

Dalhousie School Council School Update
March 6th, 2024

Acknowledgement of the land

Call to order Welcome and Introductions 6:34 PM

Approval of agenda by Jackie and Lori

Approval of minutes from last meeting by Charleen and Simran

Updates from last minutes:

- Website updates – News

The CBE changed format of all the website and the Principal's message. The Principal's weekly news will continue to go out via email on Friday and it will be posted on website. New thing this week is to post the new daily on the website main page newsfeed. We want the website to be a daily up to date reference for parents.

Link to weekly updates: [Novidades - La semana del 11 de marzo al 15 \(cbe.ab.ca\)](https://www.cbe.ab.ca/Novidades-La-semana-del-11-de-marzo-al-15)

- Spanish Courses for parents at Dalhousie (New Dates)

The course needs a minimum of 10 parent to run. The dates for the courses will start later to allow for additional sign ups. Conflicts in dates with the School Council are now resolved. We are the only school in the NE and NW that offers language classes for parents. Only 4 parents registered last week.

- Yearbook Contest

The contest for the cover artwork closed on Feb 29 and there was a great interest with over 30 entries. The winner was picked tonight at the review meeting. The committee had a representative from each grade group submit an entry. Plan to announce by this Friday. The yearbook committee also wants to add some of the additional entries thorough the yearbook to highlight the awesome artwork. This is exciting and the teachers are working hard to build yearbook.

- Student Lead Conferences (March 21-22)

This session will change to student led vs. teacher led parent conference. Information about format and sign up will be sent out to parents next week. Students come with parent and lead the conference with teacher to show what they have been working on and what has been learned in class.

¿Que Pasa?

Que Pasa the CBE Spanish Bilingual Schools ranging from elementary to high schools, coming together at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium to present and celebrate the Spanish language, culture and music. Principal meeting happened for planning purposes and its going to be quite full again this year. The schedule is out for all the schools and we will be sending out info for parents of all the schools to attend. Some logistics around busing to and from to be worked out Lori looking into. Appreciate the support of the school council. It will take about 10 days to sort out the cost of the bus. The date is May 7, 2024 at the Jubilee. The school received various forms regarding the event and this looks like it will be an amazing event. Paperwork coming out soon to the parents for consent to release for the

recording. The goal is to have everyone included and participating! Will work with parents to make the situation work for all families.

Q Is Que Pasa open for parents to attend?

A There will be a ticket sale. This information will come with the letter sent to parents.

School Planning 2024 presentation

- Pools (SDP-Budget)
- Survey on presentation

Link to Presentation and survey results: [Learn and Share | School Planning - Dalhousie School \(cbe.ab.ca\)](#)

In the fall when Scott was still with us he shared the 3 goals derived from the data we had based on CBE survey last year. The 3 goals are related to language, math and wellness.

If you are new to council this information is available on school website and was shared in January.

Gather of feedback for school planning is possible through extended survey. It will be open as soon as possible. Friday March 7th at 8am and open till March 30 at midnight. This link will be sent on the school weekly message and posted on school website. You can use link or QR code which will take you to CBE webpage, start with video presentation and then proceed to survey. There is some information in Spanish, if any families need help with translation, please reach out.

We will update website as soon as we have data from tonight's poll and there will be another survey regarding the presentation.

April 12 2024 will have access to survey results for parents.

Nov 2024 sharing information from results shared with school council.

This is a lot information but we appreciate your time. You can use link to complete the data to be posting on website

Q What are Residency Elders?

A We are hoping to ask an Indigenous elder to work with the school. We don't currently have one. They work with different programs and teachers on PD days to bring connection and support with indigenous community and framework. They also work to build connections with students and bring a focused perspective on how we teach our current classes. It can be hard to find Elders currently, some school choose them to visit every 2-3 months and are very powerful for students and teachers.. Generally, there is a cost is attached to this.

Upcoming events

- Crazy hair day, March 8

Teachers have organized for K students to do on March 7th. This information will be available on website. Based on feedback we received we also are making bilingual announcements to remind students of these activities so everyone can participate.

- March 21-22 Student lead conference

Teachers are working together to create within the grade groups to have consistency from classroom to classroom with each grade group.

- March 22 NID-No School (SLC)
- Spring Break, March 25 to April 1
- Build a Bridge Challenge, April 5

Will be posted and announced.

- Spring Concert April 24-25

When reading through minutes on April 23 is rehearsal day and a guest speaker is coming in so we had to see the schedule for music teacher to use the gym. It should be okay but we made need to work around this.

- Grade 5 CBE Survey by April 12

We have another importance survey for the Grade 5th students by April 12. This is the second survey for these folks.

Q If the concert is on two different nights have we decided the logistics of how this will be split up?

Last year this felt 'messy' due to gym capacity. Grades were split up and they tried to keep siblings together but that was not always the case. Some families had one child performing on one night and one child on the other night. Parents could only have two chairs for the performance so additional siblings weren't able to attend. This was hard for parents. Suggestion to split alphabetically to be able to keep siblings together?

