



Thursday, January 16, 2025

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[École Edwards Facebook Page](#)

School Council Meeting Minutes

January School Council meeting, held in person at the school and available via zoom.

Video can be found on the École Edwards Elementary School Council facebook page.

The 2024/2025 School Council Executives are
 Jacelyn Rohleder as Chair, Darcy Searcy as Vice Chair,
 Amanda Gauthier as Treasurer, and Chantal Soucy as Secretary.

AGENDA	NOTES
Welcome: Jacelyn Rohleder <i>Chair</i> & Darcy Searcy <i>Vice Chair</i>	6:08 PM - meeting is called to order by Jacelyn. Introductions are made by present council members, staff and other attendees at the meeting (in person & via zoom). Attendees: -
Council Mission:	To build a culture of respect, collaboration and communication between parents, staff and administration that supports and enhances student learning.
PBIS Focus:	All 4 This Month We Belong, We are Independent, We do our Best & We Care

School Report:	1. School Presentation: Grade 2 Mme. Mills & Mme. Willick
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Mme. Mills speaks about the "Collaborative Practice of Team Teaching" created by herself and Mms. Willick that they are practicing in their Grade 2 French immersion classes this year highlighting the "dynamic learning environments that team teaching encompasses as well as the teacher effectiveness that it has given us.

At the beginning of this school year Mme. Willick and I had spoken with the grade 3 team who are also really involved in the team teaching aspect and they teach across three classes in various subjects. We spoke with them and received some guidance as to how they carry it out in their classrooms, and then once we had feedback from them we were really interested. This is a first for either of us. At the beginning of the year in September, we both really wanted to have a rich classroom environment/ classroom culture and so we didn't begin our team teaching until October. This also ensured us that we were able to create timetables of the school and our schedules were able to align so that we were able to put aside 3 one hour blocks which meet the Alberta Ed. requirements for Social Studies and Science. I teach Social Studies (*études sociales*) to all 48 of our grade 2 FI students and Mme. Willick teaches Science (*a science*) to all 48 of our grade 2 FI students. This year we sat with both of our classes and we reviewed the expectations and sort of reminded them that it is no different and only that now there are 48 in this one space - it is no different, we are sitting, we are listening, and we will be doing our independent work.

The first time we did this we both sat with each other, meaning Mme. Willick would come to my classroom to watch me lead the Social Studies lessons and vice versa. This was great as this is our first year and we were unsure how the students would respond but the first class was great! It worked so well that we decided that we didn't need to sit in on each others lessons anymore. After one time "it was a go" and we were good to go. Like I said before, there are 3 one hour blocks a week, so each week we divide that - for example, this week Mme Willick taught 2 Science lessons and I taught 1 Social, and the following week it will be 2 Social lessons and 1 Science lessons just so that we are alternating and ensuring that students are accessing Social and Science each week. During these lessons if I am teaching Social, Mme. Willicks students will talk to my classroom and we will sit on the carpet. Typically in grade 2 at that level, what a lesson would look like is teacher lead, so giving the subject matter and they are sitting on the carpet or at a table listening, and then later will break off and go do their independent work related to the subject and the task at hand. When we finish independent work, just because of the size in our classrooms, Mme. Willick and I decided to have the students return to (or remain in) their respective classrooms. During this time, either of us will pop in to the other's classroom and check in with the students to see if they understand their task or have any questions or let students visit the other teacher if they have any further questions and return to their task.

Along with the teaching and the learning side of it comes the assessment. We are both individually responsible for the assessment of all 48 students for myself in Social Studies and Mme. Willick in Science. This was easy as we were able to add one another to each other's PowerSchool. When we communicate with our families, we sit together and draft/ construct the email together so that it is clear, concise and consistent message across 2 Mills / 2 Willick and we sAt the beginning of the year we sent out that message "should you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's progress or academic success regarding that subject area that I would be the teacher to contact (Mme. Mills for Social and Mme. Willick for Science). This has provided amazing opportunities for us in terms of planning, caring out preparation for lessons as well as assessment - for example, this morning the students were with Mme. Willick and that now I was able to complete my assessment on the earlier Social Studies lesson this week. This has really allowed us to dive into the subjects and get a really in depth understanding of the subject, which has also allowed us to combine our 2 different teaching perspectives and teaching strategies because different teachers have different teaching environments; everyone is unique to their teaching. This has really allowed us to

