

Nicholas Sheran Elementary School Council

Tuesday, Nov 21st, 2023 @6:30pm in NS Staff Room

Call to Order: 6:32 by Sarah H.

WELCOME & Introductions: Tyler W, Silvana C, Nicole H, Monnu B, Marra D, Megan L, Meggen H, Tisha E, Lindsay O, Sarah H, Karma VS, Brette T, Aaron F, Steve W

Any Additions: Parking Lot issue

Approval of AGENDA/Second: motion by Tisha. Megan second

Approval of MINUTES/Second: motion by Lindsay, second by Tisha

New Business:

- School Travel Planning – Laurel Flanagan, Traffic Safety Engineer, City of Lethbridge.
 - Discuss the possibility of engaging in the School Travel Planning process with the City of Lethbridge. The primary objective is to increase the active and transit travel modes to and from school as well as improving school road safety.
- Main purpose is to encourage people to walk or bike to reduce traffic congestion and enhance road safety around the school area.
- Will be focusing on 10-15 minute walking distance of the school.
- There will be a committee of people from the city, AHS, AMA and parents/staff and possibly police.
- The process will be data collection (surveying kids and parents) then putting together an action plan by the end of this school year.
- Plan to meet on parent council night from 5:30 until 6:30. Hope to offer a Teams meetings option for people who can't make it in person. Tentatively plan for January 16 as first meeting.

Grade level sharing: Grade 3 Lewis, Niven, Huckabay

Morphemes – breaking up words into parts

UFLI Foundations – sound recognition within words. Instead of memorization, they can look on the sound wall and see what sounds are in words

vocabulary – to make it fun, once they use a “fancy word” they say oh la la. They try to use the fancy words in their writing. Tier 1 vocab words are very basic every day. Easy to read and used in normal conversation. Tier 3 is very subject-specific words, tier 2 is more abstract, have multiple meanings.

Administration Report: Aaron F and Stephen W

- Nutrition Programs: We are always open to receiving donations to our nutrition programs (breakfast program, lunch program, and snack program). Income tax receipts can be issued by the school division, and anyone interested in supporting these

initiatives by making a donation can get in touch with Mrs. Miklos for instructions. Committee update: We have purchased a dishwasher for the nutrition program to use. It will meet the needs of the purchasing department and the health inspector. The division is supporting us with the cost of plumbing, electrical, and installation. We are pricing out flatware and tableware that will meet our durability and cost needs.

- Events from last month: Since our last meeting on October 17, we have celebrated many things in our school. The list could go on, but important to note are the: Book Fair, our first Values Assembly, Take Me Outside Day, Halloween / Costume Parades, Indigenous Veterans' Day, Remembrance Day, and Rock Your Mocs Week (an opportunity to be united and to acknowledge and celebrate Indigenous Identities). Thank you for all the support!
- Sock it to 'Em: CUPE 290 (caretaker/maintenance employees union) collects brand-new socks for organizations around our community. This sock donation is vital for people in our community who really benefit from clean, dry footwear. Anyone is encouraged to bring their donation to the office between November 1 and December 13. The collection basket is in the office!
- Learning Commons: Thank you for the donations to Mrs. Woods and her planning for the Nicholas Sheran Market. For the next two weeks in Makerspace, students are learning numeracy and financial literacy skills through the activities planned. They will be using our school "money" and other materials they've created to make the market come to life. THANK YOU for all the donations of treats, gently used books, and the time/talent of Mrs. Vallee who made some beautiful signs for the event. We will ask Mrs. Woods to take a lot of photos! Mrs. Woods updates her area of the website: <https://ns.lethsd.ab.ca/learning-commons2>
- Staffing: We had been working to fill two EA positions in kindergarten. We are excited to announce that Mr. Mark Lane is a full-time kindergarten EA who started just a couple of weeks ago. Miss Kaitlynn Zimmer has been hired as our Tuesday/Thursday (and scheduled Fridays) kindergarten EA; this is a shared position with the Park Meadows kindergarten program. Welcome to our school! Tracy Wieler, our Admin Support person, has resigned from her position this week. We will work with Human Resources to make plans for moving forward with this position.
- Family Numeracy Night: Thursday, November 23 from 6:00-7:00pm in the school gymnasium. We are excited to welcome students and their families to this event. It is open to everyone, as long as students are with parents/guardians. The numeracy committee set the initial plan, but all teachers have been involved in preparing for this evening! It's great to coincide with the Learning Commons Marketplace activities.
- Budget: Our school-based budget for the 2023-2024 school year has been submitted. The per pupil education grant from Alberta Education makes up the bulk of funding to our school. We do receive grant funding such as our \$15,000 grant for the nutrition program and our \$2,000 wellness grant. These are administered by the school division to us from various pools of funding. We have special funding that goes toward inclusive education, early education, and other smaller pockets. Most of any school budget goes toward certificated staff (teaching staff), with the next major pool being for support staff (Admin Assistant, Admin Support, Learning Commons Facilitator, Speech Language

Assistant). EAs and Caretaking staff are not paid out of our school budgets. We work with the school division to direct these allocations toward our school based on need, school size, student enrolment, class sizes, complexities, etc.

