School Council Meeting Minutes November 3rd, 2026

Meeting Details
6:30 PM / In person @ Dalhousie Elementary/ Hybrid via Microsoft teams

Land Acknowledgement: Becket Crossland

Attendees: Erick Noriega, Sra. Jackson, Srta Canji, Srta Domingez, Sr. Sala, Melissa Kurtz, Michelle Kay, Amanda Tsai, Heather Ryan, Shannon Wagner, Kelsey Forest, Caitlin Schneider, Lara Mack, Heather Haberli, Aliya Ramji, Melissa Tchir, Jackie Bilsky, Rachel Crossland, Shannon Gibson, Valeria Noda, Lori Walker Krause, Jesse Kay

Topic	**Discussion**
Grade 5 Srta Canji, Srta Domingez & Sr Sala Presentation	Grade 5 are learning Latin American studies. Started with geography & flags. After they identified all countries on a map. They did specific countries. Sr. Salas class did Chile as a class and did oral practice, watched videos and presented in Spanish. They will then break out and work on their own country. Srta. Domingez worked on Columbia, listening to Shakira and did an exercise where they had to guess where all the teachers are from.
Principle Updates	<u>School Development Plan</u> • Year 3 of 3. This is not to change to much. But make minor tweaks and see what we need to add. Two objectives: • Reading comprehension • Students will improve Spanish comprehension and increased oral use, • Reading actions to improve across Div 1. Small group intentional reading. Grouping children into compatible groups. • Working on Tear 2 or 3 development of reading. • This will be posted on the website once its approved.

	School Improvement Results Report • Provincial screeners – early literacy group. • At risk students Grade 1 went down 12% • Grade 2 at risk students went down 19.5% • First year of grade 6 provincial exams. 92.9% achieved acceptable standards. • 59.7% achieved the standard of reaching comprehension. • 87.5% said they can work through challenges • June report card 2026 97.9% met grade level in Spanish oral speech. • 81.1% of made 3's or 4's in Spanish oral reading. • Teachers are working on high impact strategies. • Continue with reading comprehension in English and Spanish. Alberta Ed Screeners • Will happen 3 times this year. Fall, January and Spring for any at risk kids. Grades 1-5 • Kindergarten only in January. • It's a diagnostic tool. Gives teachers a starting point for students at risk. November Parent Teacher Conferences • Will be held Nov 26th 5-8 & Nov 27th 9-2. • Portal will be opened Monday Nov 9th.
Key Communicator update from Lara	School Council Meeting • Working on adding more support into schools and class size reduction. • Looking for need for modernizing school. • Key focus areas in learning excellence well being and truth and reconciliation. • Suggested to invite a trusty to a SC meeting. • Table discussion. What is one SC initiative that has been successful. – Read-a-thon which brought forward literacy. Next meeting January 2027 Attached is a copy of the meeting transcrips.

Heather Haberli Shares information on Grants	• **<u>Alberta School Council Engagement Grant</u>** • Heather has outlined the information pertaining to the grand funding and examples of parent engagement activities and projects. • She has also presented a couple of Grant ideas such as the Calgary Police Discovery Centre Cyber Safety Presentation and additional other ideas. March 3rd at 6:30pm has been booked. • All notes and suggestion are attached to the meeting minutes. **SC has set a meeting for our January Meeting.**
Greeting from the SC Chairs	• **<u>3 Year plan for residencies</u>** Prepare a multiple-choice survey for grades 3,4 & 5. This will be sent to students in class to complete. Which past residencies were best and options for new. Explore new options for learning development. Looking to get ready for January for results in Feb/March. • **<u>Stationary bikes with Casino Funds</u>** Getting stationary bikes for kids who need to get rid of some energy in class. Self-Regulation classroom cruiser. Enough for every classroom. Cost is approx. $1000.00 per bike. Propose to use Casino funds. • **<u>Grade 5/6 School safety Patrol Program.</u>** Would love to encourage Grades 5 & 6 to support safety patrol this spring. Find the time to incorporate into teaching. • **<u>Bus Zone</u>** Permit has been submitted to move the Bus zone to the pick-up zone and drop off zone will be all at the bottom of the school yard. This will be implemented when the permits are approved.

New Meeting Schedules	The following meetings will be held on Tuesdays. 2026/2027 meetings are as follows. Dec - No Meeting Jan 5th – Online Meeting only Feb 2nd March 2nd April 6th May 4th June 1th

Next Meeting: Tuesday January 5th, 2027 ONLINE

Upcoming meeting agenda will be posted on the school website proper to following meeting.
Limited copies to be printed and shared at in-person meeting.
E-mail us with ideas/contributions: dalhousieschoolcouncil@gmail.com

School Council Handbook: https://cbe.ab.ca/FormsManuals/School-Council-Handbook.pdf
Dalhousie School Website - School Council: https://dalhousie.cbe.ab.ca/school-council

Alberta School Council Engagement (ASCE) Grant
https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/download/files/231419

- Funding to school authorities for each school in order to support school councils fulfilling their legislated responsibilities in the education system and enhancing parent involvement and engagement.
- School authorities are responsible for ensuring that the funds are disbursed to their schools and made available to the school councils. Funds must not be directed to registered fundraising societies.
- The decisions for the use of the funds must be made by the school councils.
- Funds are to be used to support school councils in fulfilling their legislated responsibilities and for parent involvement and engagement activities.
- Responsibilities and regulation per the Education Act include: advising the principal and the board, consulting with the principal so that the principal may ensure that students in the school have the opportunity to meet the standards of education set by the Minister, consulting with the principal so that the principal may ensure that the fiscal management of the school is in accordance with the requirements of the board and the superintendent, establishing and implementing policies in the school that the school council considers necessary to carry out its functions, making bylaws governing its meetings and the conduct of its affairs, advising on the development of school education plans, annual education results reports and budget, and - completing and providing an annual report to the school board summarizing its activities and detailing the receipt
- Parent involvement and engagement activities that: - broaden the number of school events that include parents; - diversify the communication tools used to reach parents; and - seek out the advice and ideas of other parents.
- Annually, school councils should establish local priorities aligned with the grant purpose that the funds will support.

