

June 8, 2022/ AGM



# STEMIA SCHOOL COUNCIL

1204 96 Avenue SW  
Calgary, AB  
T2V 0Y1

MINUTES

Deborah Toth, Secretary

STEMIASCJune2022(8)

## DATE/ TIME

June 8, 2022/ 6.30 PM via ZOOM/ AGM

## 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 Representative)

### PARENTS

Charles C., Ophelia, Aradhna, Justin A., Ibeth A., Farshid S., Mhoza, Barbara-Ruth, Adnan, Lisa L., Sarah D., Portia, Cat K., Shannon, Farha K., M-C H., Hannah, Kowsalya J., Hannah, Milena, Jeni A., Sandra I., Ahyan M., Anabia A., Amkum, Heather R., Idongesit A., Stacia S., Nichola I., Isabelle L., Irete P., Savi, Harpreet S-D., Anod B., Aimee, Nikhi I., Mamata.

## CALL TO ORDER

Quorum declared to be present and meeting **called to order at 6.35 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.)**

AGM Agenda, with amendments, was unanimously approved as distributed.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF May 22, 2022 (Deb T./ Shawn F.)**

The Minutes from our May 22, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved.

## **REPORTS**

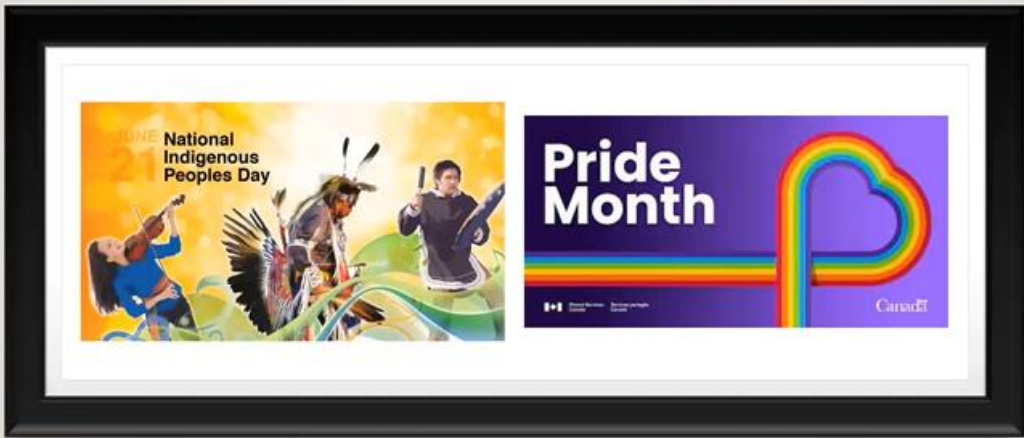
### **CHAIR REPORT- Golden Bhatia**

#### **Journey So Far**

### **JOURNEY SO FAR OCT 2021-JUN 2022**

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- Establishment of School Council and Fundraising Society
- Created by-laws for both and conducted monthly townhall meetings
- Many events facilitated by the council with the help of generous parents and volunteers
- Getting corporate sponsors for events (Source Energy Services, Subway, Coop, Save on Foods, Pizza 73)
- Various fundraising initiatives – Fun Lunches, Mask Sales, Food Trucks and Cash Call
- Created priorities list for the school and started implementing on picnic tables for school
- Working on some year end gifts for staff and Grade 9 farewell party



OPEN HOUSE  
- JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>  
2022



# VOLUNTEER UPDATE

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- List of opportunities available on STEM IS school council website
- Name of School added to Youth Central to register
- Upcoming opportunity for Heart Beats  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090849ada92ea3f94-heart>

Volunteer opportunities for parents and students are available at:  
<https://stemiacouncil.ca/volunteer/>

Upcoming Heart Beats volunteer opportunity: <https://www.heartbeats.ca/>

## ELECTIONS – TODAY

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- All positions will be open for elections
  - Chair
  - Vice-Chair
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Vice-Treasurer
- For treasurer positions – accounting/ finance education or experience



# THANK YOU

- ALL THE VOLUNTEERS AND PARENTS
- SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS
- PRINCIPAL AND STAFF



## PRINCIPAL REPORT- Kerry Blum & Caitlin Gillie

### Thank You Executive Parent Council Team

I want to thank our Executive Council members for helping us throughout this first year of school operation. A collaborative parent council is essential to the success of our students and staff. I couldn't have asked for more a supportive crew. Thank you!

