

February 7, 2024



# STEMIA SCHOOL COUNCIL

3636 Research Road NW (Sr High)  
1204 96 Avenue SW (Jr High)

## MINUTES

Deborah Toth, Secretary

STEMIASCFebruary2024(19)

## DATE/ TIME

February 7, 2024| 6.30 PM via ZOOM

## FACILITATORS

STEMIA School Council Executive Committee

## ATTENDEES

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Golden (Gurmeet) Bhatia (Chairperson)  
Deborah Toth (VP/Secretary)  
Josephin Justin (Treasurer)

### SCHOOL STAFF/ ADMINISTRATION

Kerry Blum (Senior High School Principal)  
Michelle Riddick (Junior High School Principal)  
Tyler Christiansen (Teacher Representative)

### PARENTS

Alana, Omoskalenko, Alana, Kevin F. Georgia F., Liz Y., Rishma M., Stacia S., Rebecca O.,  
KaeLeah S., Sara S., Gabriel A., Ahmed A., Johannes F., PS., Liliana R., Trish, Lori K., M-C H.

### APOLOGIES

Ibeth Albertazzi (High School Director)

## 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 (Golden B./ Deb T.)

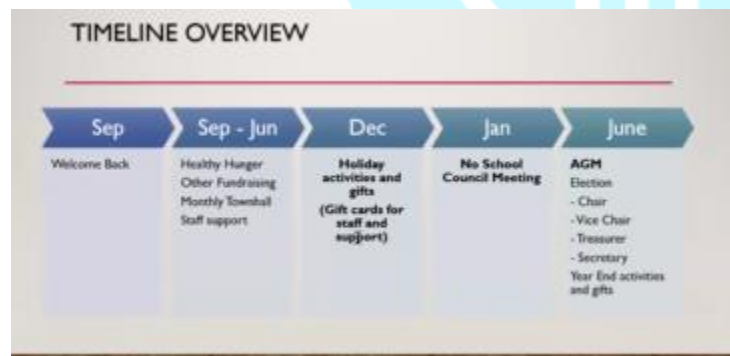
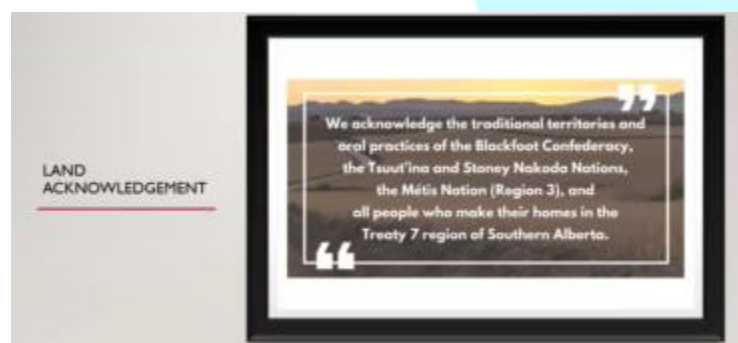
Agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER MINUTES (Deb T./ Golden B.)

The Minutes from our December minutes were not inadvertently not included in an email to the parent community. As such, the minutes will be sent in late February along with the minutes of this meeting. Motion to pass the December minutes will be done at our March 6th School Council meeting.

## REPORTS

### CHAIR REPORT- Golden Bhatia





Thank you to all the parents who have contributed to the “Donate to a Friend” initiative!



## **PRINCIPAL AND TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE REPORT- Kerry Blum, Michelle Riddick, and Tyler Christiansen**

**Michelle Riddick**

### **Lottery**

We were excited to conduct our lottery for the Jr. High Campus as soon as we came back from our winter break. We offered 168 spots to incoming grade 7 students for 2024-2025. Similarly, we have sent out our “Intent to Return” survey to our current grade 7 and grade 8 families. This survey will give us a good idea of how many new spots we can offer to the people on our waiting list.

### **Mid-Term season**

Our staff spent much time focusing on student learning strategies to prepare for mid-term exams. Mid-term season was very busy but very successful. We’re wrapping up Semester one and we’re excited to see what Semester two will offer.

### **PD Days**

We benefitted from some really great Professional Development days and worked with Sarah Bieber, one of the school’s co-founders. Our teachers found this very helpful and informative. They were able to expand their toolkit so they can better assist our students with feelings of stress and anxiety.

### **Guest speakers and field trips at the Junior High**

We recently had a guest speaker from the Calgary Police who came to chat with our students in their health class about hate crimes and online digital presence. We also had parent volunteer from the UofC share artifacts from the Nickle Galleries. The students really enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about what these pieces meant.

Our Grade 8 students went to Laser City and our Grade 9 students went to the Calgary Zoo. We are proud of the excellent experiential learning opportunities in a very hands-on context.

