosswalk. The minimum to approve would be to obtain a flashing light installation. Mark will measure the distance from the crosswalk to the end of the no parking zone.

- Would like to get flashing lights as per the 110 Avenue and 102 Street crossing.
 - It was suggested that a delegation to the city council might help with the case to mark the crosswalk.
- b. Walk-a-thon- Oct 10th
- This event took place from 2:15-3:00 pm on Oct. 10. Students walked while staff counted laps. Ms. Kay played music to keep the event festive. Students will collect pledges from family and friends until October 21. There will be prizes awarded for top fund raisers and students will receive tickets for completed laps that will be put into a draw for prizes. The Prize assembly will be on October 24th assembly.
- c. Family Dance – Oct 24th
- The event will run from 6:30-8:00pm
 - Bake sale and canteen treats including chips, water, and candy bags.
 - Andre offered to volunteer at the canteen.
 - Jae will pick up the Costco treats.
- d. Munch a lunch- Oct 24th
- The deadline for Munch a Lunch will be tomorrow, October 19.
 - A suggestion was made to post the meals ahead of time to allow for future ordering.
 - Next meals include Edo on Nov. 19 and McDonald's on Dec. 17

10. Questions/Other Business

- The Turkey Dinner will take place on Dec. 12. Details to follow.
- Steve asked about snow removal access with the newer cement barricades.
- Jae explained that the space by the red shed and the other access near the bus lane at the alley allows for the equipment to get into the yard to clear the snow.

11. Date of Next Meeting: November 20, 2024

12. Adjournment - Mark adjourned the meeting at 7:07 pm

Celebrations and Appreciation

Students participated in Orange Shirt Day learning activities throughout the week in their classroom. We ended the week with our Orange Shirt day Assembly. Al Crawford from Bigstone Cree First Nation performed drumming and sang for the students and the children then participated in round dance. Students participated in a division wide project- tree of reconciliation in which they all attached leaves with words and thoughts related to reconciliation.

The walkathon was held on Oct 10- We are in the process of collecting in our pledges. There are prizes for top fundraisers as well as for participation. The walkathon is our biggest fundraiser and supports funding for presentations and field trips as well as subsidizing some of the costs for skiing.

We had a performance group visit- Evergreen Theatre. Snow White and the Seven Regions, a curriculum-based musical theatre. We had 9 students participate in the performance.

Staffing

Slight increase in EA allotment with another 5. going to support in Kindergarten

Collaborative Work and Staff Focus

- *Teachers first Professional Growth Plan meetings happened last month, teachers are using evidence in the classroom. Teachers use evidence to target area this month to help improve students' growth.*
- *Educational Assistants – Para Bytes / online platform that supports teachers and Educational Assistants learning, behavior, academic, social emotional strategies.*
- *We are collaborating with the staff of Swanavon to work through responsive planning which provides teachers with the benefit of having a grade level partner.*

Information:

Mental Health Support- Avondale will have 1 counselor social worker this year.

Nadine Jackson - Social worker GPPSD two to three days a week (social skills, one on one, counseling)

Danica Nepesis – Indigenous support worker. She has been in working with the students and was a great help with the orange shirt day activities.

Nov 4th Triple ball tournament- Mrs. Leclerc and Mrs. Kaylea have been running practices with the grade 5 and 6 students at lunch recess. (first weekend of November)

November 8th Remembrance Day Assembly- Students will be presenting

Interventions:

- Our school has two 1.0 EA's working with students who have learning gaps in literacy and numeracy. EA interventionist Mandi Plant
- ELL/ Indigenous – intervention targeted for our grades 4-6. EA interventionist Liz Knelsen
- Elder Darlene Cardinal- Has been working with our students for the last several years. Was with us for four weeks and is now sharing her wisdom to other schools in the division (Seven Sacred Teachings, Treaty 8, respect, and acceptance)
- Mrs. Lorraine Thompson is again our snack provider this year. This funding will be discontinued next year so we will need to find another way to continue with the program.

Donations

Looking for corporate sponsors for our Turkey Dinner to be held the second week of December.

District Communications

We are pleased to have Andrew Oullette joining us this year as our school board trustee.

Alberta Schools Council Engagement Grant & Alberta Schools Council Association Workshops

We can apply for funding; school council can decide what workshops or engagement grants they wish to apply for. See handout

ASCE GRANT INFORMATION (pages 144-146 [Funding Manual 24 25](#))

The Alberta School Council Engagement grant will provide each school council with \$500 to improve communication and engagement with parents in their local communities. The funds will be used for engagement activities such as broadening the number of school

events that include parents, diversifying communication tools used by councils and activities that seek out the advice of other parents. This grant allows the department to work directly with school councils to focus on education priorities while strengthening the capacity of schools to improve student learning and enhance students' experience at school.

Important Upcoming Events and Dates:

October

- Oct 10 – Walk a Thon
- Oct 24- Family Dance
- Oct. 25 – Professional Learning Day
- Oct. 31 – School Spirit Day: Halloween Costumes

November

- Nov. 4 – Staff Meeting
- Nov. 6 – Parent-Teacher Interviews 5-8 p.m.
- Nov. 7 – Parent Teacher Interviews 4-7 p.m.
- Nov 8 – Remembrance Day Assembly
- Nov. 11 – Remembrance Day (no school)
- Nov. 21 – School Spirit: Pajama Day
- Nov 22- PL Day (no school students)

SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATES October 8 Board Meeting

ELEMENTARY REPORT CARD DEVELOPMENT The work to prepare a new K-6 report card, to align with the new provincial curriculum, is in the final stages of collecting feedback from schools in preparation for use during the first reporting period. Teacher resources to support their understanding and use of the new report card have been developed by the Working Group and reviewed at schools. A Guide for Parents has also been developed as well and will be made available to parents at each school.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY 2024 The Board were shown a video illustrating the work done in schools in September leading up to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Trustees expressed appreciation to the division's Indigenous Liaison team, school staff, and students in grades k-8

for the work they did to build reconciliation trees in the schools and to provide an opportunity for our school community to share what truth and reconciliation means to them.

ANALYSIS OF STUDENT ENROLMENT • Division enrolments increased by 1.36%, which is below the 3.1% growth that was projected. In each of the last two years the division exceeded initial projections, growing by 5% each year, so the initial projections were increased slightly for this year. • Pre-Kindergarten (PUF) enrolments are currently at projection. Full funding will be provided for eligible students enrolled in programming by December 1, 2024. As new students continue to be eligible for PUF funding, we anticipate increased enrolment. • Notable increases over grade 9 projections continue. • The Bridge Network is 24 students above projection. High school principals, in collaboration with system leadership, redesigned the Bridge Network intake process. The outcome of the new process has seen a continued increase in student enrolments prior to the end of September.

DUAL CREDIT STARTUP FUNDING The division has recently received a grant from Alberta Education to support work with Northwestern Polytechnic to create new opportunities for dual credit high school courses in the areas of health, sciences, technology, engineering and math. Dual Credit courses are courses that high school students can enroll in during their grade 11 and 12 years that allow them to earn high school credits towards their grade 12 diploma and also post-secondary credits towards a certificate, diploma or degree. It is important for all parents to know these opportunities exist, as it is an excellent opportunity for students who are interested and ready to explore future career interests while in high school, at no cost, rather than paying to take courses after high school. More information about pathways through high s