

May 10, 2023



STEMIA SCHOOL COUNCIL

3553 31 St NW
Calgary, AB
T2L 2K7

MINUTES

Deborah Toth, Secretary

STEMIASCMay2023(14)

DATE/ TIME

March 10, 2023/ 6.30 PM
Online/ ZOOM

FACILITATORS

STEMIA School Council Executive Committee

ATTENDEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Golden (Gurmeet) Bhatia (Chairperson)
Deborah Toth (Secretary)
Josephin Justine (Treasurer)
Ibeth Albertazzi (High School Director)

SCHOOL STAFF/ ADMINISTRATION

Kerry Blum (Senior High School Principal)
Michelle Alberts (Junior High School Principal)
Caitlin Gillie (Jr. High School Teacher Representative)

APOLOGIES

Shawn Furlong (Vice-Chairperson)

PARENTS

Stacia S., Rebecca O., Mai N., Rajaa, Pinder, Heather R., Karen A.

CALL TO ORDER

Quorum declared to be present and meeting **called to order at 6.34 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 May 10, 2023 (Golden B./ Deb T.)

Agenda, with amendments, was unanimously approved as distributed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF March 1, 2023 (Deb T./ Karen A.)

The Minutes from our March 1st, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

REPORTS

CHAIR REPORT- Golden B.

TIMELINE

This is the timeline of our main school council events for the year 2022-2023.



AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on June 7th, 2023. If you want to nominate someone or yourself for one of the Executive positions, please email schoolcouncil@stemia.ca.

JUNE YEAR-END CELEBRATION

Our Family year-end celebration will take place on June 27th at the Junior High location. We are still in the process of planning the event and more information will be shared in the coming weeks.

FUN LUNCH

Fun lunch at both campuses will take place in May and June. There is still time for you to order you child's fun lunch through healthyhunger.ca



FUN LUNCH

APRIL DEVELOPMENTS

Our Parent Council is proud to welcome Ms. Michelle Alberts as our new Junior High Principal. We also want to thank Ms. Lisa Davis and everyone involved in making the new High School location a possible reality.

APRIL DEVELOPMENTS

**New Principal at Junior High
Michelle Alberts**

New STEMIA High School location- A big THANK YOU from parents!

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

- ALL THE VOLUNTEERS AND PARENTS (Some more love needed for Grade 9 farewell)
- SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS
- PRINCIPAL AND STAFF
- SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH



PRINCIPAL REPORT- Kerry Blum and Michelle Alberts

Thank You Ms. Gillie (Kerry Blum)

Caitlin is one of our Rockstar teachers at the Junior High campus. She works so hard to bring with our student council to organize engaging events and enforce our school culture. A lot of the fun events that are enjoyed by your children are planned by Ms. Gillie. Thank you for your hard work!

Welcome Ms. Alberts (Kerry Blum)

It was a lot managing two campuses but the long-term goal was never for me to keep leading both locations. Our search started in January, and we are so excited to find Michelle as a great fit for our STEM IA family. I am grateful for finding someone who is dedicated to our school culture and everything we believe in at STEM.

Introduction (Michelle Alberts)

I am honoured to join the STEM IA family and I appreciate the mentorship I keep receiving from Kerry, Joanne Higgins, Bob Ackerman, and Lisa Davis. This has been a fantastic transaction and I am still working closely with Kerry to make sure the shift goes well for everyone involved.

For the past ten years, I've primarily worked for the Foothills Division in Okotoks and High River. I have worked in high school settings, so I have a good Grade 9 lens. However, I am eager to work with our Grade 7 and 8 students; their energy is palpable and the school culture is incredibly positive. I am settling in nicely and I have enjoyed the conversations I've been having with all our students. If you're coming by the school, feel free come by my office and introduce yourself.

Upcoming Field Trips (Michelle Alberts)

We are very excited about our upcoming field trips. The last one we had was our Architectural Design trip in Downtown Calgary led by their option teachers. Coming up on May 25th, we have our Vertigo Theatre, and in late May, we have our River Watch field trips for our Grade 8 students. A lot of thought has gone into the planning of these out of school field trips. Our teachers go above and beyond to find trips that are engaging and positively memorable.

Extra-Curricular Clubs (Michelle Alberts)

Our chess team is competing at the UofC this Saturday. Thank you to Mr. Hoffman for planning and organizing this event. There will be another June tournament at Edison School in Okotoks.

Thank you to Ms. Gillie for the great Student Council update- we are excited for what our students have planned for the Spring Fling and Mother's Day.

Our Soccer team had their first game yesterday and tied. Congratulations to all the players who made the team. Our students were so proud of their game and they are so motivated to win their next game.

Our Track Meet will take place on May 23rd. We have six to seven coaches who are dedicated to our team- big thank you to them and for the time they take to recruit and train our athletes.

Grade 9 Celebration (Michelle Alberts)

Our upcoming Grade 9 Farewell Celebration will feature an off-site activity with Flying Squirrel on June 14th. On June 16th, we will be having a ceremony at the Junior High location. The time is still to be determined. We are working with our parent council and we appreciate the volunteers who are helping to make this event special.

Science Fair (Michelle Alberts)

I have some updates regarding the National Science Fair. I am proud to share that seven STEM students brought gold medals for our school. In addition, we won four silver and three bronze medals. We have students competing at Nationals this May and we're so proud of the projects they will be showcasing. Thank you to Ms. Bretner for supporting our students and leading this massive endeavor.

PD Days (Michelle Alberts)

We have two upcoming Professional Development days, May 19th and June 2nd. We will be using those days for IPP reports and for programming discussions about next school year. Thank you so much to Lana's Mom for bringing in lunch for our staff on one of these professional days. We greatly appreciate it!.

