



HSS School Council Meeting Tuesday, February 6th, 2024 STEM classroom (former learning HUB) 7-8 pm

1 min **Call to order and welcome** – Margie Steingart School Council Chair

1 min **Acceptance of minutes as circulated from November 29th, 2023 meeting**

Pam first, Tracey 2nd

1 min **Additions to the agenda/acceptance of the agenda**

10 min **HSS school council reports:**

- **Financial report** – Pam Barker School Council Co-chair
 - \$3093.00 currently in the parent council account
 - ASCA account currently has a balance of \$21.03
 - \$500 annual grant money will go to the ASCA account once distributed to the school
 - Some discussion around parent council account money being previously earmarked. Pam will investigate and a statement that can be voted on at meeting will be created for how funds used moving forward.
 - After the March CASINO tasks complete - the school, school council and HSSEF need to have discussions around how/if HSSEF can be our fundraising arm/hold the cash.
- **Communication:**
 - 1) from school: Margie noted that lots of work is done between the school council and the school in between our monthly meetings, these meetings really serve as a recap of the last month, and game planning for the future. We are seeing lots of positive communication from the school (teacher emails at start of semesters, communication from admin has been great and continues to improve)
 - 2) with classroom: teacher emails have been well received by parents and should continue, seems to be opening up lines of communication more and more
 - 3) in athletics: lots of conversations happening around the use of TeamSnap and how to utilise it better. New email address (hssathletics@cesd73.ca) to separate athletics communications from Mr. Evans' school communications. This email is monitored by 4-5 staff so it is more efficient. School should find a way to better communicate to parents and community about how much is truly on Athletic Director's plate, and how more engagement from parents and community would bring lots of benefit to HSS athletics. We discussed listing scheduled sports games on the website, and signage to communicate sports events upcoming.
 - 4) from school council: new banner and logo have been rolled out. Will see this branding on all communications, on the school council portion of website, etc.
- **Assurance survey** - Came in mail for parents of kids in grade 4,7,10. Data gathered is used to determine provincial and local education plans. **It's important!! Please do it by March 1st.**
 - This data is very useful at the local and provincial level for education initiatives so parents all strongly urged to complete the surveys
 - Dean noted that he feels strongly it is also very important to follow up with school admin regarding survey answers as well, as there are no comment sections available and Dean wants to know details, positive and negative, about how the school is doing for the community
- **School council learning** - Connie Jakab [Connie Jakab](#)
 - Booked for Tuesday April 23rd afternoon assembly with MS and HS. Parent evening 6:30-8.
 - Please follow her social media, listen to The Brave Podcast or read/autobook Bring Them Closer

- **Parent Matters** (CESD initiative to hear from parents) - Tracy Brown Ewert
 - 4 main areas of discussion at recent Parent Matters meet
 - 1. Accelerator Diploma Study Sessions: positive feedback, well received. About 30 students participated across Math, Chem, Bio. It was noted that the Math session needed to be signed up for quickly. Some fine tuning and scheduling improvements noted for moving forward.
 - 2. Some questions were submitted to Kurt Sacher focused on the increase in complex needs seen in students and some of the divisions approaches to this including resources required, plans to deal with these complex needs and the impact of these complex needs on school staff. Also discussed an increased focus on mental health awareness seeming to coincide with an overall decrease in students mental health.
 - 3. Topic of the Night: Budgeting. Looking at doing a 'ROG' (?) budgeting game at a Parent Matters meeting, possibly an exercise to do with the school council as well? This is an exercise in the ratio of staff to students within defined budget
- **Current playground decommissioned summer 2025**
 - Parent committee will need to be created to start planning/fundraising process
 - On going; HSSEF possible society to hold the cash so grant application/tx to coordinate fundraising

10 min **Parent engagement opportunities:**

- **Please get current police checks to the office to be able to volunteer for any activity**
- **HSSMA (music association)** – Andrea Morton hssma.pts@gmail.com Jan 25th, 6:30pm
 - Band is going to camp Evergreen this year
 - Grade 8/9 doing a Banff trip
 - Grade 10/11 students doing a Lethbridge trip
 - Some of our own HSS students were invited to participate in Honor Band. Very excited for them and proud of them. Will be an Honor Band concert this year.
 - Upcoming fundraiser in April
- **Kodiak Booster Club (support school athletics)** – Lindsey Good
 - Society is still in the process of formation
 - Goal is to enhance and develop the athletics experience at HSS
 - Concessions at Boys and Girls SR Basketball tournaments was successful
 - Booster Club will need a secretary for AGM late March
 - Will be looking for sport specific champions within the Booster club (parents and athletes), need people passionate for the sport they are championing and gender specific sports will need champions eventually
 - Second annual prospect camp happening in March. Scouts from 4 post secondary schools currently confirmed to be attending. Open to Grade 11 and 12 boys basketball players from areas all around us.
- **HSSEF (enhancement fund/fundraising)** – Jen Massop hssef@gmail.com Mar 4th, 7pm
 - Casino dates in Red Deer Wed March 13th and Thur March 14th
- **HSS lunch and breakfast programs** – Yvonne Tempany ytempany@cesd73.ca
- **Teacher lunch Feb 15th, March 21st** - parent supervision needed. Sign up link sent by office.
 - Going very well, teachers really appreciate these a lot

5 min **School reports:**

- **Student leadership video reports**
Students presented current initiatives for school spirit and community engagement. Fundraiser to go to Alberta Student Leadership Association conference

5 min **Trustee's Report:** Melissa Copley

- CESD board of trustees priorities and recommendations; meeting summary from Feb 6th
 - Currently processing the final data from last year and looking at budget planning
 - Reviewing policies and procedures

15 min **Principal's Report:** Dean Nielsen, Kristina Rentz, Teri Sadek

- Key updates in policy, programing, communication
 - Career fair was very successful for the students, still need to refine things and make it a more meaningful experience for the parents
 - NEW logo decals are going up around the school
 - Waiting for a permit for the new outdoor sign and one last quote, expecting a summer install
 - Working on video series to educate / inform school community on topics such as: CA's, FLT blocks, Academy (hockey with robotics, dance/cheer planned for next year.), HSS athletics, the role of the Athletic Director, school council, etc.
- Grade 10 internship April 24-26
 - Opportunity for students to be in career settings that they may be interested in for future career. May help define the WHY school is important to an end goal.
- Costs for extracurricular and option classes
 - Discussed optional fee for mandatory grade 5 and 6 band to cover costs of cleaning and maintaining instruments
 - There is a belief that the cost of athletics needs to increase at HSS to start injecting funds into moving sports forward in our school - would need to accompany clear communication around goals and objectives
 - Landon Baker story

10 min **Roundtable discussion** – where parents have opportunity to highlight their perspectives

- What areas require growth/consideration and how would you suggest we proceed?
- What does meaningful engagement at HSS look like for your family?
- With all the staff changes in the last year, please define what staff mentorship looks like to help staff succeed at HSS, and most importantly, our students be successful.
 - Dean described the CESD 1 week orientation prior to the school year as well as collaborative initiatives throughout the year. HSS has admin sitting in classrooms as well as teacher collaboration in teaching areas. This term, new initiatives started by some teachers to enhance student learning in certain subjects. For personal learning of other teaching techniques/classroom management, teachers pop into colleague classrooms to observe. This is not necessarily just within subject matter. Admin makes mentoring and additional teaching skills a priority for successful student outcomes.

2 min **Summary of roundtable topics presented to entire room**

Next meeting Tuesday, March 19th, 2024

60 min **Adjournment (meeting over at 8 pm)**

-adjourned 8:18pm by Margie