

November 1, 2023



# STEMIA SCHOOL COUNCIL

1204 96 Avenue SW  
Calgary, AB  
T2V 0Y1

MINUTES

Deborah Toth, Secretary

AGM

STEMIASCNovember2023(17)

## DATE/ TIME

November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023/ 6:30PM on ZOOM

## FACILITATORS

STEMIA School Council Executive Committee

## ATTENDEES

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

### APOLOGIES

Ibeth Albertazzi (High School Director)

### SCHOOL STAFF/ ADMINISTRATION

Kerry Blum (Sr. High School Principal)  
Michelle Alberts (Jr. High School Principal)  
Tyler Christiansen (Teacher Representative)

### PARENTS

Trish, KaeLeah S., Kirk G, Mona S., Naomi O., Rebecca O., Karam, Flora, Johannes F. Rosia, Flora.

## 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./ Naomi O.)

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

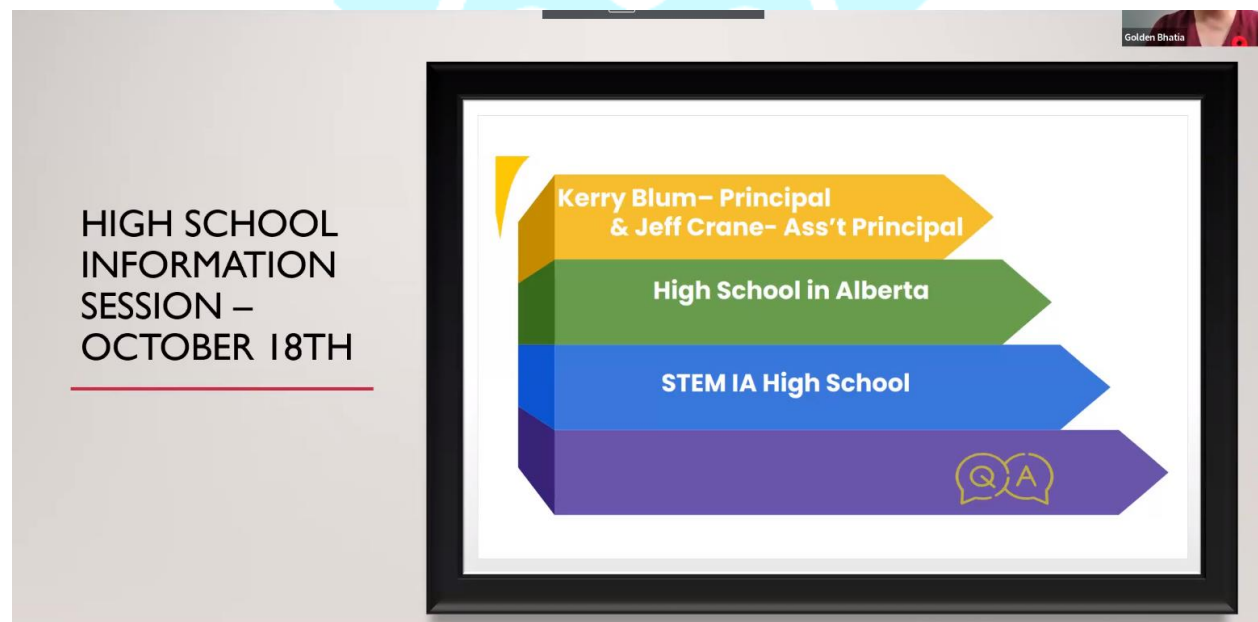
### APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OUR OCTOBER MEETING (Deb T./ Rosia.)

The Minutes from our October meeting were unanimously approved.

## REPORTS

### CHAIR REPORT- Golden Bhatia

On behalf of our School Council, thank you to our two Principals, Ms. Blum and Ms. Riddick, for hosting the High School Information Session. The session was very helpful and our parents appreciate the wealth of information offered. This was particularly interesting for parents who were not familiar with the type of courses offered in Alberta. For parents who could not attend, please note that an email with the presentation was sent to all Grade 9 parents.





# THANK YOU

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

## PRINCIPAL REPORT- Kerry Blum & Michelle Alberts

### October Review (Michelle Alberts)

We had our October 6 Staff PD that focused on PAT and Survey Analysis. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, we attended the TAAPCS Conference at Almadina Charter School.

