

March 2, 2022



STEMIA SCHOOL COUNCIL

1204 96 Avenue SW
Calgary, AB
T2V 0Y1

MINUTES

Deborah Toth, Secretary

STEMIASCMarch2022(5)

DATE/ TIME

March 2, 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)
Jessica Bretner (Teacher)
Joanne Higgins (School Superintendent)

PARENTS

Connie, Chris O., L.G., Kayers, Rita S., Cat K., Ibeth A., Viraj I., Ayaan I., Debbie F., Salima I., Tammy K., Lori S., Mina I., Raj, An K., Ksenechal, Advika P., Henny B., Giwa, Rebecca O., Aimee, Heather R., Harpreet S-D, Natasha Z., Karen, Shewa, Farha., Misty W., Laura D., Seema K., Gaurav W., Malcom, Stefanie W., Kim S., Aisha, Shweta, Oakley, Natalia S.

CALL TO ORDER

Quorum declared to be present and meeting **called to order at 6.31 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 (Golden B./ Shawn F.)

Proposed amendment 1: Item 6.5 will be presented by Ms. Bretner instead of Ms. Gillie

Proposed amendment 2: Addition of item 6.6 for Q&A with School Administration and School Council executives

Agenda with amendments was unanimously approved as distributed.

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

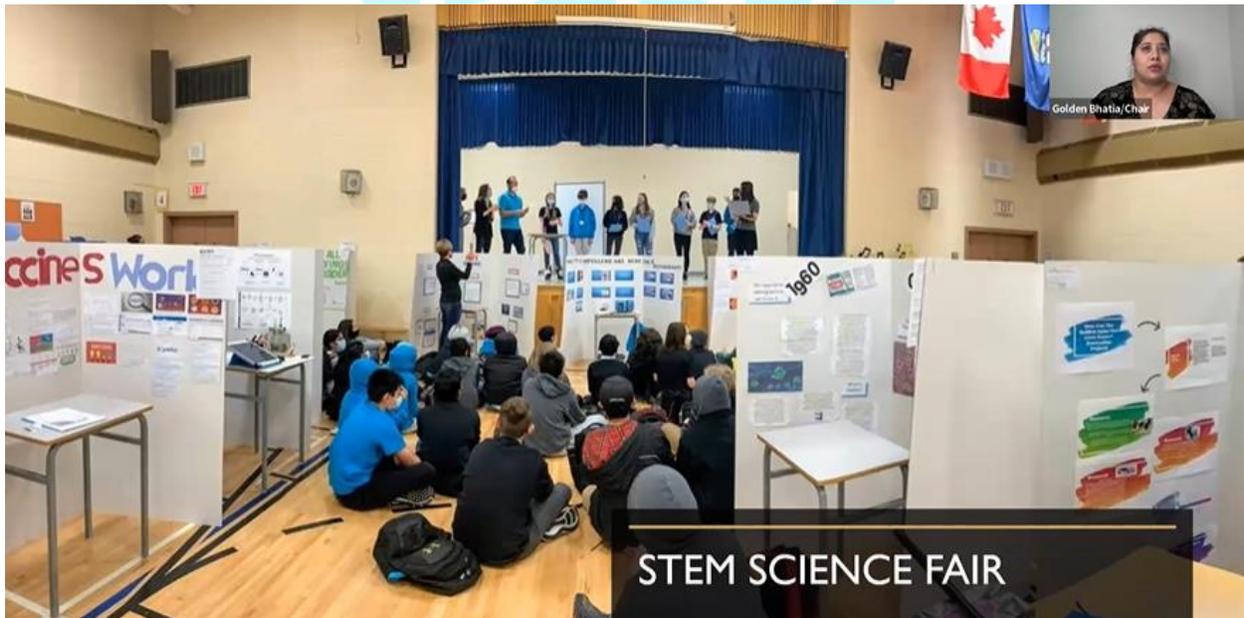
The Minutes from our February 2, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

REPORTS

CHAIR REPORT- Golden Bhatia

Science STEM Fair February 25, 2022

Golden shared that she was invited as a guest judge for the Science Fair, along with our co-chair, Shawn Furlong. She thanked all parent volunteers who came in as guest judges and shared pictures of the event.





Fundraising for Outdoor Project

Golden talked about one of our biggest priorities for this school year- outdoor benches and picnic tables for our students to enjoy snacks and lunchtime outdoors. Our estimated costs for this project would be about \$9000. She asked for parents to come forward if they had affiliations with businesses and corporations that would be willing to sponsor this project. Sponsorships above \$1000 would get some form of recognition. In the event that our council would not be able to get enough funding from corporate sponsorships, she asked if parents would be willing to donate a certain amount to see this project succeed.

**FUNDING
FOR PICNIC
TABLES**

Budgeted Spend	
2 Tables and 2 Benches (Includes shipping)	6,500
Installation estimate	2,500.00
Total Expenditure	9,000.00

- Parents to contribute – Poll to follow
 - \$25/family
- Sponsorship (\$1,000 and over)
 - Business
 - Individual/Family Recognition

An online poll was launched to assess which preferred amount each family would be most inclined to donate. The choices were A: \$20; B: \$25; and C: \$30 or more. 65% of the poll takers voted for option B: \$25.

