

Chinook High School

School Council Meeting - Minutes

September 13 2023 7:00 pm

1. Call to Order – Bill Forster (Principal) chairing meeting in absence of previous school council president
 - a. Introductions – All present introduced themselves, common practice at school council meetings
 - b. Review Agenda – Agenda was reviewed, noted that this has been the standard format for school council, with the exception that because this is the meeting that executive elections were held that business section would take place before reports.

2. Business

- a. Role and Structure of School Council – Bill Forster led a conversation and introduced information on the role of school council. Information published from the Alberta School Council Association (ASCA) was presented – taken from <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/resources/school-councils>, referencing in particular the “What is school council” and School Council Resources Guide on what school council’s are and what they are not. It was introduced that school councils no longer need to belong to ASCA. A discussion of the role of ASCA and activities that it engages in (advocacy, training for school councils, annual conference) was had.

Discussion around the name of school council versus parent council, and older title, with questions asked about the difference – including discussion of all the who participate in school council.

Roles and responsibilities of school council executive positions were discussed. – Chair (set agenda, run meetings, liase with Principal, report to division), Vice Chair (take over Chair’s duties in absence), Secretary (record and coordinate with school office staff to publish minutes), Division School Council rep (attend division school council meeting and report back to school council). It was noted that as we really don’t carry a budget with the exception of some small grants by the school division and government and that no fundraising is done as part of this body that we do not elect a treasurer.

- b. Election of Officials
 - Due to small numbers, executive was chosen through a combination of open nominations, asking for volunteers and discussion. All positions were acclaimed as no more than one candidate was nominated/volunteered. Executive for the 2023-2024 school year are as follows:

Chair: Mike Shanks

Vice Chair: Corrine Steele

Secretary: Lisa Althouse – not present, but incumbent and agreed via phone to continue

Division School Council Rep(s) – Tisha Elford, Viviana Lartega

- c. Structure/Meetings – discussion was held on the structure of meetings over the last years (as represented by the agenda). Historical context around how school council meetings province wide have evolved from formal meetings using Roberts Rules of Order to a more collaborative structure was discussed, as the purpose of school council is discussion based and for advice to the Principal and school.

3. Committee Reports

- a. Student Leadership – an overview of how student leadership is run in the school as a class with opportunities for others to join was given, as well as how they work in concert with other clubs/classes/cocurricular to run events that enhance school culture was given. Overview of events taken place, underway (Truth and Reconciliation week) or next up was given.
- b. District School Council – Short discussion of last meeting in June was had. Agenda and minutes are available at <https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/parents/district-school-council/meetings>.
- c. Trustee- our Trustee Liaison this year is Christine Light. Christine gave a report on activities of the board in the new year. A question was asked about parent presentation and response at board meetings. Christine let us know that presentations are pre-arranged by parent/board/superintendent and that responses are given in writing to any questions asked.

4. Admin Reports

- a. Principals Report – Bill Forster reported on school opening progress, numbers and class sizes. Emphasized growth, class sizes (the school is larger now than it has been in the past and continues to grow). Bill also reported on new timetable structure for grade 9's – 5 blocks instead of 4, more time in English and Math to support literacy, numeracy, account for development over the year, and PE included which helps with daily activity.
- b. Admin/ Teacher Reports – reports by all 3 administrators present in addition to Principal
 - Tara Cunningham – reported her responsibilities as overseeing Wellness and timetabling – reported on wellness team roles and upcoming class visits. Also reported on progress with classes.
 - Cam Hall – reported responsibilities include overseeing Learning Support (shared with Duane) and Athletics. Cam reported that we have largest support team in the city, increased numbers of students with complex needs. Team is working hard, short staffed as EA's being hired to replace those who have accepted positions elsewhere. Cam then gave an overview of upcoming athletic events.
 - Duane Piper – reported responsibilities include Fine Arts, Indigenous Education, Learning support and Grad – Duane gave an overview of upcoming fine arts activities (later in year), plans for upcoming Truth and Reconciliation week (school uses the entire week before September 30 to have events as active pieces of reconciliation), and grad dates (gala May 10 – all grade 12's, convocation June 26 -those that meet grad requirements).

5. SC Budget Update

- a. Short discussion on grant money from both division and government – used last year to support speaker brought in by school councils across the division, division grant money to support staff appreciation by school council. Grants will occur again this year.

6. Added Business

- a. Question Regarding Safe Spaces
- b. Question Regarding AP programming – Question was asked about AP programming and why school no longer has it. Bill responded that AP is a US organization and curriculum does not align well with Alberta Curriculum, so ends up being extra to teach in classes, with little benefit. Some universities in some subject will accept AP with a high enough grade for some classes. Tara explained IB (which Churchill runs) as internationally based and focuses on the broader community and citizenship as well as academics, which are still challenging as AP must be completed in addition to Alberta curriculum. Bill reported division and school are supporting dual credit opportunities with College and University as one way we are supporting students headed for post secondary.
- c. Added Business Items – Tisha Elford requested that school council continue with staff recognition events, requested money from grants be allocated. Granted through vote.

Meeting Adjourned

Upcoming Events

- DSC- Oct 2, 2023 (First Monday of month) - Draft
- ASCA Conference- Usually April
- Parent sessions (Digital Citizenship, etc)-TBD

Chinook School Council Dates 2023/24 (Second Wednesday of the month) - Draft

- October 11, 2023
- November 8, 2023
- January 17, 2024
- February 14, 2024
- March 20, 2024
- May 15, 2024