- Student Teachers: Our seven Education 2500 practicum students are with us until December 6. Since our last meeting we have welcomed two Professional Semester One student teachers to our school. Mr. Bailey Yanke is with Mme. Chudobiak in Grade 4 and Mr. Logan Jacques is with Ms. Finnie in Grade 1. Their practicum runs until December 14. We have four teachers who have applied to host a Professional Semester Three intern, but we have not heard from the University about these placements yet.
- Student Enrollment: Our school population, from Pre-K (EEP, Early Education Program) to Grade 5 is currently 387.
- Angel Tree: Angel Tree is happening once again, and our school will be a drop off location. Mrs. Jen Robinson is coordinating this for us. We appreciate the opportunity to be connected to this important initiative from Lethbridge Family Services.
- Report Cards: Report Cards will “go live” on the parent portal of PowerSchool this Friday, November 24. If anyone has questions about their child’s progress, we ask them to connect with classroom teachers via email, telephone, or apps like Class Dojo. If parents cannot access a report card digitally, we can print one for them. Traditionally, access to the digital report card is quite low, so we encourage anyone who is struggling to please reach out. Most elementary schools in our division average 40-60% readership of the digital report cards. Any ideas you may have to increase engagement are appreciated!
- Westside Elementary Boundary Engagement: The first of these two evenings was November 8, and the next one is coming up this week on November 22. Both events are hosted at Chinook High School. There will be opportunities for online engagement beginning on November 23. The school can send out details about online engagement to families. It is important for parents and guardians to be heard in this discussion about where new Westside elementary school boundaries will be drawn.
- Important November/December Dates
 - November 23 – Grade 5 Skating at 2:30pm
 - November 23 – Family Numeracy Night 6:00 – 7:00pm in the Gymnasium
 - November 24 – Report Cards Open on the Portal
 - November 29 – Kids Choir 2023 at 7:00 – 8:00pm at Southminster United Church
 - December 7 – Nicholas Sheran Values Assembly, 9:30am in the Gymnasium
 - December 19 – School Council, 6:30pm in the NS Staff Room
 - December 21 – Grade 5 Skating
 - December 22 – Red and Green Spirit Day, last day of school before the break
 - December 23 – January 7 (inclusive) - Winter Break
 - January 8, 2024 – School resumes

Treasurer Report: Lacey M (Sarah H will read report). Cheques for classroom allotments went out \$5000 total. Cheque for numeracy night was \$250.

Financial requests: none

Hot Lunch/Fundraising Report: Lindsay O.

- Bootsma reminder. Closes on November 30th. Delivered on December 6
- Kernels and Subway update. We made \$1000 on kernels fundraiser.
- We made \$5.85 on subway hot lunch.
- School cash online takes a lot of our money in fees. We'll ask the division what the money is used for and we'll look into different options on ways to pay.
- Hot lunches are tentatively lined up for the year. We'll post them online so parents can see what hot lunches are coming up. We'll do the same for fundraisers.

Events: Sarah H

- Numeracy Night - Nov 23rd.

District Council Report: Monnu B. / Tyler W.

- Feedback re: School Choice Policy/Nutrition Policy
 - The policy committee only has 1 parent sitting on it. It was proposed that we get more parents on the committee. The policy committee was supposed to vote/discuss on whether they were going to have additional parents join committee. They want 1 parent from each grade level and the alternative schools. They're going to meet on that. If it's approved then there will be a vote and presentations from the people who represent the schools to determine which parents will join the committee. It's purely an advisory committee, they don't make decisions there.
 - Right now there are 2 policies up for review. Currently, the policy change emails go to the parent council chair, but they're going to add the district council reps.
 - We'll ask Janine to add parent council update page to the monthly newsletter.
 - If you want to see the 2 policies that are currently up for review, see the division page.
 - Poverty intervention - what are trending issues we see at Nicholas Sheran when it comes to poverty in the school? If you have feedback, email sarah.seymour@gmail.com. They want feedback by the December meeting. Aaron will send a form to the whole school to get feedback. Aaron will send feedback to Tyler and Monnu so they can take it back to the division.
 - One idea was the school was doing donation drives for staff appreciation lunches. Create an online spot where parents can donate towards staff appreciation. Aaron feels the majority of the staff would prefer parents donate to the nutrition program rather than a staff appreciation fund.

Trustee Report: none

Executive Council Report: none

Old Business:

- Banking authority has been updated to Lindsay O., Sarah H. We have new cheques and the name on the cheques have been changed to Nicholas Sheran Elementary School Council (dropped the Ecole).

- West Side Boundary changes. Online engagement will open Nov 23rd. Feedback will be gathered until Nov 30th on the Lethbridge School Division Community Engagement website.

New Business:

- Assurance Plan Results Report Feedback (Aaron F.)
 - Annual Education Results Report: Each year, schools are asked to reflect on the results of their spring surveys (Our School Report) that is administered by Alberta Education. Our Admin Team received access to these survey results on October 31, and we have been drafting our results report since then. Teachers had an opportunity to give feedback on the survey results, and we want to give parents here some time to think about the results and to provide us with some feedback. Each page has been updated with the required graph of results, and we have included two graphs of “optional” information at the end. First, we would like to answer any questions you might have about this report; then, we would like to offer you 5-10 minutes to discuss with a partner and make some notes/suggestions for us. Your feedback is valuable as we complete the report. It must be “live” on our website by November 30. *Note on parent survey results: We only had 5 parents complete the survey last year. It is administered to parents of grade four students annually. These parents/guardians will receive a code in the mail with instructions for accessing and completing the survey. We are also going to talk about how to increase engagement/parent participation. Because our parent engagement was lower than 6, they are unfortunately not included in our results.
- Vote for voting authority for District Council (Sarah H.)
 - Motion that Tyler be the voting authority for our school at division council.
Approved.
- Parking Lot/parking issues – a child almost got hit today walking on the sidewalk across the entrance to the parking lot. The child’s parent had to pull the kid back so they wouldn’t get hit. The vehicle was coming from the north turning right into the parking lot.
 - One tip is to tell your kids to make eye contact with the driver before they cross the street.
 - The parking lot is a critical safety issue. Parents, we’d rather you be late dropping off kids than rush through the parking lot.
- No December meeting. Next meeting will be January 16th

Motion to Adjourn/Second: motion by Megan, second by Tyler. Adjourned at 8:27.