### 3-Year Education Plan

I am sorry for not attending our last council meeting, and I am grateful to Ms. Higgins for presenting our 3-year (2022-2025) education plan to you. You may find more information by visiting this link: <https://steminnovationacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Capital-Plan-2022-2025.pdf>

### Sports

We've recently had track meets and it was wonderful to see the kids cheer for our school. Due to covid, almost all of our participants had never been to a track meet before that event. It was really great to watch them and I look forward to more track meets. Our soccer tournament was last week and it was also great event for our coaching staff and students.

### Open House at Junior High Campus

Our Open House was held last week. We estimate that over 500 families came to attend this event. Thank you to our parent council for organizing the uniform sale and food trucks.

### Grade 9 Update

Our Grade 9 PATs will begin on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June. Our teachers are working hard to review the curriculum and help with their organizational skills. The grade nine students will also be going to Calaway Park to celebrate their last year at the school.

### **Report Cards**

Our report cards will be available for parents to view on June 28<sup>th</sup> via PowerSchool. Those report cards will be available for a couple of months for parents to download. Our staff will officially be done cleaning their rooms on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **School Uniforms**

The school uniform store will be opening on Friday and I will send out the instructions via email soon. The same uniform will be worn at both the Junior and High school campuses.

### **Next School Year**

We have completed our staffing for next year with some increased positions and increased funding from our government. We are also hiring a new resource teacher and 4 brand new staff members. Renovations have begun at the Alistair Ross Centre (High School campus) and we've ordered new furniture and technology. I will be a Principal at both locations and we are in the process of hiring more staff. Our registrations are way higher than expected and we will be welcoming 130+ students at the High School.

### **First Student Calgary**

We will be attending a meeting with FS Calgary to work on the bus timings and routes. Our recent survey with parents showed that families were not willing to pay more for bussing. We will be coming out with the tentative bus routes soon. There will be no consideration for alternate addresses when building a route. However, for kids whose parents live at separate addresses, we may be a bit more flexible to accommodate their situation. If you want to apply for transportation, please email us at [transportation@stemia.ca](mailto:transportation@stemia.ca).

Bussing for high school would be difficult as the fees would be astronomical. Parents might have to look at other options if they do not want public transportation for their child. For instance, they could look at carpooling groups or UBER. I know that our parent council had something in mind regarding Whatsapp bus groups to facilitate communication between parents of neighbouring communities. I'll share more information when these groups have been set up.

## **CAITLIN GILLIE**

### **Father's Day**

Our student council has been working on something for Father's Day. Please keep an eye out for that as your child may be coming home with something special during Father's Day week.

### **Calaway Park**

Ms. Polonenko has been doing a great job organizing the year- end Grade 9 festivities, including the Calaway Park trip. The Grade 9 have been busy fundraising for this trip to help with the associated costs.

### **June 28/ Last Day of School**

We are in the process of planning fun activities for the last day of school. This would involve outdoor games with bouncy castles and classic fun games such as tug-of-war, etc.

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**Question from parent: Are PAT results for grade 9 students shared with parents? Will we find out how our STEM school compares to others based on these collective results?**

Kerry Blum: “Yes, our teachers will grade the exams, and the results will be shared with parents. However, please keep in mind that these results remain unofficial until September/ October. Parents can access these results through Alberta myPass, a self-service system for students.”

