

April 13, 2022



STEMIA SCHOOL COUNCIL

1204 96 Avenue SW
Calgary, AB
T2V 0Y1

MINUTES

Deborah Toth, Secretary

STEMIASCApril2022(6)

DATE/ TIME

April 13, 2022/ 6.30 PM via ZOOM

FACILITATORS

STEMIA School Council Executive Committee

ATTENDEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Golden (Gurmeet) Bhatia (Chairperson)
Shawn Furlong (Vice-Chairperson)
Deborah Toth (Secretary)
Josephin Justine (Co-Treasurer)

APOLOGIES

Angela Ball (Treasurer)

SCHOOL STAFF/ ADMINISTRATION

Kerry Blum (School Principal)
Caitlin Gillie (Teacher)

GUEST SPEAKER

Rebecca Ostrikkoff (STEMIA Society)

PARENTS

Haley R., Peelern, Cat K., Szymanek F., Tammy K., Quinn B., Kim S., Christina K., Heather R., Ayaan I., Rashi, Connie B., Heather K., Melanie L., Baljinder S., Aisha, A.P, Stacia K., MG. Ohi. M.T., Rebecca O. Oakley, Gaurav W. Phillipon C., Aloha, Max M., Wunmi A., Syed, Aimee. ,

CALL TO ORDER

Quorum declared to be present and meeting **called to order at 6.32 PM** by Golden Bhatia.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

WELCOME

Golden Bhatia introduced the members of the Executive Committee and gave a Land Acknowledgement.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

APPROVAL OF AGENDA WITH AMENDMENTS (Deb T./ Golden B.)

Agenda with amendments was unanimously approved as distributed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF March 2, 2022 (Deb T./ Shawn F.)

The Minutes from our March 2, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