focus on those subject areas and almost has lifted a weight off of the other. We have found that the kids love it and this also boosts engagement. We see that having a break and having a different learning environment, a different teacher even, for an hour (3 hours every week) really boosts the kids engagement , they are super excited, they are able to do a lot more hands on projects that I would not have been able to do before - I am better able to do it now just primarily focusing on that one subject area as we can dive in more and have that more in depth project than I might before should I been teaching both. We have really found that the students progress in both subjects has also allowed us to address challenges, effectively provide tailored student support and we know each other's kids like the back of our hands - we also have gym class together and when we participate in outdoor activities, these are 24 more kids that we both know by name. We are so excited that we took this on and that we decided to do it this year and if we are together we were even discussing teaching across other subject areas as this was our first year and only wanted to start off with two. This will definitely allow for us to have targeted intervention grouping seven in literacy as well.

Thank you! I love our team!"

(Ms. Harris is absent and unfortunately unable to do her presentation)

Ms. Sell discusses "one of the projects I am just starting to work on which is like an animal research project and it is focused on arctic animals. Through this project we are exploring connections between the animals, the peoples and the economy of those who are living there. We are asking some interesting questions like "how does the culture, economy and geography of the arctic affect these animals, and how in turn do these animals shape the culture, geography and economy of the people?". At this time students are just starting to dive into the research process with a fun cross-curricular project that we get to do. We are learning how to gather information, how to pick out key information from the textbooks or media we are looking at, how to organize it, and we will eventually get to a point where we will present our findings in different and meaningful ways. I do this project quite often and it has been amazing to see how engaged the students are about learning random facts or little things here and there or making connections with the world around them and I love this project; the kids really seem to love it. We are just starting our journey in this and it is a fun engagement for the students to see big the world is, hoe big Canada is and they get to see how the animals and the geography connects together and how the peoples who live up there use the seals or caribou effectively but that also affects their economy, culture or geography.

And that is the fun project that we are doing in the classrooms currently."

Mme. Willick comments "I really love the connections we have created in the classroms and getting to know all the kids. We had PE or outdoor activities together but now I have the opportunity to work with them.

Thank you!"

Rachelle Prud'Homme
Principal

& Alanna Berger
Vice Principal

Grade 2 teachers on the English side wanted to share about home reading. Across the board different classrooms or groups of teachers are doing different home reading programs and as a school we are going to try to have a home reading program effort starting at the beginning of next year school-wide.

Laser City has given us a "Read to Win" contest - students read a book at home and bring in a sheet filled out with their completed reading and it goes into a draw where they could win some free laser tag tickets! This is really motivating our students to read and Mme. Harris was going to speak about it (but is unfortunately absent).

2. Principal's Report:

Please find full Principal's Report on the school's facebook page

We do not have a School Council Meeting in February so we are combining everything into this one.

This month's PBIS is all 4 expectations. Something to think about on the home front from parents is just some questions to reflect on:

- How does your child demonstrate being a leader and learner at home?
- What does that look like to be a leader and learner at home?
- How can you promote being a learner and leader *with* your children and your family?

This month's focus is all 4 expectations and we are doing a variety of things within the classroom (review, classroom sharing circles and conversations, etc) but also the grade 4s made a video assembly for the school. Every month with our focus a certain grade will create a video assembly (virtually), and sometimes they will create activities along with the assembly. This month the grade 4s created a PBIS game called "4 Corners" for gym class. This is a cute and interesting way to ask questions related to PBIs like "is this related to independence/ is this related to belonging" and there are 4 corners in the room that you go to for each answer.

January has been fun with skiing and skating days, along with an indigenous author visit. Blackfoot elder visit on February 24 along with French Culture week of January with fun activities planned there - every day will have a different activity.

February will have a school-wide focus on Black History Month. We have a teacher, Ms. B who has organized a school-wide activity for us to do. Teachers are going to get different resources (different links) for videos or books to read, ect. The school is going to take the month to learn about 24 historical black Canadians and create a little piece of a quilt - all the pieces of the quilt will come from each class (one from each). The teachers will be given one influential Canadian and take the month to learn about each amazing Canadian and their history/stories and how they contributed and made an impact in Canada. We are really proud to support something like this school-wide. This is a great time to honour and recognize influential Canadians and celebrate black culture and the impact they have made in our history.

Literacy week is also the first week of February. This is a week that includes fun activities regarding reading/books. In the Family Express we are going to put a Family Literacy Choice Board so you can choose fun activities at home too.

