



Joseph M. Demko School Council Minutes

March 15, 2022

St. Albert, Alberta

7:45 pm

virtual meeting link: <http://meet.google.com/buc-hhwj-kzz>

1. **Call to Order** - Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:46pm
2. **Welcome** - Virtual Attendance and Introductions
 - Amanda Crouse
 - Angela Rudolph
 - Keri Ho
 - Jessica Cardozo
 - Jonathan Skuba
 - Kathy Topinka
 - Kelly Ternovatsky
 - Kristi Rouse
 - Les Kirchner
 - Monique Waters
 - Richelle Robinson
 - Vanessa Johnston
 - Vanessa Steinke
3. **Approval of the Agenda** - Jonathan moved to approve, Jessica seconded. Carried.
4. **Approval of the Minutes from the Last Meeting** - Vanessa J moved to approve, Kathy seconded. Carried.
5. **Teacher Report** - due to interviews - no teacher report
6. **Trustee Report** - Kristi Rouse (see report)
 - Trustee Engagement Topic: *no topic this month due to the additional meeting*
7. **Business Arising from the Minutes**
 - School Council Engagement Grant Update - Kelly
 - [Box Cars and One Eyed Jacks](#)
 - [Family Numeracy Workshops](#) in-person workshop May 12
 - *“We will prioritize games that use cards, regular dice, or dominoes – materials many families already have at home. We can also arrange for schools to pre-purchase family kits and resources which are shipped ahead of time for schools to distribute to participating families.”*

- Cost is \$650 and we will use the full \$500 from the grant and then determine how to make up the difference of \$150 from fundraising or other funds
 - 1 mat per family and 1 adult per child in the gymnasium as an in person workshop
 - 5pm set-up and will need volunteers to man the purchasing table
 - There will be no workshop for Junior High families. There will be a Math Fair in future years that is run by the Junior High Students. Focussing on the Math-A-Thon this year.

8. *New Business*

- Covid Update - Les
 - 3-8 cases / week – numbers have decreased a bit
 - Continuing to track numbers in the school
 - Communication from parents and the openness about when a family has Covid has been phenomenal and much appreciated
- Ukraine support - Grade 4S/E raised \$1000 dollars. Ukraine sign out front and blue/yellow day. Perogy fundraiser. Foods kids are making perogies - already have 1500 orders including hot and frozen orders. During interviews, digital arts kids have designed buttons and will be selling those. Industrial Arts kids will be making the buttons.
- Surveys
 - Gov't survey due Apr 1
 - District survey due Apr 25
 - Elementary Parents <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8JKMZM9>
 - Junior and Senior High Parents <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YH7HYGV>
- Interviews and [Scholastic Book Fair](#) - all are welcome to come in person / virtual
 - Mar. 22-23 – 4:00 to 7:30pm - Scholastic Book Fair open to parents
 - Mar. 21-24 – Parent Teacher Interviews
- Mental Health Feedback- Division Feedback
 - Asking some of the School Councils and parent community how the pandemic has influenced our young people? Screen time, anxiety, frustration etc... Not only the behaviours but also frequency.
 - Discussion included topics such as hesitancy to interact, delayed social interactions, bullying because of personal decisions, missing out on building community, attitude toward school negatively affected because of always being policed and rigidity, increased screen time, difficulty with

learning due to masks covering teacher's mouths (eg: French), inability to choose who you interact and play with, missing out on clubs, not getting to attend a Junior High Dance, not knowing how to take an exam, etc... Hard to say whether all of these are attributable to Covid but important to acknowledge.

- After Spring Break: Will lift restrictions on recess and considering changes to staggered start / end times.
- Kids have been very resilient
- Stop, Drop & Go: there is some grace for parents who walk their anxious little ones to Les or to the door. Really only monitor the handicap zone strictly to ensure that space is available for those who need it. Parent Patrol could be considered but it is inconsistent; would sooner have staff patrol that space if needed. The Bus Lane is also a no go Zone.

9. Policy Review - link to [Policy Under Review main page](#), link to [Policy Manual](#)

- E-100, [Programming for Students](#)
- F-140, [Health and Wellness of Students and Staff](#)
- D-610-AR, [Personnel Records](#)
 - Stakeholder input March 10 - April 21
 - Final draft May 25

10. Chair Report - Kelly Ternovatsky (see report)

- District Stakeholder Workshop discussion: We have an excellent and engaged School Council and Trustee relationship! Thank you all!
- Discussion re: Custodial Appreciation: Already are included in staff appreciation but don't have a separate day. There is a special potluck by the division. Would appreciate a nice note and possibly a small gift card?

