

February 1, 2023



# STEMIA SCHOOL COUNCIL

1204 96 Avenue SW  
Calgary, AB  
T2V 0Y1

MINUTES

Deborah Toth, Secretary

STEMIASCFebruary2023(12)

## **DATE/ TIME**

February 1st, 2023/ 6.30 PM  
1204, 96 Avenue SW  
T2V 0Y1  
STEM Innovation Academy Junior High Campus

## **FACILITATORS**

STEMIA School Council Executive Committee

## **ATTENDEES**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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

## **APOLOGIES**

Ibeth Albertazzi (High School Director)

### **SCHOOL STAFF/ ADMINISTRATION**

Kerry Blum (School Principal)  
Joanne Higgins (School Superintendent)  
Caitlin Gillie (Teacher Representative)

### **PARENTS**

Nebyat M., Kim S., Fahad H., Karen A., Agga C., Rebecca O., M-C H.

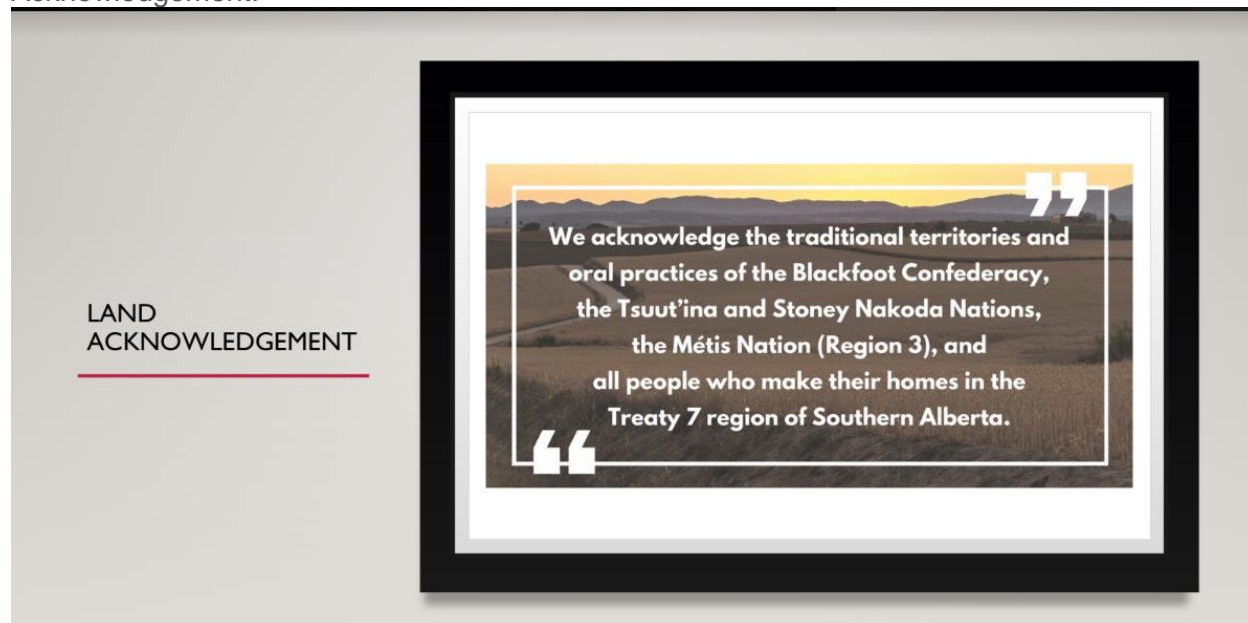
## **CALL TO ORDER**

Quorum declared to be present and meeting **called to order at 6.43 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 TODAY’S AGENDA February 1, 2023 WITH AMENDMENTS (Deb T./ Shawn F.)

Agenda, with amendments, was unanimously approved as distributed.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF December 14, 2022 (Deb T./ Karen A)

The Minutes from our December 2022 meeting were unanimously approved.

## REPORTS

### CHAIR REPORT- Golden Bhatia

Golden welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. She thanked Ms. Higgins for hosting a parent engagement meeting prior to our council meeting. The parent engagement meeting focused on feedback from STEMIA parents regarding the qualities and values that they would be looking for when hiring a new Principal for our Junior High campus.

### DECEMBER 2022- CHRISTMAS GIFTS AND TREAT DONATIONS

Golden thanked our parent volunteers for sending in delicious treats during the last week of school in December. Pictures of this special event can be found on our IG page @stemia.paco. Our Parent Council also handed out Starbucks gift cards to our STEMIA staff and bus drivers.

## FUN LUNCH

### FUN LUNCH

- Fun Lunch Junior High- Boston Pizza in January and SUBWAY on February 8th
- Senior High Fun Lunch- EDO Japan in February
- Please order at least four days before the event.