**Question from parent: Where can I direct my positive feedback about teachers? I want to make sure they get positive recognition for their work with our child.**

Kerry Blum: “The recognition is very welcome, and a thank-you card from a student or parent is always appreciated. If you want to remain anonymous, you can always email me directly and I can forward your comments to the teacher without compromising your identity.”

**Question from parent: Are there any specific reasons as to why some Grade 9 students declined to go to the high school campus?**

Kerry Blum: “The main reasons for declining their Grade 10 spot were: location (the NW location may not work for families that live in the deep south); not the right fit; other academic or artistic interests. Although their experience at our junior high was positive, they wanted to explore other schools that were in line with their other interests.”

**Question from parent: When will the bell times and school hours be available for next year?**

Kerry Blum: “The school calendar for 2022-2023 has been published on our website at: <https://steminnovationacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/STEMIA-Calendar-2022-2023-Approved-Version-2.pdf>. The calendar for both campuses remains the same.”

**Question from parent: Is the high school campus going to take over the whole building (Alistair Ross Centre)?**

Kerry Blum: “The high school campus will occupy the main floor and one wing. It’s a fairly empty building but we’re only leasing one section on the building. It is a temporary location and we’ve secured a two-year lease. We are looking in the North for our permanent location but nothing is set in stone.”

**Question from parent: Is Math 10-1 at the high school level, the same as 10-C?**

Kerry Blum: “There is no 10-1. This is probably a typo on our website. I will take a look and make sure we can fix it. Thank you for bringing this to our attention.”

**Question from parent: Is there a gym at the high school?**

Kerry Blum: “There is an outdoor field that will be accessible to our students. In addition, we will have access to some of Vecova’s gym facilities (full size gym, swimming pool, etc.). The UofC will also be available to our students in terms of climbing wall and squash courts. We will also be looking at community skating rinks. There will be lots of options but Vecova will be our “homebased” gym.”

**Question from parent: Is STEM IA planning on creating partnerships for dual credits with UofC, SAIT, etc.?**

Kerry Blum: “We won’t do it for grade 10 as there are many limiting factors. However, we may look at these dual credit partnerships in the future while keeping in mind that these programs would support the entire school population. I am only saying this because at the CBE level, only 1% of the high school population is currently enrolled in this type of program. As such, we want to make sure we cater to everyone’s needs and not just a selective few. It has to make sense for our charter.”

**Question from parent: What is the difference between STEM and IB?**



Kerry Blum: “STEM IA will not be offering AP or IB placements. There is merit in these programs, but they are extremely scripted and do not reflect the evolving changes in technology and what our Albertan students need. Our program is more adaptive in nature and reflects the recent advancements in technology.”

## TREASURER REPORT

### TREASURER REPORT (Josephin J.)

#### Treasurer Report : June 8, 2022 (AGM)

STEMIA School Council				
Treasurer Report: June 8, 2022 (AGM)				
Period of May 12 to June 8, 2022				
			Money In	Money Out
Starting Balance			\$ 9306.90	
Deposits/Income				
Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Type	Description		
05/19/2022	E-transfer	Payment to Vendor: Deposit for Outdoor Picnic Tables and Benches (see invoice below*)		\$4795.00
05/19/2022	Deposit	RallyUp Donations for the Outdoor Picnic Tables (STRIPE)	\$438.36	
05/19/2022	E-transfer	Reimbursement for Incorporation Application with AB Government for Parent Fundraising Society		\$50
06/02/2022	Cash	Sales from Used Uniform Sale	\$767	
06/02/2022	Deposit Cheque	Donation for the Outdoor Picnic Tables	\$50	
06/02/2022	Deposit Cheque	Healthy Hunger Fun Lunch	\$256.30	
06/02/2022	Deposit Cheque	Healthy Hunger Fun Lunch	\$181.80	
06/03/2022	Deposit	RallyUp Donations for the Outdoor Picnic Tables (STRIPE)	\$702.25	
06/04/2022	E-transfers to Sellers	Payment to Used Uniform Sellers		\$638
06/04/2022	E-transfer to Paul Davis	Deposit for Paul Davis workshop		\$500
BALANCE			\$5719.61	