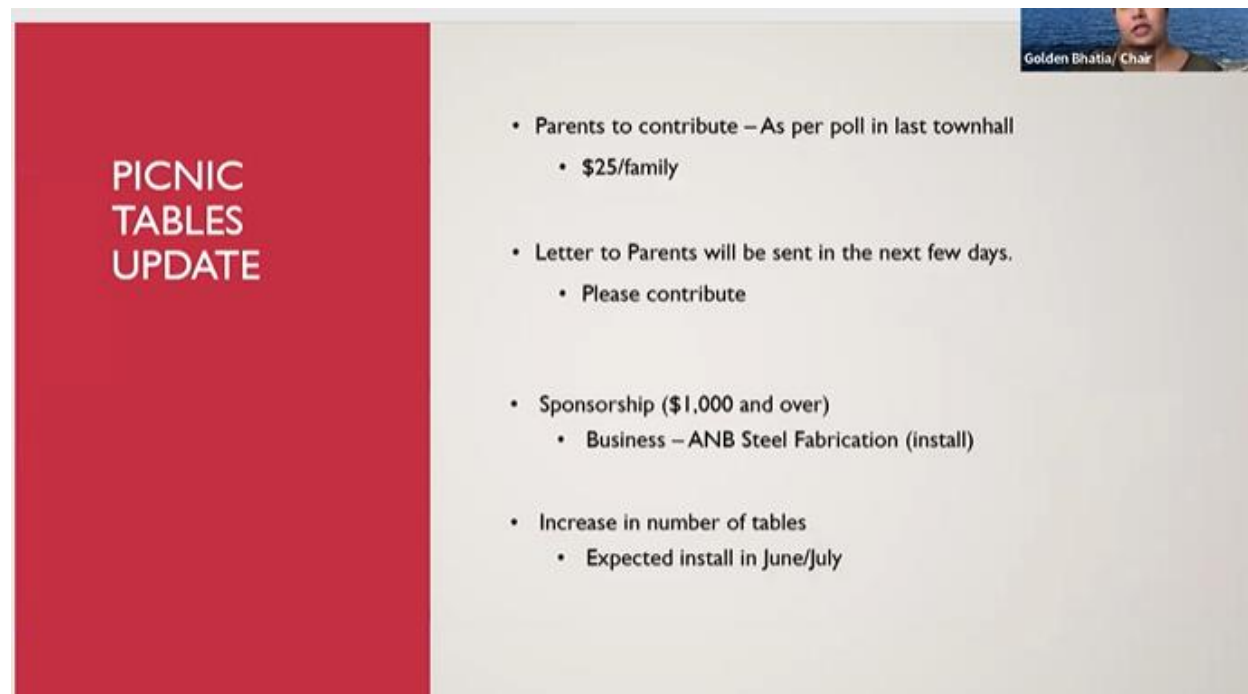
REPORTS

CHAIR REPORT- Golden Bhatia

Fundraising for Outdoor Project

Golden reminded parents that an online poll at our last meeting resulted in most parents saying yes to a contribution of \$25.00 per family. She let everyone know that our School Council will send out a letter/ email in the next few days to ask parents to contribute to the cost of the benches and picnic tables.

ANB Steel Fabrication has offered to help council with the installation process which would take place in June or July. Their sponsorship will result in their name being proudly displayed at our school and our website. Parents and business who contribute \$1000 and above will also be eligible for sponsorship recognition.



PICNIC TABLES UPDATE

- Parents to contribute – As per poll in last townhall
 - \$25/family
- Letter to Parents will be sent in the next few days.
 - Please contribute
- Sponsorship (\$1,000 and over)
 - Business – ANB Steel Fabrication (install)
- Increase in number of tables
 - Expected install in June/July

Golden Bhatia/ Chair

Open House- June 2nd, 2022

Golden let everyone know that there will be an Open House for all parents, as well as new incoming Grade 7 families, on June 2nd, 2022 during the evening. Council is planning on bringing in food trucks and organizing a used uniform sale.



Grade 9 Farewell Lunch

Golden shared that Council will be putting together a Grade 9 Party Planning Committee to organize a pizza farewell lunch for our Grade 9 students. Council is seeking sponsorships from pizza suppliers, such as Pizza 73. More information to follow in the coming days.

GRADE 9 FAREWELL PIZZA LUNCH – JUNE 2022



Elections- AGM June 1st, 2022

Golden shared that the elections for Council Executives will take place in June 2022 at the Annual General Meeting. Parents are welcome to send their nominations, provided that the intended nominees have been notified and are in agreement. The nomination deadline is May 25th, 2022. You can email your nominations to schoolcouncil@stemia.ca.

ELECTIONS – JUNE 2022



- AGM on June 1st, 2022
- Nominations deadline May 25th, 2022
- All positions will be open for elections
 - Chair
 - Vice-Chair
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Vice-Treasurer
- For treasurer positions – accounting/ finance education or experience

Diversity Awareness Month

Golden briefly talked about April being Diversity Awareness month in Canada.

Immigrants (%) (2016 Census of Population)	21.9
Second generation population (%) (2016 Census of Population)	17.7
Visible minority population (%) (2016 Census of Population)	22.3
Number of recent immigrants (landed between 2011 and 2016) (2016 Census of Population)	1,212,075

CANADA
A Nation of Diversity

Did You Know

More than **7 million** people in Canada are **FOREIGN BORN**. That's approximately 23% of the total Canadian population.

In Canada, **1.4 million** (4.3 percent) people are **Aboriginal**.

More than **200 languages** other than English and French, Canada's official languages, are spoken in Canada.

The most common of these are:

- Chinese
- Spanish
- Arabic
- Languages
- Italian
- Portuguese
- Punjabi
- German
- Polish
- (Punjabi)
- Tagalog
- Hindi

In 1988, Canada was the first country to pass a **NATIONAL multiculturalism law**. The Canadian Multiculturalism Act reaffirms multiculturalism as a fundamental value in Canadian society.

GUEST SPEAKER

REBECCA OSTRIKOFF

Thank you everyone! I want to introduce myself; I am Rebecca Ostrickoff and I am a board director with the STEM Innovation Academy Society. One of the things I've taken on as a director is to be a representative for our school on TAAPCS (The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools). TAAPCS is a group that comes together to find out how they can support all charter schools in Alberta. It also helps clear misinformation regarding funding and public supports with regards to the charter school system.