### Thank you for Parent Teacher Meals (Michelle Alberts)

We really appreciate the warm meals that were sent to our Junior High School during Parent teacher conferences. They were thoroughly enjoyed by our hard-working staff- thank you!

### **Upcoming in November (Michelle Alberts)**

#### **Professional Development – Nov 9**

- o Emotional and Mental Resiliency in Students,
- o Vertical Alignment with High School
- o STEM IA Staff Social

- Open House for prospective families – **Nov 30**

### **Extracurriculars (Michelle Alberts)**

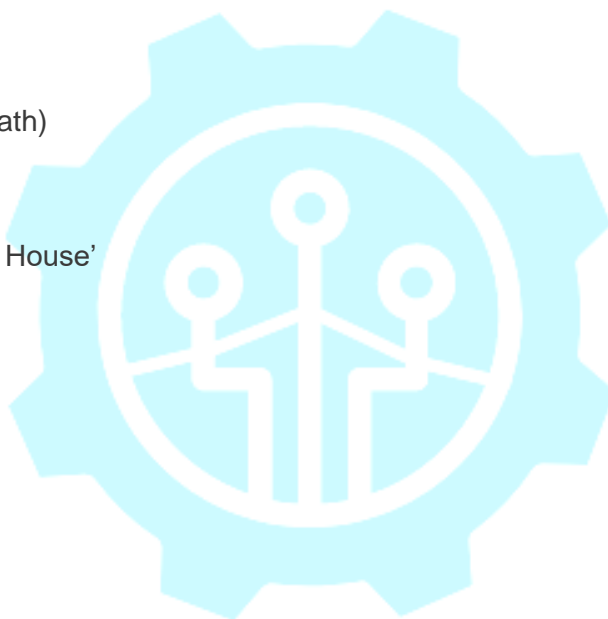
#### **Athletics**

- o Cross Country – concluded
- o Girls Volleyball - entering playoffs
- o Boys Volleyball - entering playoffs

#### **- Clubs**

- o Student Council
- o Yearbook
- o Science Fair
- o GEM (Girls Excel in Math)
- o Junior achievement
- o GSA
- o Esports
- o Beakerhead 'Hack the House'
- o Literature circle Club
- o Drama Club
- o Chess club
- o Motorsports club

- o Newspaper club
- o Maker club
- o Board game club
- o Gaming club



### **Parent-Teacher Conferences at the Senior High (Kerry Blum)**

We had so many parents participate in our Parent-Teacher conferences. We had 1,032 interviews over the course of 2 days at the senior high. I am so impressed with the parent engagement and commitment from our parents. Thank you to the many parents who sent in meals to feed our deserving staff and teachers!

### **Grade 9 Information session (Kerry Blum)**

This is the first year that we've held such an information session. We realize that many of our families are new to Alberta and this is their first child going through the high school system. High school in Alberta can be somewhat confusing in terms of course credits. Jeff Crane (AP at the Senior High) and I did a poll at the beginning of the night to ask if there were first time High school parents (first child going to high school), or if they just moved to Alberta. We found out that 80% of our attendees were new to the High School system. This gives me confidence that the presentation was helpful. We also emailed the presentation out to all the Grade 9 families who were not able to attend, but please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

On January the 9<sup>th</sup>, we will be taking our Grade 9 students to our Senior High campus for a tour. Jeff and I will go over the meaning of a high school diploma, what credits are, etc. This will help our students make the best choice for them in terms of academic and personal success.

### **Open House November 2nd (Kerry Blum)**

Our High School Open House will take place tomorrow. You are all more than welcome to attend, but please note that parking space is incredibly limited. We will be doing two repeat sessions about what our High School is about. There will be 70 students showcasing their work. Students will also get the opportunity to visit the different classrooms. Construction is progressing at our Charter Hub campus, but there will be an opportunity for parents to visit the newly finished east wing (floor 2) of our building.

### **October 18- Grade 9 Information Session (Kerry Blum)**

Our grade 9 information session will take place on October 18. This is an opportunity for our parents to learn more about how Grade 10 courses and schedules work. I will co-host this meeting with Ms. Riddick.

### **November 8 Remembrance Day (Kerry Blum)**

We are so honored to have veterans from the Colonel Belcher Retirement home, including my dad, who will be coming to our Remembrance Day event. We also welcome an esteemed doctor and guest who's served in two world wars.

