

MINUTES

Sam Livingston School Council (SLSC)

February 27, 2025

6:30-8pm - Online

In Attendance:

Sanghamitra M, Rayna B, Tosca N, Charmaine C, Jai T, Abigail M, Helen S, Lanna P (guest speaker), Abigail M, Archana, Marc H., Ben O, Robyn P, Dania L, April B, Neshali
Valerie joins at 7:23pm. Archana leaves at 7:36. Lanna leaves after her presentation.

Welcome & Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm
- Quorum for meeting has been met: **Yes**
- Land Acknowledgement by Tosca.
- Guidelines for the virtual meeting were presented.
- Brief Introductions from Council and Admin.
- Motion and Approval of **February 27, 2025 Agenda**
 - Amend agenda to add Lanna Peterson as guest speaker and discussion on ASCE Grant .
 - Motion made by Robyn.
 - Seconded by Helen.**Approved**
- Approval of **Jan 23, 2024, Minutes**.
 - Motion made by April.
 - Seconded by Abigail.**Approved**

Special Presentation: Electric School Bus Resolution for ASCA AGM

- Presenter: Lanna Petterson
- Resolution: Request for a pilot program for electric school buses such that electric buses are purchased to replace buses as inventory in the current fleet is retired
- Reasons for resolution:
 - Exposure to diesel
 - Physical and mental health
 - Respiratory conditions – asthma, allergies, bronchitis, childhood cancers
 - Cognitive and behavioural challenges, so impacting learning
 - Get diesel exposure from riding bus because diesel fumes enter bus
 - Also, diesel exposure while buses idling during pickup and dropoff
 - Propane busses exist, but not better than diesel
- In line with CBE emissions framework for 2030

- Other provinces have transitioned some of their fleet to electric and there have been no complaints re reliability in cold weather
- Currently, CBE has about 6200 buses in use so the presenter expects a gradual transition
- The cost of an electric bus is higher than a diesel bus. So, the presenter acknowledges that the up front costs will be higher than if the fleet was replaced with diesel buses. However, annual costs to maintain electric buses are lower
 - Federal and provincial grants are available to help with acquisition costs
- Presenter's ask of the Sam council in making this presentation: co-sponsors for the ASCA resolution. If not, a YES vote at the ASCA AGM
 - Chair explains what resolutions mean, and what our YES vote would mean.
- Questions:
 - What does co-sponsorship entail? A: Unsure
- Access to research that was discussed at this meeting and on which the resolution is based?
 - Cleanrides4kids on Insta
 - See description and background info for this resolution, included in the ASCA AGM package
- Would it affect bussing fees?
 - Fees set by Minister and not councils

Unlikely, since annual costs are cheaper and the fleet needs new inventory as it ages anyway

Discussion after Presenter leaves, no votes taken. Chair concludes that we will likely vote yes, but will not co-sponsor.

School Admin Updates

- Parent-teacher conferences
 - In March, instead of April
 - Attached to non-instructional day
 - March 20 in person, March 21 online. Possibility of both online if CUPE strike continues
 - Thanks to school community for feeding the teachers last time
 - Parent question: can parents attend virtual conferences from anywhere in the world? A: Yes
- Numeracy and Literacy Interventions
 - Sara and team have been doing literacy intervention since October
 - Team is support staff, who Sara guides
 - April returned from mat leave, doing numeracy interventions
 - Families of students supported by these interventions have received a letter informing them of program.
 - The letters are an informative communication. There is no ask of parents in the letter.
 - Admin still working on the scheduling (to include literacy, numeracy, music, gym, etc...)
 - Sara and April available for parent-teacher conferences if any parents want to book with them and ask specific questions
- Residencies (past and upcoming)
 - Sam & Walter already completed
 - Words of song available? Yes, Admin will post online
 - Possible to post video of school assembly? Yes, Admin will find appropriate way with good privacy settings
 - Alien In-line and swimming complete
 - In-house (school staff as facilitators), smaller residencies for Diwali, Hanukkah. Ramadan and Eid to come in April
 - One of the social work students will do a residency for Spring Equinox
 - Think Fast – French improv company, hosted by product of French immersion system
 - Dance Residency later in the year
 - Need volunteers for all residencies!