TAAPCS is currently looking into setting up a parent advocacy group and information will be sent out soon. This will help parents have a larger voice regarding their support of charter schools. If you're interested in being part of this advocacy group, feel free to reach out to me at Rebecca.ostrickoff@gmail.com. You can also look up the TAAPCS website at www.taapcs.ca

PRINCIPAL AND TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE REPORT- Kerry Blum and Caitlin Gillie

KERRY BLUM

High School Update

Thank you to our parents in attendance today. When I share with other Principals what the level of engagement is at our school council meetings, I receive a lot of compliments- thank you!

I do not want to share information that isn't concrete. We thought we had a reliable site for our High School but the deal unfortunately fell through at the very last minute. There were some last-minute conditions that were put in the contract which resulted in us not being able to secure this location. Having said that, we have been actively working on a plan B. That Plan B is being presented to our Board on Tuesday and we hope to share some good news with you in the near future. As soon as we are able to confirm things, we will set up staffing opportunities. We will continue striving to do our best to bring excellence in terms of staffing and education.

Term 2

Term 2 ended right before PTIs in March. We began Term 3 with two exciting options which were in high demand, PC Remix and Fabricate It. Our students are so engaged in building their own computers and keyboards. In Fabricate It, students have been prototyping a birdhouse that is squirrel resistant.

Extracurriculars

Our athletic team has been in full swing and we had a lot of kids try out for badminton. We have a singles badminton game tonight with a doubles game happening soon. Our kids are so excited about their team. I also want to thank our teachers who, on top of teaching all day, remain at school after hours to coach.

We were approached by the Athletic Association saying they want to run an inter-school soccer tournament in May. We are so lucky to have one of our teachers who played soccer at the university level. This teacher was up to the challenge and volunteered to run this. We had 140+ students try out for the soccer team. This showed that many of our kids want to be active and have a desire to be part of a team. We are reaching out to some community programs to run some sort of camp/ academy for the kids to who didn't make the team, but still want to be engaged in sports.

Open House

We're looking at early June to invite parents to an Open House at the school.

Farewell Grade 9 Party

We have booked Calaway Park for our Grade 9 kids to go and enjoy a day there. We will be getting buses for them. Our School Council has volunteered to help us a luncheon for our grade 9s. This won't happen on the same day as the Calaway Park trip, but the week after. We will have a little graduation ceremony to send them off.

PATs

Our Grade 9 students will write their PATs in May and June. Although these are not high-stake exams, they're really a great indicator to us as to how our teachers are doing and how we can improve. Our teachers will help our students with lots of practice before the actual exam. This will help our students be mentally and emotionally prepared for these exams.

School Calendar

Our calendar has been approved by the board and is posted on our website. Our Junior High and High schools will have a start date on August 29th, 2022. Please take a look at the calendar if you are planning extended summer holidays.

Staffing at the Junior High level

We are staffing at the Junior High level and we currently have 4 open positions. I'm pleased to say that we have an overwhelmingly large number of applicants who are all extremely qualified for these positions. It's exciting to see that our school's great reputation is attracting some excellent quality educators to work with our children.

Fees and Busing Registration

We will be sending out information about next year's fees for school and busing. We have proposed that our fees do not change and we will keep you posted on that front. We will be sending out a form for busing registration and we will re-vamp those routes. We are still aiming for an average of 44 riders per bus. Over the months of June and July we will be developing those routes. We have listened to you regarding instalment payments for the bus fees and we