### **Extracurriculars (Kerry Blum)**

Our volleyball teams are wrapping up their season and we hope our boys' team will make playoffs. We have two robotics team at the Senior High, with about 70 kids involved! Our actual competition team comprises of 20 kids. Our teams have been working hard on a variety of challenges. We just received approval to host one of the regional competitions which will happen in December. We will also put in a request to host provincials in March.

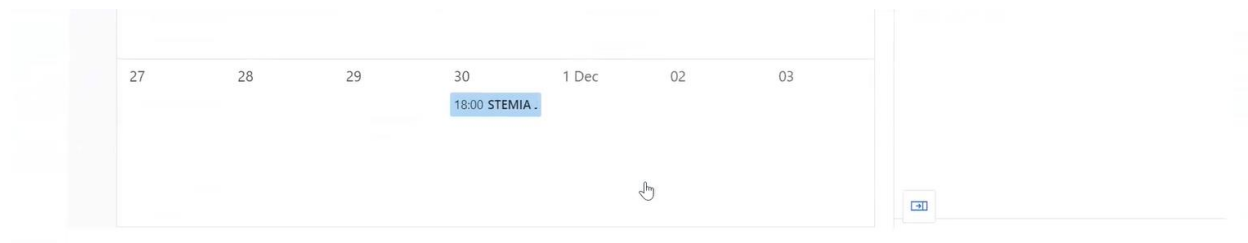
### **Gymnasium at our high school (Kerry Blum)**

As of right now, we currently don't have a gymnasium at our Senior High campus. Our students currently walk to Vecova for gym; it's still a short walk but we would prefer having an in-house gymnasium. We have been working with the Government of Alberta and asked for their support, but our provincial government has different timelines and will not respond quickly to our urgent need for a gym. We currently don't have a gym completion date and we would love your parent support. Please talk to your MLA and share your support of our school and what we're trying to accomplish. Reach out and ask if they can share information about gymnasium completion date for our High School students. Fridays are often a good opportunity for all constituents to meet with their MLAs. If you're in the Calgary Bow riding, that's even more meaningful because you could talk to Education Minister Nicolaides. Completion of the gym requires active and strong support from our provincial government, so please reach out by email, phone, or in-person.

For more information and to learn more about how you can show your support, please reach out to Rebecca Ostrihoff and email her at [Rebecca.Ostrihoff@gmail.com](mailto:Rebecca.Ostrihoff@gmail.com).

### **Updated website (Kerry Blum)**

Our updated website makes it cleaner and easier to use. Our parents will find it more user-friendly with easy access to bell times, calendar, key information, courses, etc.



## Bell Schedule

2023/2024

Monday to Thursday		Friday
Period Length	57	40
Warning Bell	8:38	8:38



2023-2024 Calendar

[Download PDF](#)

Calendar

Bell Schedule



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STEM IA HIGH SCHOOL

## High School Courses

Our high school programming is structured to meet the high standards of Alberta's curriculum while allowing students flexibility to explore unique and innovative STEM courses. Our program prepares students for post-secondary studies through our exemplary programming and teaching, and helps students make informed choices about their education path beyond grade 12.

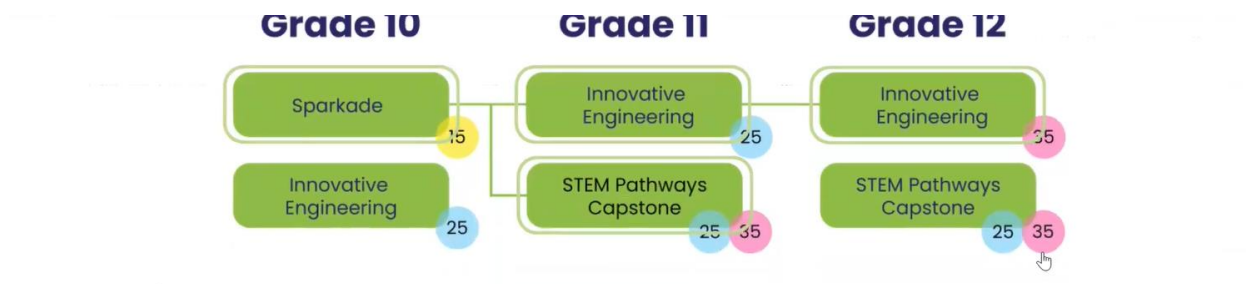


Core Courses



Options & Specializations





## Computational Thinking

In today's digital age, computational thinking is an essential skill. It is a systematic approach to solving complex problems by breaking them down into a series of distinct steps. Solutions are presented in a form that can be effectively carried out by people or computers. Courses in the Computational Thinking strand involve students undertaking hands-on learning in computer programming and electronics to create 'smart' design solutions.



