

Michael Strembitsky School Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

April Kennett, Chair
Karrie Whalen, Vice-Chair
Julia Styler, Secretary

1. Call to Order at 6:30pm by April
2. Welcome/Attendance & Establishments of Quorum
3. April read the Land Acknowledgement (Treaty 6).
4. Approval of Agenda

Motion made to approve the agenda as presented. Joanne approved & Renee second.

5. Approval of Minutes from November 8, 2023 Meeting

Motion made to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2023 meeting by Renee & second by Joanne.

6. Principal's Report by Mr. Sheppard

Pre-enrolment opens February 1, 2024 for new & returning students & closes March 22, 2024.

7. Parent Representatives Report

Division 1 - Times of the grade 1/2 Christmas concert made it hard for some parents to attend. Next year they might all have to be at earlier times.

Division 2 - no concerns.

Division 3 - no concerns.

8. Old Business

8.1 School Council Workshop "The Work of the School Council: It's Not About the Meeting"

The workshop is scheduled January 18, 2024. It will be held virtually & participants need to registered a minimum of 24 hours in advance. The registration link will be posted after tonight's meeting.

8.2 The Black Bookshelf Project

Currently is still being looked into on the school's end.

8.3 Traffic Update

Sam will be contacting them to get the traffic warden to come out again this month.

9. New Business

9.1 Meetings Online vs. In Person

Any voting for Parents Foundation can only be made by those attending the meetings in person. Decision was made to keep both in person & online meeting options available.

9.2 Special Guest: Martin Fechner (Principal of J. Percy Page High School) & Jan Sawyer (School Board of Trustees)

Martin Fechner, Principal of J. Percy Page is a special guest tonight to talk about high school & the transition to high school.

The new boundary for J. Percy Page can be found on the Edmonton Public School Board website, though the boundary is not currently set in stone. The school is currently at level 1 enrolment, which means it has open boundaries & anyone can attend. Students can choose to attend any high school in Edmonton depending on the school's level, but all students within J. Percy Page's boundaries are guaranteed a spot to attend. Students can only put in an application for one high school choice. Pre-enrolment allows the school to build their program based on enrolment numbers.

J. Percy Page is a great community school in which 50% of students who attend are from out of boundaries & choose to attend. Student services has 4 councillors, which are assigned by the student's last name, they are there to support the students. The teachers are committed to students. The student leadership teacher is great & very involved with the students. Students have access lots of activities & clubs. Athletics, the school has lots of teams & are city champions for volleyball.

J. Percy Page is a semestered school & uses percentages for grades. Students need to get 100 credits to get their diploma. There are certain mandatory courses which are required to graduate. Hours no longer apply, just credits. Some courses consist of modules & students receive 1 credit per module, with most courses earning 3-5 credits. No fast tracking is allowed. No grade 10 students are to have a spare, but grade 12 students require to help with increase workload. On Fridays the school has late start day, with 70% of the students voting for this.

The core courses that are required are English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science &

Social Studies. Physical Education (PE) is mandatory in grade 10. J. Percy Page has a wide variety of fine art, career & technology options available to choose from, as well as French & Spanish as a second language. Students in grade 10 are required to take 3 option courses. J. Percy Page is also offers the Advance Placement Program (AP). More information about the AP program & option courses can be found in the Program Guide on J. Percy Page's website (jpercypage.epsb.ca)

There will be an open house at J. Percy Page on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 from 6pm to 8pm, as well as an AP session from 6:30pm to 7:15pm. Grade 8 & 9 students & families are welcome to attend to see what they have to offer. Mr. Fechner recommends students & parents attend at least 2 open houses to help determine where they wish to attend.

Jan Sawyer, School Board Trustee is a special guest tonight to talk about the EPSB division & answer questions.

High schools are getting full, they will be out of space by 2027, division wide. EPSB will need 15 more schools to catch up. The Alberta government budget will be out in March & the division is hoping to get the funding for at least 5 schools.

The proposed new construction priorities for 2024-2026 are: Year 1 (critical) - Glenridding Heights 7-12 (SW2), Glenridding Heights K-6 (SW2), Rosenthal K-6 (NW), McConachie 7-9 (N) & Dr. Anne Anderson School Addition 10-12 (SW2). Year 2 (crucial) - Hawks Ridge K-6 (NW), Aster K-9 (SE1), Crystallina Nera K-6 (N) & West 10-12 (W). Year 3 (strategic) - Riverview K-9 (W), The Orchards South K-9 (SE2), Decoteau K-9 (SE2) & Marquis (Horse Hill) K-6 (NE).

All speciality school in EPSB are lottery schools. There is zero chance of getting a speciality school in south Edmonton as the EPSB doesn't have enough school space.

The job of a school board trustee is to represent & advocate for students & parents in their ward, you can contact Jan Sawyer by phone at 780-429-8085 or by email at trustee.jan.sawyer@epsb.ca

1. Next meeting to be Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 6:30pm.

1. Meeting adjourned at 7:29pm.

Attendance:

Samar Al Hajjaj
April Kennett
Jenilee Woodfield
Renee Brass
Samantha Miedreich
Joanne Bullock
Laura Ebborn

Julia Styler
Karrie Whalen
Jessica Skoreyko
Chap Sheppard, Principal
Brent Bigney, Vice-Principal
Malti Verma, Vice-Principal