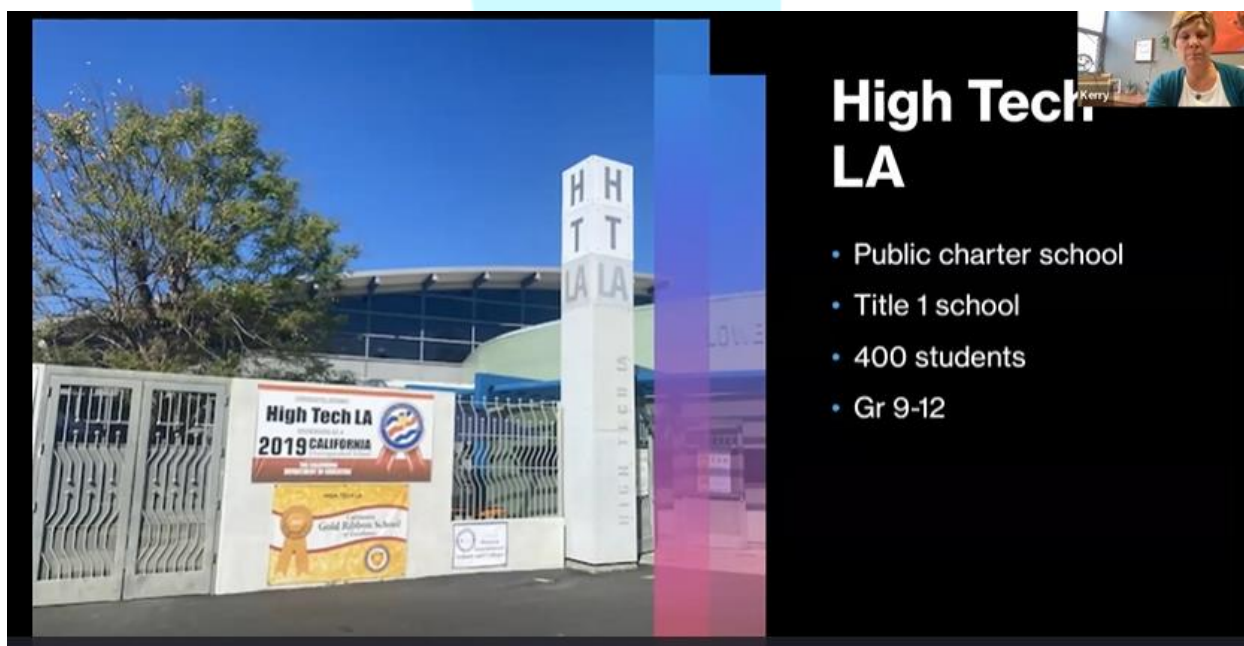
are in the process of setting up a 3-payment plan for bus fees, which would result in 3 separate payments at scheduled intervals.

STEM Gear

I've had to have a lot more frequent conversations about wearing the STEM gear. I want to remind all our parents that the STEM gear needs to be worn everyday as this is part of the uniform code. This is part of our community and identity. Please ask your child to wear their clean STEM gear on a daily basis.

Spring Break Learning Trip

A few of us went on a trip in the US in California to learn about other STEM programs and high-tech programs. It was amazing to step out of the Canadian system and learn about what other STEM programs are doing for their students. We learned about how they source their materials; robotics after-school programs and competitions; College Admission celebrations; Maker and Collaboration Room ideas; Open Space ideas; Podcast Booths; Flexible learning spaces; and building STEM Culture and a sense of belonging.



High Tech LA

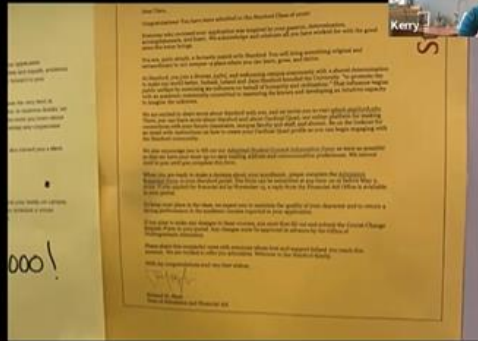
- Public charter school
- Title 1 school
- 400 students
- Gr 9-12

