

HSS School Council Meeting
Wednesday, September 20th, 2023
STEM classroom (former learning HUB) 7-8 pm

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

In attendance - Curtis Shanahan, Michelle Halverson, Pam barker, Liesel Wilson, Bev Hart, Mel Copley, Inza Tegart, Tilly Heenan, Teri Sadek, Kristina Rentz, Dean Neilson, Jen Massop, Sarah Bignel, Darren Owen, Margie Steingart

Meeting called to order, Margie did a brief welcome and introduction of the board

1 min **Acceptance of minutes as circulated from June 8, 2023 meeting**

Inza moved to adopt June 8, 2023 minutes, Pam seconded ... minutes accepted

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

Margie added "Nomination for Secretary & Communication Liaison" to minutes

Pam moved to accept, seconded by Liesel ... Addition accepted

10 min **HSS school council reports:**

- **HSS School Council Plan for 2023/24** – Margie Steingart
 - Margie went over the School Council 'Plan of Action' (which can be found on the HSS website). This plan has already been adopted for the year, Council spent a significant amount of time and effort at the end of last year working on this.
 - We will be working to implement this plan in a 'hands on way' ... focusing especially strongly on it for the first half of the year
 - There are essentially 3 points we would like to introduce or reintroduce to people
 - i. What is School Council
 - ii. How can parents/caregivers connect with the school and their child's development in HSS in a meaningful way
 - iii. Encourage each person to get a Police Check, this enables them to volunteer in any way at the school when the opportunity or need arises
 - For the second half of the year we would like to shift our focus to feedback from the community and parents. At the beginning of the year there are a few surveys that come out, we encourage parents and caregivers to fill these out and submit them. It really does make a difference
- **Financial report** – Pam Barker School Council Co-chair
 - There is not much to report in this area right now as we are waiting on Chinook's Edge to work out the glitches in a new system
 - We have approximately \$2800 in funds but will have to wait until next meeting to get a firm number
 - There is an opportunity for the School Council to apply for an Enhancement Grant, this could go towards opportunities to educate the council on it's duties and ways to engage
 - Next month we will have a more in depth Financial Report
- **ASCA (Alberta School Council Association) learning opportunities for growth**
 - The ASCA has a website with many tools to tell us how School Council's are legislated and how we are able to engage. Check this out for opportunities
 - This may be an area where the above mentioned Grant could be put to use in finding ways we can bring support and offer advice as a council
 - It was also mentioned that "The Brave Podcast" by Connie Jacob is an excellent resource for current learning

- **Current playground decommissioned summer 2025**
 - Parent committee will need to be created to start planning/fundraising process
 - This is something that parents are responsible for, not the school, so we will need to address it in the near future

- **Nominations for Secretary and Communications Liaison**
 - **Curtis Shanahan let his name stand for Secretary**
Nominated by Pam, Seconded by Darren ... passed
 - **Inza Tegart let her name stand for Communication Liaison**
Nominated by Pam, Seconded by Darren ... passed

5 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 AGM Sept 19th
- **HSSEF - Terralee Penner** AGM Sept 25th
- **HSS lunch and breakfast programs** – Yvonne Tempany ytempany@cesd73.ca
- **Kodiak Booster Club (support school athletics)** – Lindsey Good
- Other – field trips, classroom, lunch supervision, coaching, creative programming, parent drivers

5 min **School reports:**

- **Student leadership report from middle school and high school representatives**
 - **Middle School Report**
 - Students from the middle school reported on upcoming dates for Orange Shirt Day and the Terry Fox Run
 - It was also reported that there are plans for a bulletin board for events and perhaps some upcoming movie lunches
 - **High School Report**
 - Students from the high school reported on plans for fundraising and plans for some fun activities to improve school spirit

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

- Sept 5th Board meeting - organisational meeting
 - Lots of reporting from the last year at this meeting
 - Some looking forward to the new school year
 - There are 7 new buses in the system which adds a significant expense
 - Several programs for students were discussed (Yes Program, FSW program etc)
 - There is a noticeable downward trend in the need for some intervention programs
- Reviewed summer learning
 - Jumpstart was a success with even more kids enrolled this year than last year, out of about 123 kids across the division 40 were from HSS
- Education plan: New 3 yr plan by CESD to prepare for
 - Some priorities within plan: student absenteeism, parent involvement
 - 'Red Tape' reduction
 - Career Partnerships/Apprenticeship Programs

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

- The Meet the Teacher BBQ was a success, thank you to all that were involved and helped
- Programming updates
 - Dean listed all the various options being offered this year

- It is the first year that grades 5 & 6 also have the opportunity for options and the teachers are stepping up with some great classes for the students
 - There are some great option opportunities for the High School Students as well
- Staffing updates
 - As staff is hired (or leave) it will be communicated to the HSS community instead of waiting until once a year
- Communications Update
 - Feedback from the community on the new video updates that Dean has been giving, has been positive
 - Hopefully in the future others will also do updates (other staff, students etc)
 - It was suggested that the highlights of the message be included in the body of the email that is sent out with the video
 - Teachers have also been encouraged to send emails to keep parents and students updated and are doing well with the improved communication
- It has been a smooth start to the year, the goal of administration is to provide a calm office that will set the tone for the school

10 min **Roundtable discussion** – report from parents.

- From your perspective, what areas require growth or consideration at HSS and how would you suggest we proceed?
- What does meaningful engagement at HSS look like for your family?

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

- Ideas brought forward as a result of Round Table Discussions
 - A banquet of some kind for the academic kids (like the sports kids get)
 - Some sort of awareness for Celiac kids particularly in the Foods option
 - A more gender neutral dress code
 - There were positive remarks regarding Deans video messages and the job that Kristina has been doing with posting pictures on social media
 - Concerns for the Band kids being able to have access to other options was brought up (this is actually already in place)
 - There is a hope that other 'Academy's' (like the Hockey Academy) will be brought to the school

Next meeting Wednesday, October 25th.

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

- **Meeting was Adjourned at 8:10 pm**