## SCIENCE FAIR 2023

# SCIENCE FAIR

WE NEED PARENT VOLUNTEERS AS GUEST JUDGES FOR THE FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup> SCIENCE FAIR (9AM TO 11AM). PLEASE GO TO THE SIGN UP GENIUS PAGE:

[HTTPS://WWW.SIGNUPGENIUS.COM/GO/10C0F4AACA828A5FCC52-GUEST#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4aaca828a5fcc52-guest#/)



## ROLE OF SCHOOL COUNCIL

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Roles that are **not** to be taken on by a school council include:

- school governance
- school management
- listening to complaints

(School Council Resource Guide: Alberta School Councils' Association)

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH- FEBRUARY 2023



## **PRINCIPAL REPORT- Kerry Blum**

### **December Activities**

December was a busy time for our school. Over the Christmas break, we went forward with the lottery process for 1000 applicants. In fact, the lottery was done for roughly 150 grade 7 students. 30 spots were available for grade 8. The lottery for Grade 9 students will be done in March. A second lottery will be done in March at the Junior High campus for grades 11 and 12. Out of the 72 families that have responded to our “intent to return” survey, 6 families have indicated that they will not attend out high school. We will have 475 students at the high school next year. The intent to return survey for Junior High students will be sent soon. Please take the time to fill it out so we can plan ahead.

### **Grade 9 students visit our High School campus**

Our grade 9 students went to our NW campus to know what lies ahead for next year. Jeff Crane, our Assistant Principal, went over the courses and explained what each of them looked like. We emphasized that STEM is about specific courses and our program will not necessarily include opportunities such as Band and Art.

Grade 9 students will soon go to their teachers to ask for their recommendations on what courses they need to take.

### **Mid-year Evaluations**

Our staff and students have been writing mid- year ELA and Math evaluations in January. This was helpful for our teachers and staff and enabled us to determine what we need to tweak and improve. We took a good look at the results to try help the students who have missing gaps. Some flexibility was given to some students to help them with their confidence so they can go into grade with more assurance.

### **San Antonio visit**

Mr. Ackerman (AP at the Junior High), Mr. Crane (AP at the Senior High), and myself, went to a conference in San Antonio. We heard from world-renowned speakers who have made a name for themselves in the STEM education world. We learned about what makes a powerful program for STEM learners and we are taking this valuable knowledge with us to Canada.

### **Bussing Update**

We were told by First Student that they have a few drivers in training. The MELT training makes it a longer process for our drivers. Hopefully, one of these drivers is assigned to STEM. We will find out next week and I will send an update if we have some good news. I can assure you that we keep advocating for our students from bus 1 and 7 to get a new driver. We are in regular communication with First Student and will share any pertinent information with our families.

A bussing meeting will take place on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 at our Junior High campus. We will have representatives from First Student who will be there to answer your questions and share some insight about the challenges facing our school bus industry. More details will follow in an email very soon.

Update on refunds- as mentioned before, we are committed to providing a refund to our parents. The refunds will not take place monthly, but in late spring 2023. Please understand that we don't have the administrative manpower to go through this monthly. In order for us to be efficient, we can issue one refund per family per year. We have overshot our budget and we are currently short of thousands of dollars because many families have not paid their fees. We certainly don't want the deficit to affect our students at the classroom level. Therefore, we hope you can appreciate that our school is doing the best it can at the moment.

GPS location- I am pleased to announce that STEM IA has been asked to be part of a pilot program by First Student. In the future, we will be receiving updates when the bus is 1 km away from the stop. However, the app won't work if your designated driver isn't working. Your student's ID will be connected to their designated driver.

### **Junior High Open House**

The Junior High open house took place on January 19<sup>th</sup>. We had over 75 kid ambassadors and over 700 visitors came to find out more about our program. We are so proud of our ambassadors who did an amazing job representing our school.

## **CAITLIN GILLIE**

### **Student Council**

I want to thank everyone who donated something for the food bank. Back in December, a massive donation was dropped off thanks to your generous donations.

Our student council is also planning a dance at lunchtime on Valentine's Day.

### **Culture Week**

Culture week will be taking place next Wednesday (Feb' 8<sup>th</sup>) to February 10<sup>th</sup>. Students are invited to dress in their cultural attire. We are also looking for food donations for February 9<sup>th</sup>. We want students to experience different foods that are meaningful for different cultures. The portions sizes need to be small (sample size), scoopable, or individually packages.

### **PD DAY**

Our teachers love PD days because this is a tremendous opportunity for us to share ideas with our colleagues. During PD days, we also share important information regarding our students' IPPs. We discuss what we can do to help and support each other. We also spend time working on report cards to write meaningful comments that will help our students. On Tuesday, we had time to reflect on complementary courses and talk about how we can improve. We enhance or deconstruct our courses. PD days are valuable because this is valuable time to design something better for our deserving students.

I also want to share that I have taught a bio-med engineering class. I am currently restructuring the course and I've connected with the UofC bio-med department so that industry experts can meet with our students. I am working on the fourth iteration of this course and hope to develop something that will positively engage our students.

## TREASURER REPORT

TREASURER REPORT (Josephin J.)

STEMIA School Council

Treasurer Report: FEB 01, 2023

Period of Dec 14, 2022 to Feb 01, 2023

				Money Out
<b>Starting Balance</b>			<b>\$1403.93</b>	
Deposits/Income				
Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Type	Description	Deposit	Expenses
Jan-13-2023		ZOOM Subscription fees		\$ 210
Jan-30-2023		Fun Lunch –Juice expenses		\$ 52.02
<b>Ending Balance</b>			<b>\$1141.91</b>	



**APPROVAL OF TREASURER REPORT (Josephin S./ Rebecca O.) POLL**

Motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE**

Ms. Golden Bhatia **adjourned the Meeting at 7:27 PM. The next meeting will take place on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 at 6:30 PM at our Senior High Location**