Have a Heart Day ins a day before Valentines day and this day is where we teach students about indigenous children and families in Canada that sometimes go without services, without food, without clean water (enough for what they need to support life, let alone for schooling and everything else that we have the privilege to have/received). Essentially there are lessons planned for each class and students will be writing letters or drawing pictures depending on their abilities t our government or MLAs and we send in theory about 700 letters to the government and that is some of the effort and statements we are making to the government about making a difference and standing up for these children who are struggling.

Our PBIS focus will be We BELONG but what we are doing for the last few months of our focused PBIS activities is we are adding a few character traits. So, February is We BELONG and we are focusing on kindness and empathy as well as teaching about kindness and empathy.

Student lead clubs begin again in February and students are getting their proposals in. Typically we look for grade 4 & 5 for student leaders running younger clubs but it is open right now and there can be grade 3, 2 or even 1 club leaders right now - what is important is that there is a who application/ request form and they are all due next Friday so that we have some time to go through them.

Dare to Care Parent learning night is on February 13th, 6PM-8PM. Please RSVP. We will be sending out more communications coming up to it. We will be providing a light supper and child care. The presentation is a series of videos to watch together and talk. Essentially this will be about an hour and a half or chatting and learning.

Curriculum Funds have an additional \$12,000 that has been provided and will be used for classroom supplies and resources, as well as additional funds for school-wide programs and resources. The Casino Funds have helped with classroom home reading and classroom/library books.

Grade 4 students, parents and teachers will be completing the annual Alberta Education survey for the school - parents please watch for it in your mail for an online code. Grade 4 families will be sent out details - anyone who completes the survey will be entered into a draw.

Thank you so much to the 25 parent volunteers who helped with the Annual Staff Christmas Lunch.

We have Big Brothers and Big Sisters come to the school every Wednesday to meet with students. 24 Edwards students are being mentored by high-school students.

We are starting to prepare for grade 6 and have just begun planning with a small working committee. We will be planning possible changes, in the school map, staffing needs, and resources, equipment or furniture that is also needed, etc. Rocky View has put forward a request to the Alberta Government for us to have 2 portables. We will not find out about those 2 portables until April or May. If they are

	<p>approved or accepted that doesn't necessarily mean that they will be ready in September, also it could also be denied and we don't have any portables (but we really do hope we get those portables as they will make our lives a lot easier). We have a few contingency plans ("plan A"/"plan B") but many of our decisions will not be made until late spring. As we learn more more about the plan for grade 6 we will be communicating especially with grades but can/will communicate these changes school wide with all the families in a separate email.</p> <p>2024-2025 education plan focuses on 3 updated goals (based on feedback from one of the Rocky View superintendents).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) How might we engage students in their literacy and numeracy success? School Goal: <i>To increase students skills in reading, writing, and math by 10 percent.</i> 2) How might we build student leadership across the school community? School Goal: <i>85% of our students have a sense of purpose in life, understand their own and other cultures, and are goal oriented, building leadership goals.</i> 3) How might we create inclusive, engaging, and healthy learning opportunities for all students? School Goal: <i>85% of students are happy, healthy, feel they belong and are safe, and experience success in learning environments that are inclusive of every learner.</i> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">You will see in the updated information on our website that some of our results have been detailed as well as a progress update in December that includes some things like "what have we done". The next update will be in April.</p> <p>3. School Reminders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - February is Black History Month - Jan 27 to Jan 31: French Culture Week - Feb 3 to 7: Literacy Week - Feb 5: World "Read Aloud" Day - Feb 12: "Have a Heart" Day - <i>Also 100th Day of School!</i> - Feb 13: "Dare to Care" Parent Night 6-8PM (<i>please sign-up/RSVP</i>) - Feb 17 to 21: February Break - Feb 26: Pink Shirt Spirit Day
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<p>RVS Updates: Melyssa Bowen School Trustee</p>	<p>" At our November 28 meeting we approved our 23/24 audited financial statement. Each year we are required to submit our audited financial statement to the Minister of Education by November 30 and so it is good to know we had another clean audit this year and congratulations to all staff that were involved as that is a lot of work to be done within our finance department and that was actually one of the things the auditters did note - they gave us some notes going forward and one of the</p>
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things they said is just how understaffed we can be in some of those departments and that can make it really difficult to make sure we are maintaining what we need to in that area and i think that is something we will be keeping an eye on as a board. The audit showed an overall increase in revenues this year due mainly to the additional instructional, transportation and supplemental supplemental growth that we received and so our final revenues were \$314.7 mil. and our expenses were \$314.2 mil. so we had a small surplus of approx \$500,000. We ended the year with \$7.7 mill. In our total operating reserves which is 2.4% of our operating budget so where the government wants to keep us between 1 and 3.2% we are within that - it is important to continue to note that does include transportation dollars and a high number within our transportation department that can only be used within transportation.