Another fundraising option could also be done in the form of a Raffle Fundraiser or Silent Option. The online poll asked parents if they would be willing to do either A: a silent auction or B: a raffle fundraiser. 80% responded with B and declared their preference for a Raffle Fundraiser.

PTI Meals

Golden thanked our generous sponsors, SUBWAY Canyon Meadows, Save on Foods Heritage, Safeway SouthCentre for their assistance for our PTIs. These community partners will contribute to the meals that will be provided to our teachers during the evenings of March 9th and 10th.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES – MARCH 2022 Golden Bhatta/Chair



Heritage



Canyon Meadows

Break the Bias- International Women's Day

Golden reminded everyone that International Women's Day will take place on March 8, 2022.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – MARCH 8 Golden Bhatta

#BreakTheBias



GUEST SPEAKER/ SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

JOANNE HIGGINS

I want to thank our School Council and all parents in attendance today for giving me an opportunity to talk about the High School situation. We acknowledge that parents still have a lot of questions, and while I am not able to share the location details, I am confident that I can share more information in the near future. We do have a location and we are proceeding with our planning, but we are dealing with multiple levels of government. There are many layers to this project and we do not have final approval from these different organizations to go forward with a public announcement. These organizations are primarily Municipal and Provincial governments and we're working with them to finalize our approvals. The address and quadrant location of our high school will be revealed at our official announcement.

We want to continue with the level of excellence of our STEM programming and as we look ahead, we need to look at the staffing situation for our high school. Currently, we have a full-time Principal and Assistant Principal. With two different campuses in place, we feel that the best solution would be to appoint Ms. Kerry as the full-time Principal (0.5 Junior High/ 0.5 Senior High) to oversee both campuses. We would also designate Mr. Bob Ackerman as the full-time Assistant Principal for STEMIA Junior High Campus.

This team will act as a "bridge" between both campuses, and ensure that we are able to maintain our high level of STEM education. Both Kerry and Bob have a good understanding and knowledge of our positive school culture and the goals what we are trying to achieve for our STEM students. This is a one-year solution and things could change in the future, depending on what is best for our program.

We are in the process of looking for a designated full time Assistant Principal for our Senior High Campus. We are looking for someone who is committed to our STEM school culture and will positively contribute to our goals.

PRINCIPAL AND TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE REPORT- Kerry Blum and Janessa Bretner

KERRY BLUM

High School and Parent Teacher Interviews

Thank you to our parents for your support and patience. We are excited for our High School students. Thank you for trusting us with your kids! We are so happy to welcome our parents to our school building during the in-person teacher conferences that will be taking place next week. We welcome you to come in and explore. A lot of you have never seen the inside of the building so this is a great opportunity for you to find out where your kids go every day.

An email went out today from Mr. Ackerman to explain how you can sign up. Do not worry if you didn't get a confirmation email- your spot is reserved. There was a minor glitch but your spot is reserved. We're right at the end of Term 2 and these interviews will focus on core subjects. If you have questions regarding PTIs, please reach out directly to Mr. Ackerman.

During our PTIs, you will also get a chance to view the projects from our STEMIA Science Fair. They will be displayed around the school for our parents.

Surveys

It is survey season right now, and we would love your input. We need this data to know what we're doing as we keep building our community and framework. The parent feedback survey was sent last week. To date, we've had about 26% of our families respond to this survey. Your suggestions are great and it really helps us. If you haven't filled it out already, I encourage you to do so.

The Alberta Education Assurance Survey will be mailed out and you will receive a code to fill that online survey. Please take some time to fill this out and if you have any issues, please talk to Ms. Cormier.

Another survey that is quite critical is the "Intent to Return Survey" that was sent to our current Grade 7 and 8 students. We are pleased to say 82% of our families have responded and only 2 students are not returning. The other 178 students are coming back to our school. We will conduct a lottery in the near future to determine who will be accepted as our new Grade 8 and 9 students.

Link for survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/FMQK723TJi>

Other surveys to look out for are: requests to your child to be with a friend, and surveys about options and bussing.

Bussing

We will work with First Student Canada and we will do our best to have good routes for our students. We have students from every city quadrant and our fees are based on the fact that we have students from all over the city. Something that will impact our bussing fees is the number of instructional days that we have. We are looking into decreasing the number of instructional days and this will reduce our bussing fees. Please keep in mind that there were a lot of parents who wanted bussing last year, but dropped out shortly before school started. As a result, this impacted our bus fees. With better planning this year, things should be easier in terms of fees and routes. We will keep you updated in April and May.

Calendar

The calendar for 2022-2023 will be posted on our website and parents will be able to take a look after spring break. We will start our next year on August 29th start date at both the high school and junior high levels.

Teacher Report **JANESSA BRETNER**

STEMIA Science Fair

Thank you to all our parent judges who went through an intense 2-hour session at the fair. Our kids were proud to show their amazing work. It was a great opportunity for other students to see these projects and I think it inspired them to think of what they can bring to the table next year.