### **Grade 9 Farewell Planning**

We've initiated discussions regarding our Grade 9 Farewell planning with our staff. Ms. Donaldson has started a student planning group and they will be looking at what June looks like in terms of field trips. There will be some fundraisers on the go so the kids can enjoy some special activities in June.

### **Partnership with Calgary Regional Consortium**

We are pleased to announce a partnership with the Calgary Regional Consortium. This is free of charge for our teachers and we are grateful for this as we continually plan and work towards being the best educators for our students.

### **Extra-curriculars**

Basketball season is coming to a wrap with playoffs and team celebrations are coming up at the end of the month. Badminton tryouts will be taking place at the end of the month with communications being sent out. We are also very excited about our March Pep Rally, the first one to take place at STEMIA! We will be honoring students who are working towards things outside of their regular school timetable. We are also looking into starting a robotics club in the upcoming weeks. Mr. Mackrory has been nothing short of outstanding in helping us with this initiative.

### **Bus Drivers for the Jr. High**

We have finally staffed a driver for route 9! As of today, all of our 11 bus routes have a permanent driver. We are always working with First Student to streamline our bussing as efficiently as possible, but we know it can sometimes be challenge.

### **Tyler Christiansen**

#### **New 3-D Printer**

I'm excited to report that we have a brand new 3-D printer at the Junior High campus. This printer has the ability to print in color which is new in the 3-D printing world. I am excited for our students to explore and experiment with this cutting-edge technology.

#### **Grant**

Our skills club is so busy with a skills competition. Mr. McWilliam recently received an A+ for Energy Grant and our crew is busy building a vertical hydroponic tower with other 1000 seeds. This initiative demonstrates what our students are capable of in terms of problem-solving and sustainability.

#### **Daily Student announcements**

Our students now have a more sophisticated set-up with a green screen and a better recording arrangement. The videos are now available on YouTube for parents to view them. Mr. Wood facilitates this every morning and we appreciate the time he's invested in this on a daily basis.

### **Kerry Blum**

#### **Final Exams**

Our students just finished their final exams. A number of our students also just finished their

Chem-30 diploma exams and we are anxiously anticipating their results. These exams and the data we receive from them is important to us.

### **Open House**

We hosted an Open House on February 1<sup>st</sup> and we were shocked at the number of people who came to visit. We also had the pleasure of meeting with new teachers who were curious about our program. Our students were amazing and spoke to what our culture and school program is about.

85% of our Grade 9 students have confirmed that they will be returning. We will have about 250 spots brand new Grade 10's. For Grade 11, we will have about 260 spots available. We are looking at a student population of 705, which is a massive growth!

### **Robotics Team**

Our robotics team is going very strong. This year, we actually have two robotics teams. Our VEX robotics team has completed 3 tournaments. The latest tournament took place at the BMO Centre with 168 teams from around the world. We entered 4 teams of 4 students. This was a great opportunity for our kids who finished 22<sup>nd</sup>. Our Sparkans first robotics team went out to Victoria last year and they intend to head out there again this year. The kids have been working extremely hard and if they make it to the finals, they will go to Houston for this event.

### **Partnership with Biology**

Our Biology Honours class has been working with Providence Pharmaceuticals on the topic of vaccines which aligns with our Bio Honours program. Tomorrow, they will be heading there to learn more about mRNA vaccine development.

### **Science Competition in Edmonton**

We were invited to go to the Interdisciplinary Science competition at the UofA. We will be in Edmonton for 3 days and we will be participating a competition at the UofA. What is fantastic is that these places are reaching out to us because they know of our passion for STEM.

### **Grade 12**

We've already booked a venue for the Grade 12 2025 graduation. We will be looking for parents to help us organize the banquet before Spring Break. We will have about a year to plan for this exciting event.

## **TREASURER REPORT**

### **MOTION TO APPROVE TREASURER REPORT (Josephin J. Rebecca O.)**

Treasurer report was unanimously approved as distributed

STEMIA School Council  
Treasurer Report: Feb.07, 2024  
Period of Dec 06, 2023 to Feb 07, 2024

			Money Out	
Starting Balance		Community Spirit Account	\$1391.92	
Deposits/Income				
Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Type	Description	Deposit	Expenses
Dec-11	Deposit	HH- Fun lunch	\$477.07	
Jan-06	E-Transfer	Donation for Basketball Hoop	\$100	
Jan-08	Debit	Bank fees		\$0.84
Jan-09	E-Transfer	Stem Innovation Parent Fundraising Society account		\$100
Jan-09	E-Transfer	Donation from the Parent winner	\$2500	
Jan-16	E-Transfer	Stem Innovation Parent Fundraising Society account		\$2500
Feb-01	E-Transfer	Juices for Fun lunch		\$58.77
Feb-06	Debit	Bank fees		\$0.95
Ending Balance			\$ 1808.43	

## ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date for STEMIA School Council is: Wednesday March 6th, 2024 at the Junior High Campus  
Ms. Golden Bhatia **adjourned the meeting at 7:48PM.**