The other piece that is important to share from this meeting is that we are planning for our upcoming Trustee Election that is coming up for 2025 and so we would have approved the formation of joint election agreements with local municipal governments as well as appointed our returning officer for that work as well as the director of finance that is appointed as a substitute returning officer.

We continued the conversation around a couple changes to the by-laws which I will highlight. On our December 12 we reviewed feedback from our in-person and online RVS Engagement for the Chestermere Accommodation Plan that we have proposed - it is a lot different than in Airdrie where it impacts every school within the division, this was a lot smaller but still important for us to engage in. We had 204 online responses, 67 in-person, and we put all of that information together for our decision and that decision will be coming at our next board meeting.

We approved our 26/27 calendar at that meeting and that is available on our website now and carried on with those preparations for the 2025 election.

2 motions were completely approved for bylaw and were finalized in this meeting. We approved a requirement of a \$100 deposit with your application to be a trustee and an increase in the number of signatures required, going from 10 to 20 signatures. There was a really good debate around both of those new requirements but ultimately support the board with that moving forward with that. We also debated and went through first reading on a potential by-law to require a criminal record check and we had to schedule a special board meeting on December 17 to debate second and third reading on that but ultimately the board did not support that requirement at this time; what we know is that throughout the province, municipalities and school divisions, this is a new opportunity that the provincial government has said you can require this and so we are seeing alot of difference among all of our municipalities and school boards and whether or not we are going to make this a requirement - I think we wanted to hold off on that until we saw what it would look like for some of those other divisions and municipalities that do go ahead with it.

Last week at our meeting we had our Q1 update for this year and a few things that were highlighted were the additional funding we have received from government over the summer. We also recognized that because we have lower than our projected enrollments that it aids into that \$4.5 mil. that we did receive from government was a good thing to receive as we would have felt the impact even more at the school level like we did in the previous year We are still expecting a deficit of 2.5 mil. which we will draw on our reserve dollars to make up for that and anticipated reserve at the end of the year are 1.69% including transportation . When we exclude transportation it is more like .9% of that requirement which is something to keep in mind.

We approved support for the Airdrie Turf Field Project which is something the city has gone ahead with. In the spring they came to us and asked for support in that and very recently we approved \$300,000 to help support that project. Our student

are already getting access to that field and making use of that so we are grateful for that project to have come and for the city to support that.

We also heard a delegation from parents in the Prairie Springs area around balancing our students based decisions and were grateful to hear from them and some of the challenges they see with having their students moving to different schools.

(video posted on the school's facebook page of the council meeting includes questions asked)

Treasurer Report & Student Care:

Treasurer Report:

Update on funds:

FUNDRAISERS

Christmas Movie Night:

\$2060.00 revenue / \$0 expense / \$11,206.06 available

Cookie Dough Fundraiser:

\$1050.00 revenue / \$0 expense / \$12,256.06 available

Movie Night Candy Canes (Amanda Gauthier)

\$0 revenue / \$27.81 expense / \$12,228.25 available

\$14,579.96 revenue / \$2,351.71 expense / \$12,228.25 available

FUN LUNCHES

Taco Time: \$337.00

Subway: \$329.00

Edo Japan: \$256.00

Mary Browns: \$352.90

\$1,454.40 revenue

COMMITMENTS

Field trips for Gr. K-3: \$4,000

Skiing for Gr. 4 & 5: \$3,000

Total revenue is \$16,034.36

Total expense \$2,351.71

Total commitments \$7,000

Total currently available to the school is \$6,682.65

Votes:

Motion to give "Alien in Line" In-Line Skating (up-to) \$2000 to cover the difference (equipment is provided to the school for rollerblading activities in the gym for the students with some lessons or tips on safety).

Vote yes - motion carried

Motion to give "Rocks to Rings" (up-to) \$1500 (this is a great opportunity to introduce curling to the kids).

