

**Dalhousie School Council Minutes
School Update**

November 1, 2023

Call to order 6:33pm

Adopt Agenda Heather and Jackie

Adopt the Minutes Heather and Melissa

Welcome to Sébastien Fournier

It's my pleasure to welcome Sébastien Fournier to Dalhousie as Acting Principal. Sébastien will say a few words of introduction.

Maatoomsii'Pookaiks (Indigenous Education Professional Learning Day)

On November 9th, the Dalhousie Staff will be participating in our third system wide Indigenous Professional Development Day.

The first system-wide Indigenous Education Professional Learning Day was held on October 18, 2021, after the Superintendents' Team approved the design of an annual system non-instruction day of professional learning. The purpose for this common system day was to focus on improving staff's professional knowledge and practice to ensure that "CBE students who self-identify as Indigenous are supported to experience improved achievement and well-being.

This day was also created as a response and a way to commit to advancing the Truth and reconciliation commission's 94 calls to action, specifically focusing on the TRC Call to Action #57 - providing education on the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Indigenous rights, Indigenous law, and Indigenous-Crown relations.

This year's Professional Development Day is named after the Blackfoot word that was gifted to the CBE by the Piikani Elder Leonard Bastien at last year's system Indigenous Professional Day. The Blackfoot name gifted is Maatoomsii'Pookaiks (MAAH-DOOM-SEE-BOO-GAAKS), which translates to Putting Children First.

The professional learning undertaken on this day is guided by the CBE's Indigenous Holistic Framework document. This document was designed to help all CBE staff to meet the Three-year Education Plan focusing on "Students who self-identify as Indigenous are supported to experience improved achievement and well-being through relevant key actions".

Within this guiding document we are using The Indigenous Education Holistic Lifelong Learning Visual to guide our work. The visual is a medicine wheel with 4 quadrants that uses the traditional colors of yellow, red, black and white. At the centre of the medicine wheel there is a small circle that represents the individual. This small circle is surrounded by the 4 domains- “to be, to belong, to know and to feel to do”. This year, our work will be focused on the “to belong” domain that has an emphasis on fostering and strengthening relationships with Indigenous Elders, students, families, and the community required to advance the efforts of schools and service units to value, consider, and include learning about and through Indigenous ways of being, belonging, doing, and knowing for all CBE students and staff.



All schools will be partaking in this day by engaging in common videos, discussions, and protocols. Dalhousie, like every other school, has the opportunity to personalize our learning. We have chosen to focus on learning about ethical space and its impact for our learners.

Lori - I know an Indigenous mom who is a parent at the school who would like to connect as a resource.

Answer – I have not heard from this parent, please have her contact us.

Enrolment and Staffing

As discussed at our last meeting, we have posted an Education Assistant position. This would be the third EA in our school. Each of the positions is for five hours a week. We do not know if we will have a successful candidate through this process. If not, we will reconsider how we will configure support for our students.

School Development Plan

This year we will continue to work on three areas of focus in our School Development Plan:

Literacy - Students' reading in Spanish will improve. Teachers will Use a body of evidence for each student to create guided reading groups to target areas of improvement in reading in Spanish.

Numeracy – Students will improve their use of numbers to measure quantity by counting, labelling, comparing, and operating. Teachers will develop tasks that target number skills and that require students to express their understanding orally in Spanish (Number Talks, Games).

Well-Being - Students will develop perseverance when reading in Spanish and communicating mathematical ideas in Spanish. Teachers will develop tasks that support goal setting, practice, determination, self-regulation, and reflection on success and failure.

Measures for these goals include report card indicators, provincial numeracy assessments and evidence collected by teachers.

Heather - I have a question about literacy. With the elimination of Raz Kids, is there a tool to replace that?

Scott – We are still using Raz Kids.

Heather – We used to get the code at the beginning of the year.

Lindsay – My child just came home with the Raz Kids code today.

Heather – Have you seen any other literacy tools that involve parents or community to help the kids?

Karla – There are different websites. CBE has some that the teachers can access.

Scott – From a parent point of view, the best thing that you can do is read with your child. Teachers use a wide range of tools. Support literacy everyday at home.

Heather – How do we compare to other schools/grades? Are we behind other schools?

Scott – We collect data on our school and students. We don't have a way to compare one school to another.

Recent Events at Dalhousie

Grade 1-3 Swimming – make-up day will be Tuesday, November 7.

Halloween Parade

Dalhousie Happenings and Events

November 8: Remembrance Day Assembly

November 9: Indigenous Professional Development Day – NO SCHOOL for students

November 10 – 14: Fall Break

November 23 – 24: Student Learning Conferences (15-minute conferences)

Adjournment – 7:12pm

Next meeting December 6, 2023 6:30pm

Dalhousie Parent Society Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2023

Call to order – 7:13pm

Adopt Agenda – Lindsay and Jackie

Adopt Previous Minutes – Lindsay and Jackie

Co-Chair Report -

Just wanted to thank all of you parents that have joined our parent council meetings. Welcome to all the new parents who are trying to navigate what the parent council does.