There was a great variety of projects in each category and in the end, we ended up with 12 winners who will make their way to the Calgary Science Fair this year. I will be working with these students as they will represent our school at the Calgary Science Fair. I will keep you posted on the results. Thank you to council for all your help.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question from parent: When you say you will announce the high school location in the near future, what does “near future” mean?

Joanne Higgins: “We are confident about an announcement within the next two weeks.”

Question from parent: Can you post the survey links on the school website?

Kerry Blum: “We do not want anyone other than our STEMIA parents to answer the survey, so we will not share the links on our school website. We don’t want the general public to have access to these surveys. If you have issues accessing the link, please reach out to myself or Ms. Cormier. You can also find the links in the newsletter that I send at the end of every week.”

Question from parent: Will we hear about the results of the surveys, especially regarding the bussing fees?

Kerry Blum: “Indirectly, yes. Our administration and school board will analyze this data. Those results will be reflected in our assurance framework and our school development plan. As far as the bussing fees, I will share these results with parents and let you know what the answer was as to whether people were willing to pay more or less in terms of fees. However, please keep in mind that our situation will be different next year and things could change.”

Question from parent: When will the students have personal lockers?

Joanne Higgins: “When we submit our capital plan to the school board, we usually have three pieces that we need to cover. One of them is about lockers. We have been looking into how feasible it would be to put in lockers. Another component of our proposal is looking at our gym and seeing if we can have an extra teaching space as part of the gym. The third piece of our capital plan will be addressing our change rooms and locker rooms for all our boy and girl students. We want to improve the ventilation and storage spaces within our school building. Please be assured that the locker issue remains part of our capital plan.”

Question from parent: Will bussing be available for our senior high school students?

Kerry Blum: “At this point, our location is extremely close to public transit, meaning a C-Train station. We are not considering charter bussing for our senior high school. We feel that public transit will bring our students within 250 meters of our school doors, which is why public transit would be an adequate solution.”

Question from parent: I understand that you want to reduce the number of instructional days by extending the number of instructional hours. Does this mean that our students would be spending more time on the bus with a dismissal bell time that goes past 3.20PM?

Kerry Blum: “To be clear, there will not be extended hours and the pick-up bus time/ dismissal time will remain the same. The transition times for lunchbreaks is what will be shortened, thus resulting in longer instructional hours within our existing daily schedule.”

Question from parent: Will the calendar be the same for the junior and senior campuses?

Kerry Blum: “Yes, it will be similar. Alberta Education requires an extra 50 instructional hours for the senior high school students. As such, our junior high school may have more PD days than the senior high school campus. That would make up those extra 50 hours and the bell times will be fairly similar but not exactly identical. We are considering an 8.30AM start time and a 3.40PM dismissal time for high school.”

Question from parent: When will our clothing order be delivered to our students?

Kerry Blum: “The clothing orders will be delivered tomorrow. Ms. Cormier will receive the orders and sort them out before distributing. This may take a couple of days but your child should

receive their order within the next few days. Our online store will re-open again in late May/ June and that will be for all junior high and high school students.”

TREASURER REPORT

TREASURER REPORT (Josephin J.)

TREASURER BUDGET (Josephin J.)

STEMIA School Council
Treasurer Report: March 2, 2022
Period of February 3 to March 2, 2022

			Money In	Money Out
Starting Balance			\$ 2153.67	
Deposits/Income				
Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Type	Description		
02/03/2022	Deposit Cheque	Fun Lunch (Kernels/Booster Juice/Jelly Doughnuts	\$ 1,724.24	
02/27/2022	E-transfer	ZOOM Fees		\$168.00
02/27/2022	E-transfer	Amazon Gift Cards for STEMIA Science Fair Winners (13 Gift Cards)		\$190.00
02/27/2022	Deposit	STEMIA Mask Fundraiser	\$510.00	
02/03/2022	E-transfer	STEMIA Mask Vendor Fees (\$1200+\$60 GST)		\$1260.00
BALANCE			\$2769.91	

APPROVAL OF TREASURER REPORT (Josephin J./ Golden B.) POLL

Motion unanimously passed.

UPDATES

MASK FUNDRAISER (Shawn F.)

We were able to sell masks and made a total of \$510. Fortunately, we are not losing any funds on this endeavor given that we received a generous donation from Source Energy Services to sponsor our first set of masks. There are still lots available and you can purchase them on our website.

GIRL CARE PACKAGE (Deb T.)

Thank you to all parents who jumped at the opportunity to help with the girl care packages. Your donations of small treats and personal hygiene items are incredibly appreciated!



CRAFT SALE (Deb T.)

We will be holding a Craft Sale on March 9th and 10th during the PTIs. Our school received a donation of craft items from a local business. Parents are welcome to come in and fill a bag for \$5.

FUN LUNCH (Deb T.)

We made about \$400 from our last Fun Lunch with SUBWAY. The next Treat Day will be help on March 18 abd will feature Jelly Modern Doughnuts. We will also be hosting a Fun Lunch on April 13 that will feature a new vendor, Mucho Burrito.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date for STEMIA School Council is: Wednesday April 6, 2022.
Ms. Golden Bhatia **adjourned the meeting at 8.06 PM.**