

Strathcona School Council

AGENDA

Tuesday October 21, 2025, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Location: Learning Commons, Strathcona PS (in person) MS Teams (online)

Attendance: Erin Fuller, Bethany Elliot, Jennie Vengris, Lindsey Sheahan, Ash McGhee, Carol-Lee Lodder, Tanya Bates, Ms. Depew, Niki

Regrets: Victoria Deans

1. Land Acknowledgement (Erin Fuller)
2. School Council Membership
 - a. Co-chairs: Erin Fuller (sage); Bethany Elliot (main)
 - b. Secretary: Laura Fenwick-Sehl (sage)
 - c. Member(s) at large: Victoria Deans (main), Jennie Vengris (sage), Ash McGhee (main), Carol-Lee Lodder (sage), Tanya Bates (sage)
 - i. Discussion of parity between sage & main program representation on council. Currently there are three main members and five main members. Can we do more recruitment of main parents? Ms. Sheahan has tried some targeted recruitment of main parents.
 - ii. Discussion of meeting format - in person vs hybrid vs online. A decision was made to try a variety of formats to see which encourages the most participation.
 - iii. Meeting schedule: Thursday November 27 6 PM (virtual); Wednesday January 28 6 PM; Tuesday March 24; Thursday May 28 6 PM (in person). Ms Sheahan will post these dates on the website and in the newsletter.
 - iv. Ms. Sheahan will put on website and in the newsletter
3. Chair's Report
 - a. Check in around school streets - from an anecdotal perspective it seems to be going well. Ms. Sheahan noted concerns around students arriving late and parents choosing to drive more as the weather gets colder; these will be concerns to monitor.
 - b. Discussion re. Recent news article about a "super school" on the former Sir John A. McDonald site). The proposal has been approved by the trustees and will now be sent to the ministry. There is concern on the council about what this means for the playground committee. We do not want to be investing time and money in the playground project if there is potential for the school to be closed. How do we continue to attempt to revive the playground committee in the context of the new information? Suggestion to focus on items that are not permanent and/or could be moved e.g. planters. Ms. Sheahan explained the process and that if the super school is approved it would still be many years away. Ms. Sheahan to see about more information from the board level.
4. Teacher's Report (Barbara Depew)
 - a. Cross country went really well!
 - b. Terry Fox was in the park this year and was amazing

- c. Spirit days have started
 - d. Swim team is up and running
 - e. BGC is running a few groups at lunch for grades 3, 4, & 5. Glow girls, for students who identify as female, focus on leadership skills, relationships, and positive talk. Game on, for students who identify as male, focus on sports, positive relationships, and leadership. ELL group on Fridays. Discussion on gender division with these groups; this is a decision made by BGC, and it has been noted that some boys/girls may be interested in participating in either group.
 - f. A few classes working with McMaster to make storybooks - Sage gr. 1, 2-3, & an ELL group with Ms. Depew
5. Principal Report (Lindsey Sheahan)
- a. The tree planting trip for Sage grade 1 & 2-3 may need to be postponed because of a new excursion procedure for trips involving waivers.
 - b. Discussion around the school improvement plan which is currently in the process of being written. The overall goal is to see an increase all around in terms of literacy, numeracy, and well-being. There are many different interventions in the school for literacy and some for numeracy. For well-being, there is a focus on student sense of belonging at school. Data to measure well-being includes results from the school climate survey of grades 4 & 5 students, as well as attendance data.
 - c. Questions regarding school climate strategy: can the data be shared with parents? Is there a way for the purpose of the survey to be explained in further detail to the students so that the data collected is relevant and useful? Ms. Sheahan will look into these questions.
 - d. Hired new grade 2-3 teacher as well as a music teacher (0.1)
 - e. Three of the five scooter locks provided have broken and Ms. Sheahan will replace them. Parents to speak with Principal Sheahan if their children need scooter locks. There are no more scooters in the office!
6. SAGE Update
- a. Fresh from the Farm whole school fundraiser just finished
 - b. Fall fling event is not happening this year
 - c. Winter wonderland/gala even in planning
 - d. Strong interest in connecting with SHASA
7. SHASA Update
- a. Halloween dance on Thursday, October 23 at 6:30 PM

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 27 at 6 PM, virtual only.