Vote yes - motion carried

The vote on \$260 to "Dare to Care" Parent Night does not include council as Rockyview School Division gives all councils in the division \$260 that could be used towards certain events and food/supplies/etc. We would like to use the \$260 for food in the "Dare to Care" Parent Night on February 13, 2025.

Student Care (*student care is all donations by parents, so if any kids have accidents, need a change of clothes, some food/snacks/lunch, help with paying for a field trip, etc*)

Coverage for Field Trips for those students unable to pay:
\$326.00 expense / \$204.28 remaining balance

Any donation is greatly appreciated

Agenda Items:
Jacelyn Rohleder
Chair

&

Darcy Searcy
Vice Chair

1. New Items:

"Crisis Fund" Family Support Fund

An important new initiative that we have currently approved and created in school council for the school is the "Emergency Family Crisis Fund". As a school we are deeply committed to supporting our community and occasionally we encounter unique situations where a family is facing extraordinary challenges and could benefit from some cheer and a sense of belonging. These moments, though rare, provide us with an opportunity to show up for our community in meaningful ways. The Emergency Family Crisis Fund will only be used when needed and we anticipate that we will only be accessing it 1 - 2 times a year. It is designed to provide a small, thoughtful donation to families in desperate need, reinforcing our commitments to care and support. We are proud to take this step to ensure the school community is there for one another at all times.

Funds will come from "school council", not "student care". There will be \$100 that will be going towards that this month or next month.

- Woot Woot Wagon

We are going to do the Woot Woot Wagon again for the teachers on March 3. \$260 will go towards that.

For those who do not know what a "Woot Woot Wagon" is, we literally go around with goodies on a cart and go to each classroom for each teacher and staff members in the school. This is our little way of saying "thank you for doing what you do/ you are amazing/ we are here for you/ we support you" and show our appreciation to them. We thought doing this on March 3rd would be a good time because March 5 & 6 are the conferences and we wanted them to get a little boost before they start.

- Donations for Student Care funds

There will be a detailed email coming out about how to pledge money on SchoolCash.

- Staff Dinner during the Gr.1 - 5 Conferences March 5 & 6

We always put on a staff dinner for the teachers during these conferences so please watch for an email on that as we use food donations.

2. Updates/Conclusion:

- Yearbook Committee has been created and work has started on creating this year's yearbook.
- The Yearbook Cover contest ends at the end of the month. *Please hand in any entries to the office.*
- Christmas Family Movie Night Fundraiser was a great success and a lot of fun! It was super cute to see all the families come in wearing their matching PJs. It turned out well. Thank you for all the families that came and joined us and supported the fundraiser.
- We had our By-Law meeting right before this meeting so please keep a look out for the by-laws to be posted on our website now.
- "Dare to Care" Parents Night - please RSVP and join us as food will be provided.

3. Fundraisers:

Find all Fun Lunches school website & on Healthy Hungers website
Healthy Hunger / Fun Lunch:

- **Jan. 22 = Subway**
- **Feb 12 = Taco Time** (orders due Feb 7)
- **Feb 26 = Extreme Pita** (orders due Feb 21)
- **Mar 12 = Domino's Pizza** (orders due Mar 7)
- **Mar 26 = Boston Pizza** (orders due Mar 21)

All orders for Healthy Hunger are due Friday before the scheduled Fun Lunch day.

If you log into Healthy Hunger, you will see a banner for "gift cards" or "e-cards", and this allows you to buy a card for yourself or to send to somebody else, and a certain percent of that will come back to the school.

Raffle Baskets:

We are going to do some raffle baskets for the conferences on March 5 & 6 so keep an eye out for that when you are here.

COBs Bread:

Right now we have a fundraiser going that if you purchase bread from COBS a percentage will come back to Ecole Edwards Elementary from every item sold.

We also now have specific grade accounts as well as whole school accounts with the bottle recycling fundraiser at the bottle depot to support certain classes or the school with additional funds.

Information regarding school fundraisers are posted on the Ecole Edwards twitter & facebook page.

Open Floor:

Open to any questions
(the video posted on the school's facebook page of the council meeting includes questions asked)

Adjournment:	<p>- Thank you for coming and see you next time!</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Ecole Edwards Elementary School Website</u> <u>École Edwards School Council Facebook Page</u> <u>Remind App</u></p>
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Next School Council meeting
March 20, 2025 @ 6:00PM