11. Administration Report - Les Kirchner (see report)

- Hot lunches have resumed
- **ACTION:** Vanessa will contact Dean Schick from the City regarding a new request for crosswalk at Joyal Way.

12. Next Meeting Date - April 26, 2022 at 7:45 pm. Consider in person and/or hybrid meeting in the future.

13. Adjournment at 8:59pm

Parent Reminders:

Please join the *J.M. Demko School Parent Community* on Facebook!



**FOLLOW ALONG WITH
THE JMD PARENT
COMMUNITY GROUP
ON FACEBOOK**



**J. M. Demko School Parent
Community >**

March 2022 - Trustee Kristi Rouse - Report to School Councils

On January 20, the Minister of Education announced the members of the Curriculum Implementation Advisory Group. On March 3, Alberta School Boards Association Zone 2/3 hosted the first in a two part series of trustee engagement events to deliberate governance considerations that school divisions need to prepare for ahead of the Minister of Education's direction to implement new K-6 curriculums for English Language Arts and Literature, Mathematics and Physical Education and Wellness in September 2022. On March 10, based on stakeholder feedback and advice from the Curriculum Implementation Advisory Group, the Minister of Education revised implementation plans to include K-3 English Language Arts and Literature along with Mathematics, and K-6 Physical Education and Wellness for September 2022. Curriculums will be available in April so that teacher professional development and resource acquisition may commence. News release: <https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=82087996223FB-DE64-2A33-2FD6CD7CBA1F7122#jumplinks-0>

Administration continues to closely monitor the Covid situation in schools and commenced rescheduling events that were postponed from January and February, including school education plan presentations.

A presentation for parents and stakeholders by Kevin Cameron, "Understanding and Managing the Social, Emotional and Traumatic Impacts of a Worldwide Pandemic" will be held Thursday, March 17 at the Arden Theatre, or an online streaming option is available. Tickets are free with the exception of a \$2 registration fee, and are available at <https://tickets.stalbert.ca/TheatreManager/1/online?event=0>

Junior high open houses will be held: March 10 for WD Cuts, April 7 for Lorne Akins, April 12 for Joseph M. Demko, and April 13 for both ES Gish and Sir George Simpson.

Stakeholder Workshop was held March 11 in person at the St. Albert Inn from 9-Noon. If you were not able to attend, but would still like to provide input on the questions deliberated in groups re: pandemic, please do so in this form: <https://forms.gle/7YaXo8fwukr5GYAD8>.

School Councils may be interested in an upcoming presentation on Parent Engagement with Debbie Pushor on March 24, as a joint partnership between Alberta School Councils Association and Strategic Alliance for Alberta Students with Learning Challenges Society. Potentially an acceptable use of School Council Engagement Grant.

Tickets are available here:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/engaging-parents-the-gentle-revolution-with-dr-debbie-pushor-tickets-269215409537?ref=eios>

March 9, 2022 Public Board Meeting Highlights

• The Board **approved:**

- The new name Hillgrove Campus for the joint campus that will combine Sir George Simpson Junior High School and Robert Rundle Elementary School
- The division's 3-Year Capital Plan for 2023-2024 to 2025-2026 for submission to the Alberta government
- Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of Trustees held February 9, 2022.
- High school Summer School fees for the 2021-2022 school year.
- The division wide student fee listing for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Lorne Akins Junior High School's and Paul Kane High School's volleyball camp fees for 2021-2022.

