



HSS School Council Meeting Wednesday, February 5, 2025 Learning Commons 7-8:15pm

In attendance: Margie Steingart, Dean Nielsen, Teri Sadek, Melanie Lorek, Amber Verbonec, Michael Hernden, Terralee Pener, Sara Gill, Tilly Heenan, Ray Pollock

1 min **Call to order at 7:04pm and welcome** –Margie Steingart Past School Council Chair in the absence of Tracy Brown Ewert School Council Chair

1 min **Acceptance of minutes as circulated from Nov 27th, 2024** acceptance by Melanie

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

- Margie Steingart spoke to the goals and role of the school council and explained the Hugh Sutherland School Council 2024/25 Plan. Continue to identify parent engagement as a point to work on. Need for brainstorm creative ideas for the continuum of parent engagement from K-12, asking parents at the meeting for ideas of how to engage parents more.
- Remainder of this year meetings are in the school calendar and already are on Hugh Sutherland Website. 7 pm March 12, April 16th and June 11th are the upcoming dates.
- Margie and Dean both spoke to it being survey season. Assurance Survey coming out from Alberta Education for grade 7 and 10 parents. Data very valuable for planning and we need to get parents to respond. Following that a CESD survey for staff, students and parents will be circulated. Be prepared and engaged.
- ASCA conference is virtual Saturday April 26th. Margie and Tracy to work with admin to host here. Look at collaborating with CES and possibly more within CESD if anyone interested.

5 min **HSS school council reports:**

- **Vacant Vice Chair position**
 - Call for nominations or volunteers
 - ◆ No names put forward tonight.
- **Financial report – \$1342.31**
 - Please come with ideas of how this money can be used within the following framework:
“Funds will be used to benefit students’ experience and HSS community”
 - Use of money from parent engagement grant fund
 - ◆ No specific ideas put forward tonight
- **Current playground removed summer 2025** - update from Dean
 - HSSEF requires parent support to continue the planning/fundraising process:
 - ◆ Terralee Penner spoke and explained role and goals of the HSSEF and specifically spoke to outdoor infrastructure, current fundraisers running and the need for fundraising volunteers. Need to have base funds to get matching grants. All ideas welcome! Also in need of a parent to take on the master fundraising calendar.

10 min **Parent engagement opportunities to enhance school community:**

- **HSSMA (music association)** – Andrea Morton hssma.pts@gmail.com
- **Kodiak Booster Club (support school athletics)** – Lindsey Good gav2007@gmail.com
- **HSSEF (enhancement fund/fundraising)** – Jen Massop hssefs@gmail.com
- **HSS lunch and breakfast programs** – Shellan Holinaty sholinaty@cesd73.ca
- **Teacher lunch supervision** - February 27th [volunteer signup](#)

Still in need of more volunteers for teacher lunch supervision as well as daily lunch in concession. See above links to get help

5 min **School reports:**

- Student leadership- student leadership role at HSS- Dean showed Digital Report of Leadership groups, both middle school and high school. Current and future initiatives to enhance school community within HSS.

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

Melissa sends regrets. Dean reported that the board will pay fee for all schools wanting to attend virtual ASCA conference. Also, the board continues its hire process for new superintendent.

20min **Principal's Report:** Dean Nielsen, Kristina Rentz, Teri Sadek

- New Staff Coming and Going: 2 new career practitioners : 1) Carlie Bradley 2) Sarah Cormier; Julie Williams hired into Library role; Maternity leave for Ms. Peters is Mr. Peter Kwazny and for Ms. Symons is Ms. Cassidy Sawyer; Hub learning will be Ms. Julie Jensen and Ms. Alison Laidlaw.
- Parent feedback for class and teacher selection for students for middle school for 2025/26 school year. New plan will be to ask parents to call and give personal details of extenuating circumstances rather than an open email invitation explaining them. This will allow for more of a dialog between parents and admin. Students will continue to fill in a form answering a few specific questions. This will all be rolling out May 2024 for 2025/26 school year.
- Split classes were brought up by a parent and Dean spoke to them. Tricky to navigate and not ideal. Centered around strategies for communication and perception of what a split class is/could be. Admin recognized there would be points of improvement, should split classes be required in the fall.
- Connecting with COLT: once every three years where CESD superintendents/associate superintendents come to HSS. Dean asking parents tonight for feedback and thoughts of what to speak to the superintendent about from parent perspective. He previously gathered info from students and staff to give a well rounded report.

Positive feedback about internships and dual credits. Positive thoughts of we are doing a great job of "making due" but please communicate that is because our staff and school community are working hard to do so. We struggle with size, facilities, bus lane, highway and 2 large schools in 1 with 1 athletic director (an immense role unlike any other in CESD)

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

- ***When you consider all that is going on at HSS, is there something that you feel is a strength of our school?***
See answers above in the Connecting with COLT section. These same sentiments were shared for this question.
- ***Is there something that you would like the admin team to focus on as plans are made for the 2025-26 school year?***
 - 1) *A parent brought up IPPs (individual learning plans) and the lack of support. How are these followed through the years, including CES to HSS transition?*
 - 2) *Questions and concerns around Options in grade 5-8. Type of options. Why so many? How come some students get first pick based on programing (academies specifically) appears some students not getting any of the options they wanted.*
 - 3) *Questioning the leniency in expectations, due dates for assignments and the general idea of not holding kids to account for late/missing work and incomplete exams. Point was raised that real world does not function that way and perhaps school could find meaningful ways to change within the framework set out for educators.*

The Admin team will take all of the feedback provided into account when working through the priorities for next year.

Next meeting Wednesday, March 12, 2025

80 min **Adjournment of meeting at 820pm**