## Global Online Academy (GOA)



GOA is an international consortium of public, independent, charter, and international member schools offering online learning. STEM Innovation Academy is the only public-school member in Canada. Global Online Academy courses have low student to teacher ratios and are expert led. GOA offers high school students the opportunity to learn in an interactive, global learning community, building the skills they'll need for college, career, and life. Learning is both synchronous and asynchronous however the course must be completed in the semester chosen.

### Grade 10

### Grade 11

### Grade 12



## TEACHER REPORT- Tyler Christiansen

### Alberta Public Charter School Conference

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, we had our Association of Alberta Public Charter School Conference which welcomes every Charter school teacher in the province.

### Junior High Updates

We've had various professional development sessions at the Junior High. Our first field trip of the year involved our Grade 8 students who are in bioengineering class. Our Grade 9 Biomedical Engineering class has been working on some hands-on experiments. As a result, our students have developed more understanding and empathy for people in need of biomedical engineering to improve their lives. In fact, this past October, we were able to facilitate the donation of a prosthetic arm from Coleman Orthotics and Prosthetics. We are grateful for this donation which enabled our students to learn more about how a prosthetic arm can be a useful tool that can improve a patient's quality of life and help with simple day-to-day activities.



We've recently had our Halloween part which comprised of hours of dancing in the gym. There were also some fun activities (pumpkin games, video games, Halloween movies, etc.) for those who did not necessarily want to dance.

### **Remembrance Day**

Remembrance Day activities will take place on November 8<sup>th</sup> and our teachers have been working hard to make this a meaningful event. This will feature student emcees, musicians, cadets, JJ Martin (Veteran from local legion).

### **3D Printer**

Our Options team recently purchased a new 3D printer which can print at 500mm per second. There's a bit of a backlog right now, so the new print will help alleviate this situation. I'm looking forward to showcase our 3D printed board that my eight grade students are making. I will be proudly showing it off at our Junior High Open House which will be held on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**Question from parent:** Last year, the school offered monetary bonuses to school drivers who would sign on to one of our STEM routes. Is this still the case this year? We are missing a driver for Bus 7. Is there an update regarding a permanent driver for this route?

Michelle Alberts: "We are very hopeful that the driver for route 7 will return. We've heard that the driver was away for illness and we truly hope the driver will be back next week. If we're in a situation where an incentive is required, we will be in discussion with the school board and our School Superintendent to ensure that we can retain staff. As of right now, the root of the issue remains the lack of bus drivers in the province. It's not just an issue affecting Calgary; it's affecting many schools and cities across Alberta. Our administrators do their best to stay informed and keep up with First Student. We send in suggestions and feedback, but again, the problem lies in the shortage of bus drivers."

**Question from parent:** What is the school policy on crop tops?

Kerry Blum: "Our dress code states that the shirt they are wearing touches the waistline pants. We believe in a modest dress code and we're asking parents to support us with this. There is a wide variety of shirts, hoodies, dress shirts, etc., available on our online store. The shirt must always show the STEM logo clearly visible."

## **TREASURER REPORT**

### **TREASURER REPORT (Josephin J.)**

# STEMIA School Council

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## Treasurer Report: Nov.01, 2023

Period of Oct 04, 2023 to Nov 01, 2023

				Money Out
Starting Balance		Community Spirit Account	\$922.09	
Deposits/Income				
Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Type	Description	Deposit	Expenses
Oct-26	E-Transfer	Juices for Fun lunch		\$58.77
Ending Balance			\$	863.32

### APPROVAL OF TREASURER REPORT (Josephin J./ Deb T.)

Motion unanimously passed.

### ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date for STEMIA School Council will take place on December 6th, at our Senior High Campus located at 3636 Research Road NW.

Ms. Golden Bhatia **adjourned the meeting at 7:46 PM.**