• The Board **adopted:**

- Board Policy B-100, Board of Governance and the accompanying regulations.
- Board Policy B-110, Rules of Order and the accompanying regulations.
- Administration Regulation D-660-AR, Substitute Teachers

• The Board **received as information:**

- A report highlighting progress made on Outcome 1 from our division's Three-Year Education Plan

- Documentation from Andre Tremblay, Deputy Minister of Education, on February 24, 2022, regarding the update to the Provincial Budget 2022.
 - The status report for policies/regulations/procedures currently in development.
- The Board **provided direction to:**
- Circulate the draft Board Policy E-100, Programming for Students and the accompanying regulations
 - Circulate the draft Administration Regulations D-610-AR, Personnel Records
 - Circulate Board Policy F-140, Health and Wellness of Students and Staff and the accompanying regulations.
 - Circulate the draft Board Policy A-120, Trustee Code of Conduct.
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Chair Report

March 2022

Provincial Update - Alberta School Council Association (ASCA)

- Update - the ASCA Conference will be held online April 22 + 23, with the AGM held virtually on April 24
 - I am registered

District Update - St. Albert Public Schools

- Stakeholder workshop March 11
- Feedback from Kathy and Jessica - thank you for representing JMD!
- Division emails for each Council - being set-up

JMD Update

- Custodial appreciation - is there a day already in place?
- Looking ahead to Staff Appreciation
 - Will collect donations April 1 - 30, staff lunch June 1
 - Form a committee at our April 26 meeting
- School Council Engagement Grant - Numeracy Workshop through Box Cars and One Eyed Jacks
 - In-person workshop Thursday, May 12
 - Cost - \$500 SCEG, \$150 school
 - Description from their website:

Virtual Math or Literacy

Virtual workshops are an effective way to bring all the fun and engagement of our traditional workshops right to your door! We're passionate about helping teachers and schools get the most out of their classroom time, and we know that games are the most effective way to do that! Game play vastly improves a child's ability to learn and retain a concept. Games also greatly increase retention and engagement time where students are playing and practicing math far longer than they ever would through traditional teaching methods. We want to help you make learning fun again, no matter where in the world you are! That's why we have our virtual workshops. We'll go through all the same concepts that we would in-person, but from the safety and comfort of your own home, office, or classroom. All workshops are still "hands-on," and we require participants to have manipulatives on hand. Manipulatives can be found at schools, or Box Cars can provide kits and resources as a pre-purchase.

We'll demonstrate and play through games and provide tips for differentiation and management throughout the virtual workshop. Our virtual workshops cover student samples, math journal questions, math talk, and math thinking extensions. You will also receive a comprehensive pdf handout with black line masters for use in your classrooms or to send home with your students.

Make sure you bring your best energy! We still want to have fun and make these workshops an interactive, enjoyable experience for everyone!

- Thursday May 12, 2022
- 5pm - set up (mats in gym, 1 mat/ family) **will require volunteers*
- Kindergarten - Grade 2 families 6:00 - 6:50 pm
- Grade 3 - Grade 6 7:00 - 7:45 pm
- Every child requires 1 adult

- Sales 7:45 - 8:00 pm **will require volunteers*
- -manipulatives will be available for purchase afterward; shakers, dice used in the presentations

- RSVP (to School Council email) by May 5; Box Cars makes the invite to be shared with families

Joseph Demko School Council

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Honourable Adriana LaGrange

Minister of Education

Office of the Minister

228 Legislature Building

10800 - 97 Avenue

Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

February 25, 2022

To Honourable Adriana LaGrange,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Joseph M. Demko School Council, located in St. Albert, AB. Our School Council is very concerned about the decision to continue with administering the Provincial Achievement Tests in grades 3, 6 and 9 this year. As a K-9 school, we have many students who would be involved in writing the PAT. We feel that after another school year of disrupted learning, that students are not properly prepared to perform to the best of their abilities on a standardized test.

Once again, students and staff have experienced another school year that has suffered from frequent and significant disruptions to learning. Absences and shifts from in-person to online instruction have impacted learning, taken away instructional time, and contributed to stress in classrooms. We do not believe that adding the stress of writing PATs would be in the best interest of, or beneficial, to students. After two years of unprecedented interruptions to learning, we feel it is not appropriate or advantageous to pursue testing of these students.

We understand the value that can be derived from the results of the PAT in regards to where our children are in relation to the provincial grade level standards. We know this information can be helpful when planning for next year, however, we believe that classroom teachers are already

very well equipped to provide this input without putting students through the process of PATs. Through the use of triangulated assessment and standardized tools to evaluate lagging skills and learning loss, teachers already know what areas students are experiencing struggles and deficits. Families would prefer teacher time and energy be spent supporting students in the classroom than on preparing, administering, evaluating and analyzing PATs.