A The band teacher has an idea of how to improve this year but it is not confirmed yet. The schedule will be coming out shortly. Capacity is a one of main focus. The gym has a capacity of 450 people with 467 students split into 2 nights.

Kids are preparing really hard to put on a great concert and we want to acknowledge their efforts and keep the concert fun for them.

The Principal will investigate alternatives for organization of event but each family may be limited to 2 guest due to capacity.

Q I know the grade 5 have loved doing morning announcement this week. Could we look at doing this long term one day a week or several to have some fun for the kids?

A That is the plan! We are working towards routine announcements with the kids involvement.

Next School Council Meeting is on April 3, 2024 – Note this is the week back from spring break

Adjournment 736PM

DALHOUSIE PARENT SOCIETY MEEETING
March 6th, 2024

Call to order 738pm

Adopt Agenda by Jackie and Amber

Adopt Previous Minutes by Jackie and Simran

Co Chair Report: Lori

We are just mere weeks away from Spring Break! This year is flying by!
We are still running our Spring 50-50 Raffle – Tickets will be available to sell until March 15th – these proceeds will be going directly to the Playground.

WE HAVE A NEW CASINO SLOTTING!! We received word that we will be holding our next Casino in Q2 of 2025! That's only 1 year away!! In the meantime, we are still actively looking for a volunteer to take this position over – if you are willing and would like to be trained – please let Charleen know ASAP and I will get you started! We had our funds deposited into our account – it was a tremendous amount which will be addressed in our Treasurer Update.

Lacey has some great fundraising initiatives running – more to be discussed in the fundraising update.

We began planning for Dr. Kincade of Evolve Psychology to be our Presenter this year for our Dalhousie Parent Society Seminar. This event will be held on April 23 rd at 6:30pm at the school. Advertising will be posted on social media platforms and an email will be being sent out with RSVP information. This event will be in person only.

Several more Grants were written by the fabulous Playground Committee ladies – Lindsay, Kristi & Amber – we are waiting to hear back from a few of these companies to see if we will be awarded their grants.

The Fiesta team has started planning for this year's event.

Financial Review: Charleen

Compiled as of Mar 3/24

Casino account is currently sitting at:
\$110,678.68
We earned \$0.64 in interest this month.

Our Casino profit was deposited this past month we earned \$80,843.73 from our most recent casino!

Last Casino netted ~ \$63 000 so this is a great increase in profit even from pre-COVID.

Operating account is Currently at:

\$33,978.76

We earned \$0.28 in interest this month.

We added \$2110.40 this month from Healthy hunger and hoodie orders.

We used \$460.93 in printing costs for order forms, rental of our gym from the city, office supplies for staff.

Updated Budget shared shows the \$80K for casino. Apples came in less than projected and short on veggies. Good for Mom's Pantry and Purdys chocolates went over projected by \$1800. May not do the honey fundraiser. Mabels labels and Flip Give is still ongoing. We are doing well with overall budget toward operating costs. Right now, due to playground fundraising, this is floating our operating budget for this year for busing, que pasa, swimming, skiing etc. Any money left over after playground is built will go towards residencies and all the things we would typically push through the casino account. We really do appreciate all the participation in all the fundraisers!

Fundraising Update: Lacey

We have extended our Coco Brooks fundraiser. Orders can be accepted until March 25. To increase sales, we recently sent home order form with students. Hopefully it will prompt parents to realize the fundraiser is still in the works! Also, it's a great conversation starter! We have arranged for pickup of the orders for April 8. However, I received an email from Coco Brooks stating that they will not be delivering the order if inside of Calgary and that it's up to us to pick it up from their warehouse. I will need some parent volunteers for the pickup as I am currently recovering from a broken ankle. We will set up a sign up genius for this as well as help with distribution which is scheduled for April 8 from 3-5 at the school.

The plant fundraiser with Indeygo is still ongoing. Final submission date is April 1, 2024. Delivery and pick up dates are still to be determined.

Q Any opportunity to pick up early if order is already placed and we are getting at the warehouse ourselves anyway?

A Will pose question to Lacey. She does not think Coco Brooks would allow this.

Comments No flyer for Coco Brooks received by multiple parents.

A Email Dalhousie Parents Society email if you want an order form to be printed off at home.

Playground Update: Lindsay

We're almost there, folks! Just \$60,000 away from reaching our fundraising target. Every contribution counts as we approach the final stretch. Please join in the current 50/50 and other ongoing fundraisers to help us cross the finish line.

Thanks to the diligent work of our Grant Writers, we've been guided on how to reapply

to specific companies, including a big one like Kal-Tire. This could be a game-changer, potentially exceeding our goal and allowing us to allocate additional funds for school activities. With Amber's fantastic efforts in reaching out to the community advisor and submitting the application, we're hopeful for a positive response. Fingers crossed, everyone!