Examples of parent engagement activities and projects that funds can be used for include:

- workshops for parents to increase capacity for school council members
- information sessions on how parents can support student learning at home and at school
- parent resources and workshops on important topics such as, mental health and well-being, cyber bullying, healthy living, etc.
- programs to support multi-cultural and Indigenous families including, English language learners and First Nations, Métis and Inuit learners
- parent resources and tools in multiple languages

- events to engage parents on important local issues
- conference fees
- parent engagement in promoting the value of arts
- trainer/facilitator costs for the professional development
- workshops or sessions associated with the above.

Examples of non-allowable expenses include:

- entertainment costs, meals, snacks, other food
- no capital asset purchases
- activities that have already taken place
- organization memberships
- fundraising events
- prizes or incentives to parents and/or students
- payment to school board staff including honoraria, gifts
- entertainment activities such as barbeques, volunteer teas, movie nights, dances, concerts or performances, etc.

All funds provided should be spent in the school year in which they are allocated. Any unused funds may be required to be returned to Alberta Education and Childcare. School authorities are expected to support their school councils to ensure funds are spent appropriately. As per Section 13(2) and 14(1) of the School Councils Regulation, school councils must annually report to the board on the receipt, handling and use of the ASCE Grant.

SC Grant ideas

March 3 Calgary Police Discovery Centre Cyber Safety Presentation at 6:30 pm - booked. By donation, last year we paid $200. How SM impacts youth and mental health, tips for positive use, ways to protect privacy and personal information online, how to recognize and respond to cyberbullying, scams, online threats, simple strategies to keep your family safe in today's digital world.

Note: Facebook group online provided some of these ideas, and it was also noted that they have merged funding with other councils to afford larger workshops, as well as hosted their SC event on a PD day and invited / participated with teachers and admin at the school.

Other ideas

-Creating a parent lending library with recommended books - can also be online subscription to journal or access to children's books / resources that can be shared.

-Are there residencies that might want to showcase their teachings or what they have to offer so that we can allocate support? Similar to the yellow-steps program (this might not require grant funding either)

-Indigenous beading workshop - Ravens Nest, traditional Iyethka teachings (Elder Tracey Stevens)

-Another CBE school had an Artist teach how to paint Ukrainian eggs. We could explore Spanish or Hispanic culture art? Waiting to hear back from the Hispanic Arts Society,

-Motivational magic show
“Steve is anything but a talking head. Through the use of magic, music, juggling, comedy, audience participation, movement, live animals and storytelling, Steve Harmer shares messages in creative and innovative ways. You’ll laugh, you’ll listen, you’ll learn and you may even cry as Steve shares messages that touch the head and the heart.
Steve’s presentations are excellent for parents, groups, teachers, conventions, service clubs, health care providers, community functions and professional groups.”

-Warren Macdonald - amputee / keynote speaker from the Bow Valley, motivational speaker on perception, how you think, speak, act, and how we see as being a choice, experience change. In 1997 he was crushed by a one tonne boulder climbing in Australia. Google “warren macdonald speaker demo reel” to see examples. He said not to worry about cost, if he can do it he’ll work within the budget. He will be in Australia until early May.

-Latin dance class

-Cooking class / workshop (online) connected to hispanic culture for example:

https://www.casamexico.ca/post/cooking-a-mexican-tradition-chile-en-nogada-with-chef-rodrigo-perez

This dish comes with a story: "a traditional Chile en Nogada was prepared in Puebla for Agustín de Iturbide after he signed the treaty of Córdoba, the document which established Mexican Independence from Spain. With its colourful ingredients representing the Mexican flag, this recipe is the perfect meal for a month of festivities and celebrating Mexican pride!"

-ASCA School Council Learning Opportunities:
https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/download/files/359510
***Parent Engagement, Knowledge and Skill Building Essentials* 1.5 – 2 hours $2400 +GST (Preparing for Your AGM(s), School Council Purpose, The Work of School Council: It's NOT About the Meeting, The Assurance Framework and School Councils, The School Council-Trustee Relationship, Tools for Effective School Councils, Engagement in Your School Community, Managing School Council Meetings, Fundraising Association, Roles & Relationships)**

-I can reach out and explore more mental wellness resources, the Foothills academy may be willing to present their workshops to our group, Online they are $10/person.

Examples include:
A Gut Feeling: How Your Child's Gut Health May Be Impacting Their ADHD.
Empowered Parents, Confident Kids: Simple Steps to Home Learning Success
Supporting your child with literacy, writing, and math at home can be a positive and rewarding experience.
Helping Kids Get It Together: Understanding Executive Function from Childhood to the Teen Years Learning Differently: Strengths, Identity and Finding Our Own Way

Creative Sky psychology- local business

https://www.creativeskypsychology.com/