Failing the cancellation of PATs, we would strongly urge consideration be given to making the PAT optional for this school year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Kelly Ternovatsky
Joseph Demko School Council Chair

CC Krimsen Sumners, Kim Armstrong, Les Kirchner

February/March 2022 Administration Update - School Council and JMDFR

Calendar:

- - February 22- School Council 6:45 JMD Fundraising 7:45
- - February 22-25- Week of Diversity
- - February 23- Pink Shirt Day
- March 15- School Council
- - Interviews- March 21-24
- - Spring Break- March 25-to April 3
- - Junior High Open House - April 12 at 7 pm
- - Easter Rotation Day(English and Logos) - AM Logos Praise service - PM
- - Easter Break- April 15-18
- - PD Day- April 19
- -Kinder Test drive- April 20-22 (in person)
- Education week- May 2-6
- May Staff Meeting- May 4
- Family Math Night- May 12

Update:

1. **Enrolment- 500-** four new students since the beginning of January— three from Mexico and one from Philippines/ one new from South Africa after Spring Break Next year at this point- **512**
2. **Accountability Survey-**Grade 4-9 students will be completing it, all staff will complete it at school and all parents were sent a copy. **Due April 1**
3. **Kinder registrations-** We have 47 registered- 25 in Logos and 22 in English. Full day: 19
4. **Pink Day Shirt-** This was on February 23. Website materials are available for teachers and t-shirts will be on sale for \$10.00 each. Extra monies raised will go toward SAIF
6. **Interviews:** These take place virtually/in person at this point the week of March 21-24
7. **High School Visits:** these happened and Open Houses have been held
8. **Parking:** All seems to be working quite well - just reminders to parents to stop, drop and go and the snowbank to the east (city has been notified on multiple occasions). Also, parents should never be driving in the bus lane in the am and pm when buses are present. Also, be aware of the area around Sister Alphonse and respect their no parking areas. **Advocating for crosswalk near Joyal Way**
9. **Achievement lunches:** this is for students who have received an 80 average with no 3's or all 1's for effort. A Pizza lunch happened for 98 junior high students (this is more than half). WOW!
10. **Special Thanks:** Your support with the Wave of Kindness week, treats for us and for your reputable talk in the community.
11. **Substitute Teachers' Week:** March 14-18
12. **Diversity Week-** see below
13. **Math a Thon-** Education Week -May 1-6
14. **Basketball-** our junior and senior teams are enjoying the league play- thanks to our coaches- Mr. Knoll, Mathias family, Mrs. Ewasiuk, Ms. McPhail, Mr. Oevering and Mr.

Skuba. Masked Spectators are now allowed and our boys made playoffs. Badminton is up next

15. **Volunteers and Hot lunch-** will return in March- slow and steady progression

16. **Head Strong Summit-** Class 8KW will participate

<https://mentalhealthcommission.ca/training/headstrong/>

Diversity Week-February 22-25

Monday February 21st	Tuesday February 22nd	Wednesday February 23rd	Thursday February 24th	Friday February 25th
<p>Family Day</p> <p>Indigenous games All week https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jxbWILxFfxaEEuORtjmeYp-e3PNMWikU3f-3G7UjgQ/edit</p>	<p>Be you day! What defines you? Cultural Dress / Favorite Team/ activity clothing</p>	<p>Pink Shirt Day</p>	<p>Speaker's Showcase Share videos related to topics around diversity.</p> <p>Hats on for Kindness-SAIF (Stop Abuse in Families) fundraiser - loose change) Bring to office</p> <p>Cultural Map updated with a Stickers Indigenous Games all week</p>	<p>Praise Service at Connect</p> <p>Black History Day</p> <p>https://www.epl.ca/black-history-month/</p> <p>Edmonton woman working to preserve black history in Alberta ...</p> <p>Black History Month: Alberta's rich history Watch News ...</p> <p>Animation of children's book about Alberta cowboy John Ware ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black History Month eBooks for School-Aged Kids • Music to stream during Black History Month • Children's books that celebrate Black history

				and culture
				Praise Service at Connect
Word the day- Strength - What does it look like? Sound like etc	Teamwork	Achieving Excellence	Respect	Spirit
Quotes: No Act of Kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. Aesop	The world is full of kind people... If you can't find one, be one.	Three things in human life are important. The first is to be kind, The second is to be kind and the third is to be kind. Henry James	Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see. Mark Twain	Kindness is free: let's pass it on