Bussing for Jr. High and Refund (Kerry Blum)

We put out a survey to find out who was going to need bussing for our next school year. Cindy Kurucz has been great at collecting the information and sending it off to First Student (FS). FS uses this information to determine routes, mapping, and costs. You will not get your route until this summer, so please don't expect anything before then. We are moving forward with First Student. I know this last year has been challenging for many families, but FS's managers have done their best to be communicative with our staff.

The route mapping is done as a partnership between FS and our school. FS will first compile the data in their software to come up with routes. These routes will then go through our senior administration to be approved. There is quite a process and we won't be able to please everyone. Please keep in mind that we are a charter school and we will have communal stops- you will not have door-to-door service. If you have an issue regarding specific stops, please talk to our bus coordinator.

The cheque for your refund is in the mail! Ms. Kurucz has collected all the information needed to carefully calculate the refund owed to parents who experienced bus delays. You will be receiving a refund for the days when the bus was late beyond 60 minutes.

School Uniform (Kerry Blum)

We have made the decision to move forward with a different vendor. We will be opening an online store that will be open 24/7. You can purchase a variety of customizable gear directly from the website and the outfits will be shipped directly to your home. This is particularly helpful for students who join us in the middle of the school year, or children who go through growth spurts. You will get an opportunity to purchase our uniforms through our current vendor at the Parent Council Family event. More details will be shared in June.

Structure of our Governing Board (Kerry Blum)

We had some parents reach out with questions about the structure of our governing board. There may be some confusion regarding that as our board isn't elected the same way a CBE board gets elected. The members of our governing board comprise of individuals who are not necessarily affiliated to the school through their children. Our school co-founder, Lisa Davis, is one of the board members and serves at the COO to oversee our school program expansion. Two of the board members are parents, including Rebecca Ostrihoff, who is part of the meeting today. The members serve one-year terms which can be renewed. We actually have more accountability to the Government of Alberta and the Ministry of Education compared to other boards.

Our Senior School Administration, including Michelle and myself, work closely with our School Superintendent, Ms. Joanne Higgins and the governing board.

Staffing updates (Kerry Blum)

We have hired 19 new staff members for our Senior High campus and 5 at the Junior High level. For every position, we averaged 3 different candidates. We have hired 5 engineers, who can offer their professional experience to teach kids. Mr. Kennedy will be leaving us and will be leading the Edmonton school. We've averaged 72 hours of interviews and we believe we chose the best of very qualified people to lead our students.

Our New High School Location and the Charter Hub (Kerry Blum)

We are so excited about our new High School location- this is the location we've been working on for a couple of years and we are so happy to see that our efforts paid off. Last Wednesday, we had over 1000 people attend the 1-hour sneak peek. We are honoured to see so many families interested in our program. We are moving ahead for renovations so we can be ready for the fall. There will be no yellow bus service, but the walk from the Brentwood C-train station is approximately 7 minutes (550-meter walk). Limited parking will be available for students.

As of today, Connect Charter is no longer able to join the Charter Hub, but this doesn't change things for STEM. We are still moving forward with our program at the new High School location.

Finals and year-end activity (Kerry Blum)

On June 12th, we will have a year-end activity right before finals. More information will be shared later on.

Lockers and building improvements at the Junior High (Kerry Blum)

We've invested about half a million dollars at the Junior High location for new lockers. We are hoping for the lockers to be ready by fall. We are also adding a collapsible wall in the gymnasium for a fitness studio. In addition, we are getting all new windows and blinds for improved energy efficiency. All of that work will be done over the summer and our students will have many exciting things to look forward to.

CAITLIN GILLIE

Spring Fling Dance

We have a Spring Fling dance happening this Friday and will be hosted by our School Council. We have about 190 students attending. There will be a bunch of funky lights and this will make it a fun event for our kids.

AstroJump

We will host a fun-filled day with AstroJump on June 28th. This will be an excellent way to end the school year.

TREASURER REPORT

TREASURER REPORT (Josephin J.)

STEMIA School Council

Treasurer Report: MAR 01, 2023 (AGM)

Period of Feb 01, 2023 to Mar 01, 2023

				Money Out
Starting Balance			\$1141.91	
Deposits/Income				
Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Type	Description	Deposit	Expenses
Feb-01-2023	Cheque	HH- Fun Lunch	\$300.25	
Feb-01-2023	Cheque	HH- Fun Lunch	\$342.26	
Feb-01-2023	Cheque	HH- Fun Lunch	\$ 83.64	
Feb-14-2023	Cheque	HH- Fun Lunch	\$395.25	
Feb-14-2023	Cheque	HH- Fun Lunch	\$ 83.64	
Feb-14-2023	Cheque	HH- Fun Lunch	\$ 96.10	
Feb-14-2023	Cheque	HH- Fun Lunch	\$ 69.75	
Ending Balance			\$2512.80	

- T-Bill savings account--**\$679.92** (Which includes the credit from the Parent fundraising society for the science fair prize-gift cards.
- Fun Lunch—Teacher’s dinner--\$161.48 was taken out from our cheque.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER REPORT (Rebecca O./ Deb T.)

Motion unanimously passed.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER BUDGET FOR YEAR-END PARTY (Karen A./ Deb T.)

Approximate associated costs for AstroJump, Janitor fees, Amazon Prizes, Uniform Sale, etc.:
\$2800.00

Motion unanimously

UPDATES

June Year-End Celebration (Deb Toth)

Our Year-End Family celebration will be held on June 27th. We are still planning this big event which will welcome all families from both campuses. We are thankful for the parent committee that is working hard to collect donations and plan for this event. We will also have volunteer recognition letters for students who are willing to volunteer at our event.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE

Golden Bhatia **adjourned the Meeting at 7:41 PM. The next meeting (AGM) will take place in June 2023 via ZOOM**