During our Casino event, we were lucky enough to have a number of parents who had never volunteered before for our Casinos. A lot of questions were asked during those two nights. First – Each organization gets an equal share of what the Casinos in Alberta make during that specific 3 month quarter – So it doesn't necessarily matter which location you hold your Casino event at – whether it is a busier or slower Casino – we all get the same amount. Second, a lot of you asked - why do we do Casinos? Casinos are our #1 fundraiser. We have historically received between \$62,000 and as much as \$86,000 in the past 8 years. In the past, we have used this money towards residencies (photography, puppeteering, dance creations, STEM residencies and more! The last Casino and this Casino we have solely dedicated to helping get our Playground built. Our next Casino will be dedicated again to helping enhance our children's learning experience. We are incredibly lucky to have a parent council that is able to raise monies for various activities as there are schools even within Calgary that do not get these privileges. Parent council fundraises for these experiences to also keep the cost of field trips, swimming, skiing and snowboarding to a more financially feasible option for families. Lacey has been doing an incredible job with her seasonal fundraisers, Corrine and now Kristen also have been doing a fabulous job with the Fun Lunches. These ladies have been able to help our parent council pay for our expenditures for the past couple of previous years and the next 2 years to come (until we get our next Casino) while our Casino funds are tied up in the Playground.

We are still actively searching for 2 Directors for our parent council that will be willing to be trained in upcoming positions next year. We will be in need of at least one Co-Chair and the Secretary. We hopefully have been able to

recruit a new parent for our Casino moving forward – who will join our Executive team. More to come once we know for certain.

There is a LOT going on this year – and we are going to need all your support to get it done! Now that our Casino event is done, we can really start to focus on the Playground & Fiesta/Unveiling in the Spring. Please contact us if you are able to join us with volunteering.

Financial Review –

Casino account is currently sitting at:

\$210,575.39

We earned _____ © in interest this month. (not yet posted to account)

With our casino this month we have a bit more to report.

The Casino now writes a cheque to the organizations to ensure that the Casino Advisor fees don't bounce. This cheque amount is taken off the total amount paid out in Feb. it still is counted towards how much the group makes from the payout.

However, since we wanted 100% of the Casino funds to go to the playground account, we have reimbursed the amount of the Casino Advisor costs to the Casino account as well. We also added \$60.35 in tips to the account and had to write a cheque to cover the food cost overage of \$284.04

So instead of that being \$259.04 it's now \$284.04.

As we previously mentioned at our last meeting you will notice this account balance is much larger than our previous meeting. To further our grant writing process for the playground we transferred our previous grant of \$125,000 out of our operating account and into our casino account.

Operating account is Currently at:

\$26,683.34

We earned _____ © in interest this month. (not yet posted)

Since our last meeting we have added \$1065.50 for the extra apples, veggie fundraiser and Healthy hunger added \$2373.92 for the month.

We Transferred out the \$125,000 for the grant to the casino account.

We transferred \$250.00 from our operating account to a family for a mistaken park donation that was intended for the parks account.

We spent \$200.00 on gift cards for prizing for volunteers who helped with the casino.

Question – Banks are offering high interest accounts. Are we looking into that?

Charleen – We are an organization so we do not qualify.

Casino Update –

I apologize for not making it to the meetings so far this year. Both my boys have activities on Wednesday so it's making attending meetings challenging!

Congratulations Dalhousie, we did it! We successfully completed another Casino fundraiser for our students. Thank you to all the amazing parents that showed up for a shift or even two, even showing up during a snowstorm and super dodgy roads! All the volunteers were amazing and each and every one of you made a difference for the students at Dalhousie School.

We will be sure to update you as soon as we find out how much money our school will receive, which we will not know until early 2024.

Thank you Dalhousie!!

Fundraising Update –

We've got a fundraiser for all your festive needs this season! We are so excited to be able to partner with the following fundraising groups all in great support of our school:

Purdy's Fundraiser - Awesome chocolate and treats perfect for gift giving or just a well deserved treat. Orders are due [November 22](#) and pick up is scheduled for [December 11](#) at the front lobby of the school from 3-5

Mom's Pantry - Wonderful selection of pantry and frozen items available Orders are due by [November 7](#) and delivery is yet to be determined. Please keep reading updates for date for pick up

Growing Smiles - Gorgeous planters, wreathes and poinsettias perfect for decorating your home. Orders are due by [November 21](#) pick up for [December 5](#) at the front lobby of the school from 3-5.

All of these links for ordering can be found on our website also we will be including the links in our weekly update.

Thank you to everyone who continue to support our fundraisers!

Playground Update –

AND THE WINNER IS... WEST PALM, securing an impressive 57% of the total votes. We extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who took the time to cast their votes. We had a total of 154 participants, and we're thankful for your active engagement.

To lock in the current pricing and prevent any potential future price increases, we've scheduled the order placement for [November 10, 2023](#).

It's important to acknowledge that we understand the significant cost associated with the rubber surfacing. However, when we're building a playground with a long-term perspective of 20-25 years in mind, it's crucial to do the right thing and ensure it's inclusive for all abilities. Not only will this choice make the playground accessible to everyone for generations to come, but it also enhances safety by providing cushioning for impacts from various surface heights, which can be particularly important for our children at play.

Please reach out to the Playground Committee if you have any questions at all.

Jackie – What colours is west plam?

Lindsay – Blue, orange, pink, and green. It is super bright.

Heather – I was wondering about the flooring. I was at a playground that had half gravel and half rubber.What is the flexibility with the warrant on the flooring?

Lindsay – He said that the warranty is seven years. We have looked into different companies. CBE is specific on who we can use.

School Shirts/Hoodies? Do we want to purchase some for sale/or sell for families to order?

Majority says yes.

Heather – Our neighbour has been bringing us Dalhousie clothing. Is there a way to upcycle school shirts?

Charleen – That is worth further discussion.

Heather – Can we collect for an upcycle for Fiesta?

Charleen – That is an excellent idea!

Lori – I don't know how long it will take, but can we have that available for conferences? Pre order at the time with samples?

Charleen – Should we get different colours?

Old Business

New Business –

Question – What does the January meeting look like?

Charleen – We won't have a meeting in January.

Next Meeting is on December 6th at 6:30pm

Adjournment – 7:56pm