Robotics



Kerry

Picture in picture

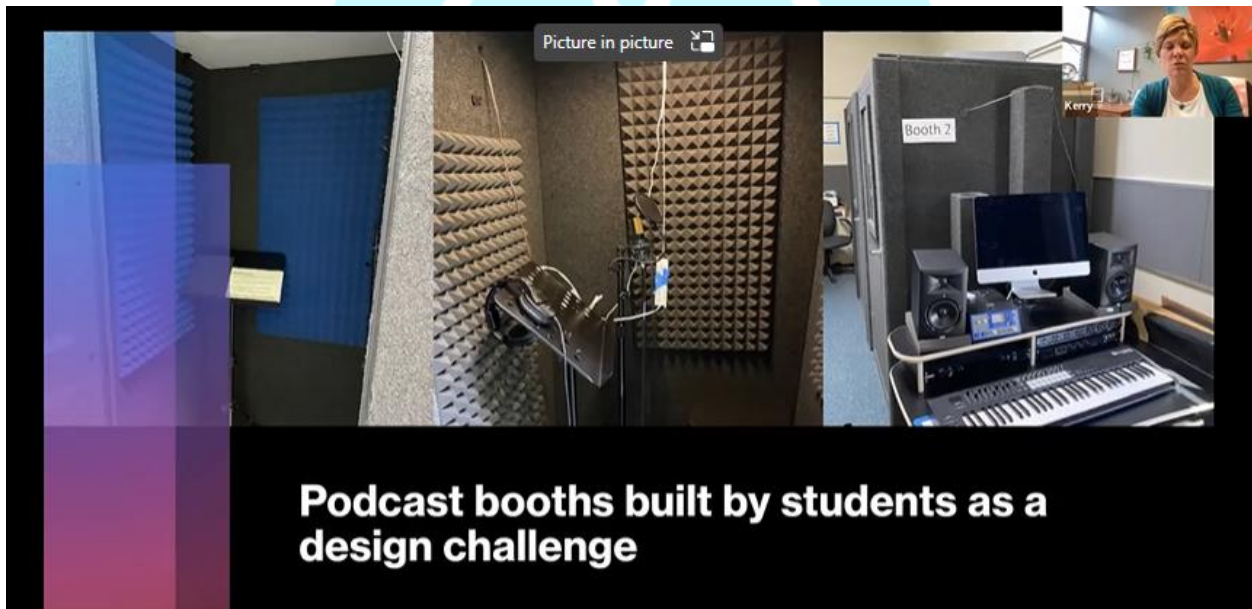
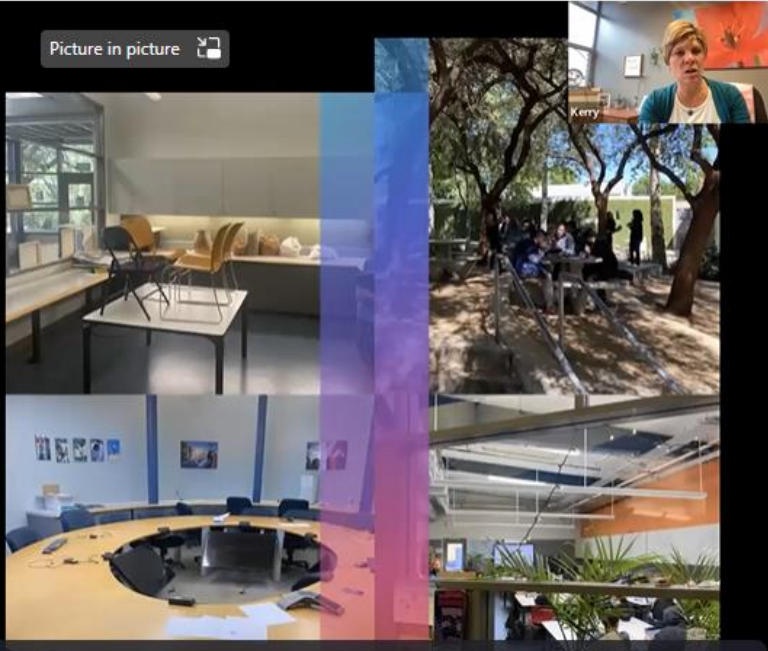


Kerry

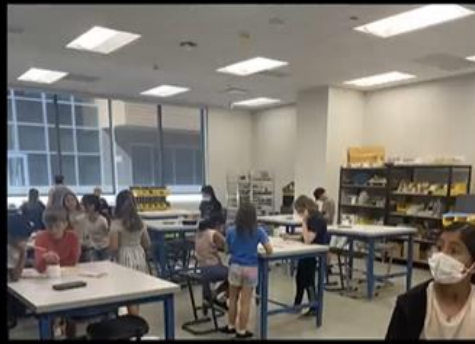
College/Uni exposure & celebrations

Building Design

- Open spaces
- Collaboration rooms
- Maker rooms
- Outside cafeteria!