- Semaines (2!) de Francophonie
 - Our school does Carnivale a bit later than most schools, but better to be outside when its warmer.
 - Admin will announce class times so parents can plan their volunteer signups
 - One day of Carnivale activities. Need volunteers for this day!
 - Ice Castle a two-part creation: foundation to be built the day before by volunteers; walls/structure built by kids during festivities
 - Couldn't get maple candy on snow; provider not available during our Carnivale
- Will go to a French movie on the Friday, at Landmark Cinema (Shawnessy).
 - Grades 1-3 will watch one movie, grade 4 will watch something different.
 - No need for volunteers for the movie.
 - AM kinder day; PM kinders will be invited in the care of parents/guardians (i.e. not their teachers)
- Manie Musicale – march madness; kids exposed to 2 songs a day, then vote, next day the winner goes to next level....
- School Planning and Engagement Survey
 - School development plan – PD and professional efforts for how to work with students
 - Last year, literacy and reading
 - This year, writing and numeracy skills
 - Admin asking for feedback on what teachers should focus on for their PD/learning
 - Re CBE-wide fee feedback: CBE wants to know if we want to pay lump sum, piecemeal, what kind of things we'd be willing to pay for etc.
 - Gr 4 parents should also expect Assurance survey from CBE. They will have received it already; one Gr4 parent confirms receipt.
- Marketing
 - Registration is happening across the city, opened in middle of Jan
 - Sanghamitra explains lottery system. We are not a lottery school; Sam has a lot of unused capacity.
 - 66-7 kinder students this year. 68 registered for next year (3 classes of 21-22).
 - Q: Where is Sam in SSP process? A: sit and wait.
 - Admin has found word-of-mouth works best. Facebook community pages also work well.
 - In the past, school has paid for sandwich boards street-side. Admin is unsure about the return on this investment.
 - Sundance School (CBE French immersion south of Sam) is now on the lottery system and super full!!
 - Sundance admin cannot point families to Sam because Sam is not officially designated as an overflow school.
 - As a result of not being officially-designated overflow: CBE does not provide bussing to communities in Sundance catchment area.
 - If families can drive their kids back and forth, Sam is a great option
 - If Sam does paid signage again, maybe we can choose strategic spots
 - CBE must have an overflow school for regular program school, but not for alternative programs. If CBE designates Sam as an overflow school, then CBE would have to provide transportation.
 - Suggestion to parents to ask for this, advocate to designate Sam as overflow school
 - Ideas:
 - Marketing to preschools around Sam. Work with any French-speaking preschools early in the year to have pamphlets available. Also, have some year round signage/posters within the preschools.

Council Updates

- Key Communicator Update:
 - Discussed February 24, 2025 ASCA seminar on Assurance Framework and Trustee & Council relationships
 - ASCA Spring Symposium in April 2025. Online only. One registration per council.
 - Free for parents to attend the AGM only.

- Listing of policy resolutions to be considered at ASCA meeting
- Explanation of the purpose of resolutions – to form ASCA's policy position on issues, and amplify the voice of a single school community with the support of the Alberta's education community
- Volunteer Needs:
 - Semaine de la Francophonie
 - Need lots of volunteers!
 - Need police clearance to assist with any of the stations, but not to help with ice castle pre-building
 - Most needed for the day with the kids; ice-castle foundation early on the same morning.
 - Volunteers should not bring smaller children with them for this opportunity – the castle will need work, and the day is busy and possibly cold so inside/outside will be variable.
 - Feed the Teachers on March 20 . Unveiling Italian theme
 - keeps budget low by parents feeding teachers
 - Concern raised by Charmaine re Euro-centrism – is the council equally willing to focus on the cuisine of a non-European country? A - yes
 - Admin invited discussion with admin, and acknowledgement that we live in a multi-cultural world, and that any food is appreciated.
 - Valerie: Don't want to put constraints on any food that we're asking parents to bring.
 - Ask for diet restrictions from admin covering all staff? YES, likely same as last session
 - Charmaine asks for a discussion to have a non-cultural theme. Chair & Vice-Chair support Italian theme and possible to have people bring foods that don't match theme or bring plates and cutlery instead.
 - Chair reiterates that theme can change in future. Chair terminates discussion for time
- ASCA Symposium
 - We can use the \$500 ASCE grant towards admission price
 - \$50 for any parent who is not on the board but wants to attend the symposium; AGM free for any parent
- ASCE Grant - \$500 for this year + \$500 for previous year = \$1000 to spend
 - Rayna volunteered to do parent night presentation (mental health topic or Spark program) so we still have full ASCE grant available.
 - Chair proposes that we use \$100 of \$500 grant for Chair (Tosca) to attend symposium.
 - Robyn motions.
 - Abigail seconded.
 - Approved
 - Amend motion: Utilize ASCE grant money for board members who want to attend.
 - Robyn agrees to re-motion.
 - Abigail seconds
 - Approved
 - Can books be purchased with the grant money? Perhaps we can set up a resource library for parents in the office, from which parents can borrow.
 - Book recommendation by Jai: The Anxious Generation

** Will come up with a list of ideas of what to do with the rest of the grant money by the 6th. CC to do this.

Chair Update

- No March meeting because short month for Spring break
- April meeting still in flux.
 - Wanted to do in person but prohibited during CUPE strike.
 - May not do a BBQ this year; perhaps a spring event at Park96.
- May 12 (online) 6:30 – 8:30

Parent Questions

- No questions.

Next General Meeting:

TBD

Meeting Ended: 7:59 PM - Motioned by Robyn and Seconded by Jai.

All parents are encouraged to attend and take part in the decision-making process at our school. Please email ecolesamchair@gmail.com with any questions about or additions to these minutes.