We've also received news about another grant opportunity from a reputable Calgary Charity that has supported projects similar to ours in the past. This brings us even more hope as we await further developments. Thank you, Kristi!

As we are so close to our goal we may be able to apply to the additional grants with the City.

On the administrative side, we're in the final stages of coordinating with the City of Calgary and CBE to set dates for demolition and installation. We're aiming for the end of May, once the snow has melted and the ground has thawed and dried up. Let's pray for SUN. We are working with dean who is CBE rep to get a removal date and then the ground needs to be dry for them to install so it is not wrecked by equipment.

With your continued support, we're confident we'll achieve our goals. Let's keep pushing forward together!

Props to the grant writing! You are all working to hard.

Fun Lunch Update: Corrine

In February we made \$1855.02. There are two more fun lunches before spring break. Next Wednesday is Fat Burger and then Subway and Booster Juice on March 19. We still have lots of dates that need volunteers. If you have clearance and the time, please sign up!

Sign up genius is up till end of year.

Kudos to Fun Lunch, amazing numbers.

Fiesta Update: Jackie

The food trucks are officially booked.

Heather is looking into Dalhousie tattoos for kids to DIY. Had discussed face painting but decided for temp tattoos with Grade 5 volunteers applying throughout the event. Trying to get Dalhousie specific tattoos!

Someone has reached out to us re a cotton candy machine, and he donates a portion of sales back to us - *which is a fabulous idea and I love it! Per Principal can have cotton candy vender set up inside the school during school hours. Needs 3 hours set up!

We are looking for more volunteers to join the committee and we will need volunteers the day of the event to help as well.

Plan to set up a signup genius to be able to get volunteers. Multigenerational groups to volunteer together and support each other is the plan. Jackie to provide information about how many volunteers per station to be able to set up the signup genius.

Jackie to connect with Day One Dad.

Amber to send Jackie information regarding Kal-Tire local store to work with committee to help with Fiesta. They have a BBQ and tents, volunteers. May be able to leverage potential support.

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Casino Update

We finally received our Casino Payout for the Casino we held in October!!! As mentioned in the Treasurer Update - we raised \$80,843.73. As mentioned in our last meeting, we are still actively looking for a new casino lead! Actions have been already taken for our next Casino being held in Q2 of 2025!

Lease and Casino Advisor contract signed. Lee, Val and Miranda will be the advisors. Would expect we get our Casino date for Q4 of this year. If someone can take over before Charleen leaves position in June then she can volunteer her time and services to train otherwise it could be a real challenge.

Upcoming Seminar with Dr Michelle Kincade of Evolve Psychology to be held on April 23 at 6:30pm at Dalhousie School. This cost us \$93 to book with the city to hold this event. The CBE only covers \$500 for these events so we will need to approve the additional costs that we will incur. Heather H will be helping us organize this event for our families. Will have to pay some costs out of operating budget as Dr. Kincade cost will \$600. To attend the event, you do need to come in person. It is not recorded or virtual.

We may be able to provide childcare in separate room at school. There is several Grade 5s that have done babysitter course and could be keen to run crafts for kids with a parent volunteer. The council agrees this is a great idea and would provide some leadership opportunities for Grade 5.

Old Business

Sra Jean requesting white boards but not further info. School does have some funds left for some of these supplies. Principal to check with Sra Jean about specifics.

New Business

Three individuals in past month don't understand what Parent Council does and it does not have the best reputation with the general parent population. Suggestion to have an evening to host parents in a space and ask and questions or get to know what parent and school council do. If a parent wants to get involved but doesn't know how this could be a great opportunity.

Comments

Agreement that the idea is great but worries there would need to be some incentive to get parents there due to low turn out at the parent council meetings.

Suggestion to update the website with actual photos of members to allow for visibility for parents to know who the council is.

Suggestion to do a survey Monkey providing information about parent council with questions about how parent council is doing and a question for 'would you attend a social engagement with the parent council team?' would allow for some anonymity and see what potential engagement would be for a night like this.

Q Could we host a meet and greet for parents of classrooms? I don't know a lot of my kids classmates parents. I think it would be so great to do a meet up for this. Maybe use the community center. This could also be a good opportunity to introduce the parent council.

Comments We could invite parents to arrive at 6pm, 30 minutes before speaker on April 23 to socialize with other parents. Per Principal we could use the learning commons as the gym will be prepared for the event

Every September there used to be a welcome BBQ/Breakfast with staff and parents. Multiple echos to plan more things for parents to meet each other and staff.

Suggestion for the Fiesta to have Parent Council Members table to share info, introduce themselves, spread the joy, recruit new members.

The Spring 50/50 Playground Raffle will run to March 15th

Next Meeting is on April 3rd/ 2024 – Note this is the week after spring break

Adjournment 8:19 pm