Podcast booths built by students as a design challenge



Flexible learning spaces

VIDA's GILLS

- GRIT to persevere**
We never give up.
- INNOVATE through design**
We prototype solutions.
- LEARNING through empathy**
We seek to understand others.
- LEADING w/ integrity**
We take pride in doing the right thing.
- SPARKING creativity**
We honor imagination.

DESIGN THINKING @ VIDA

Discovery

Empathy

Focus

Ideate

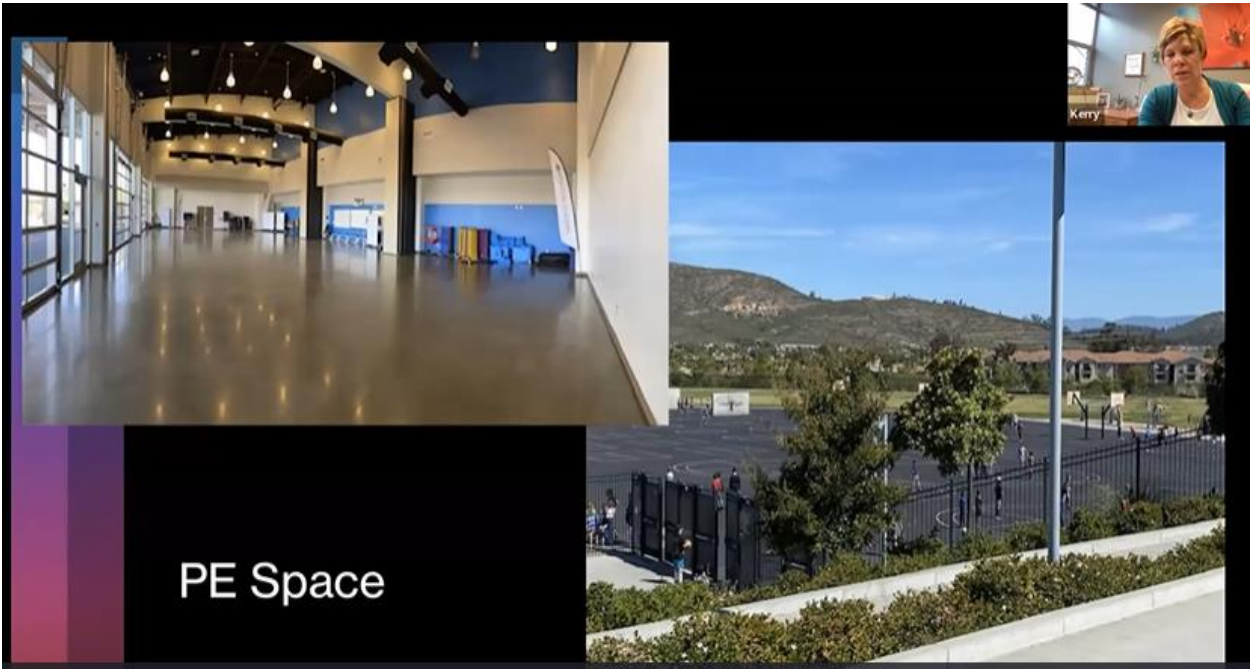
Prototype

Define & Refine

DESIGN THINKING
VIDA

Problem Finders. Solution Designers.







CAITLIN GILLIE

Student Council

One of the things that our Student Council wanted to introduce are dress-down days. Once a month, we will have casual dress Friday on the last Friday of the month.

We've also been planning spring events, including the Easter Egg Hunt that our students worked really hard on. Each class was responsible for finding the eggs and decode a message. The winners ended up being in Grade 7C, in Mr. Acheson's class, and won a free dress Friday and a dodgeball game for their class only. Our council had good takeaways of things we can do differently next year, but overall, the students had a lot of fun.

We're also in the planning stages of a Spring Fling Dance to engage the students. We're thinking of hiring a DJ and I really hope this will engage our entire school.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question from parent: Does the School Council set up volunteer opportunities for students. I went to PETLAND and they've told me that volunteer opportunities need to be set up through school council.