**APPROVAL OF UPCOMING EXPENSES (Anticipated Debits) (Deb T./ Shawn F.) POLL**  
 Motion passed with 94% approval.

## Anticipated Debits:

1. Remaining Balance for outdoor Tables: \$1598.45
2. Grade 9 Farewell Graduation Party: \$350
3. Year- End Gifts for Staff and Bus Drivers: \$900

**APPROVAL OF TREASURER BUDGET FOR 2022-2023 (Deb T./ Golden B.) POLL**  
Motion unanimously passed.



## Treasurer Budget For 2022 - 2023 / June 8, 2022 (AGM)

STEMIA School Council Proposed Budget 2022-2023		
Date	Description	Expenses
2022-Sep	Paul Davis Workshop	\$1,000
2022-Sep	Welcome back event September Junior High	\$2,000
2022-Sep	Welcome Back Treats for High School Kids	\$350
2022-Sep	Girl Care Package	\$100
2022-Oct	PTI Meals for Staff	\$300
2022-Dec	Christmas for Staff and Bus Drivers	\$1,250
2023-Jan	Science Fair Prizes for both Junior High and High School	\$300
2023-Mar	PTI Meals for Staff	\$300
2023-Jun	2023 Year End Year End Gifts	\$900

**APPROVAL OF TREASURER BUDGET (Deb T./ Golden B.) POLL**  
Motion unanimously passed.

## **ELECTIONS FOR 2022-2023 EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

The election portion was led by 2022 Vice-Chairperson, Shawn Furlong. Shawn reminded everyone that the votes are held through an anonymous poll; all votes are confidential.

### **NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR 2022-2023**

Golden Bhatia was nominated as Chair for the year 2022-2023.  
Golden was unanimously elected as Chairperson.

### **NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR 2022-2023**

Shawn Furlong was nominated as Vice-Chair for the year 2022-2023.  
Shawn was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairperson.

### **NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF SECRETARY FOR 2022-2023**

Deborah Toth was nominated as Secretary for the year 2022-2023.  
Deb was unanimously elected as Secretary.

### **NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF TREASURER FOR 2022-2023**

Josephin Justin was nominated as Treasurer for the year 2022-2023.  
Josephin was unanimously elected as Treasurer.

### **NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF HIGH SCHOOL DIRECTOR FOR 2022-2023**

Ibeth Albertazzi was nominated as High School Director for the year 2022-2023.  
Ibeth was unanimously elected as the High School Director.

## **UPDATES**

### **GRADE 9 FAREWELL CELEBRATION (Deb T.)**

The Grade 9 Farewell Celebration will take place on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all the parents who were involved in the planning. We also received generous contributions from some companies for décor and lighting.

### **YEAR-END GIFTS (Deb T.)**

We will be giving out some year-end gifts (charcuterie boards) to our school staff and bus drivers.

### **UNIFORM SALE (Deb T.)**

All payments to parents have been sent over the weekend. Via e-transfer. Your password is the 3-digit number you've received when you set up a Unique Seller ID.

### **BUSSING WHATSAPP GROUP (Deb T.)**

We will be setting up whatsapp bus groups for parents as soon as the bus routes have been finalized. In addition to the junior high routes, two bus groups (north and south) will be set up for high school parents.

### **WELCOME BACK BREAKFAST 2022 (Golden B.)**

We will be holding a Welcome Back Breakfast event in September of 2022. Please keep an eye out for a volunteer call through Sign Up Genius to participate in this event.

## **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE**

Ms. Golden Bhatia **adjourned the Annual General Meeting at 7:47 PM.**