Shawn Furlong: "At the moment, we are not aware of these opportunities but we can certainly look into them. Please email us at schoolcouncil@stemia.ca to discuss this with us."

Question from parent: Will the Spring Dance be chaperoned?

Caitlin Gillie: "Yes, it will be. The dance will be planned for around lunch time and the usual teachers will be there chaperoning."

Question from parent: Is the original location that fell through for the High School, the same location you are thinking of for Plan B?

Kerry Blum: "The original location is 100% off the table due to complications with negotiations. However, I can reveal that the new location is very close to the original location in the NW of

Calgary, near the UofC and steps away from the University C-Train station. We will not provide a yellow school bus for the High School. The students will rely on public transportation.”

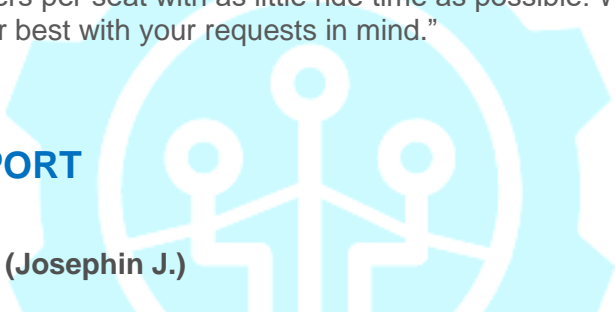
Question from parent: What is being done about lockers? I am a physiotherapist and I’m not happy with the weight of my child’s backpack.

Kerry Blum: “What we have done is put the lockers as part of our Capital Plan. I can assure you that lockers remain a priority. The current cubbies would have to get ripped out and replaced, and the board of Directors for the STEMIA Society will be assessing our request. Next month, we will be in a position to share our Capital Plan and we can receive your feedback.

As to the weight of the backpack, we are re-evaluating what needs to be carried by each student. For example, we are questioning whether 3 binders or textbooks are necessary. Most of the work is being done on the laptops, so we will be condensing what our students need to carry around.”

Question from parent: Will there be additional bus stops added for next year’s routes?

Kerry Blum: “We bus all over the city and we currently have 328 riders. We can’t necessarily add more stops because it would add on to the length of the journey as well as the overall bus fees. Our goal is two riders per seat with as little ride time as possible. We can’t make everyone happy, but we will do our best with your requests in mind.”



TREASURER REPORT

TREASURER REPORT (Josephin J.)

STEMIA School Council
 Treasurer Report: April 13, 2022
 Period of March 2 to April 13, 2022

			Money In	Money Out
Starting Balance			\$ 2769.91	
Deposits/Income				
Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Type	Description		
03/25/2022	Deposit Cheque	Fun Lunch (SUBWAY)	\$399.19	
BALANCE			\$3169.10	

APPROVAL OF TREASURER REPORT (Deb T./ Golden B.) POLL

Motion unanimously passed.

UPDATES

CRAFT SALE (Deb T.)

The school received a donation from director who handles daycares across the city. Council has accepted the offer and we should be receiving a cheque very soon for these craft items.

FUN LUNCH (Deb T.)

Thank you to our volunteers who came in to help for the Mucho Burrito Fun Lunch. Everything went well and we should be receiving a cheque for around \$250 for the proceeds of this Fun Lunch.

PAUL DAVIS WORKSHOP (Deb T.)

The Paul Davis Workshop will take place next fall in September 2022. It will feature 2 in-person sessions with the students at the school, and one evening online session with parents.

USED UNIFORM SALE (Deb T.)

A used uniform sale will take place during the Open House in early June. More information to follow soon.

GRADE 9 PARTY (Deb T.)

I will be sending out an email for a Sign Up Genius form to set up a committee for the Grade 9 Party. We would love to get the involvement of Grade 9 moms and dads for the Farewell Party. Please keep an eye out in your inbox.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date for STEMIA School Council is: Wednesday May 4, 2022, in person at the school.

Ms. Golden Bhatia **adjourned the meeting at 8.04 PM.**