



School Council - Northwest Elementary, FFCA, Calgary, Alberta

Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: NWE Campus (719 44 Ave NW) with video call-in option

Video call link: <https://www.ffca-parent.com/call/yrz7a64j>

and press "Join Call"

Mission: *Through parental partnerships, support school administration and staff in their delivery of quality education and to instill a sense of community within all FFCA campuses.*

MINUTES

1. Call To Order: 6:32pm

Andrew Chu (Vice-Chair)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees: Andrew Chu (Vice-Chair), Heather Hadden (Secretary), Janine Rudolph (Parental Partnership Coordinator), Ade Onasaya (Parental Partnership Coordinator), Salina Bhimji (Kindergarten Representative), Rita Shen (Treasurer), Maira Muradova (Community Service Coordinator), Nabila Siddiqui (Heritage Celebration Committee Chair), Sam Lien (Teacher Rep), Shawna Drummond (Principal), Michelle Newell (Associate Principal), Marina Lakhani (Communications Coordinator), Shishir Mahajan (Parent)

2. Approval of Agenda

Andrew Chu (Vice-Chair)

Approval by Unanimous Consent

3. Vacancies	Andrew Chu (Vice-Chair)
1. School Council Bylaw Article 6: School Council may appoint persons (as stipulated in ARTICLE 5 SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP) to fill vacancies until the next School Council AGM. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocacy Committee Chair 2. Co-Fundraising Coordinator 3. Members for the Heritage Celebration Committee 	
4. Secretary Report	Heather Hadden (Secretary)
1. Minutes of the August 31 st , 2022 Meeting. Approval by Unanimous Consent	
5. Special Items	Aly Bhimji (Chair) or Andrew Chu (Vice-Chair)
No Report at this time	
6. Treasurer Report	Rita Shen (Treasurer)
1. Signing Authority Transfer: Has been completed 2. Financial Report: Is in in the Shared Files	
7. Teacher Representative Report	Sam Lien (Teacher Representative)
1. Thank you <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Back Breakfast – The staff enjoyed and appreciated this. • Welcome Back BBQ - Very well received. Families and students had fun visiting and playing together. 2. Student teachers from Ambrose University have been visiting our classrooms doing observations. 3. Looking forward to the Terry Fox Run and having the Grade 4 students do teambuilding at NMS.	
8. Principal Educator Report	Shawna Drummond (Principal Educator)
1. Welcome Back BBQ was well received and families did a wonderful job with the Scavenger Hunt with just over 100 forms handed in to earn the Free Homework Night for the whole school. The Free Homework Night is going to happen Thursday, September 22 nd . 2. Terry Fox Run is happening this Thursday, September 22 nd . Thank you for providing funds for bussing. The Grade 4's will be spending extra time at NMS to participate in bridging activities with the NMS students. 3. Teachers were given a Release Day to do planning for the new curriculum. Language Arts is very similar to what we practice at FFCA. Math is similar but there are new ideas to be implemented. 4. Professional Development Day on Friday, September 23 rd will focus on Inclusion In The Classroom, ESL Benchmarks and Truth And Reconciliation. 5. Researchers from UofA doing a study for Dr. George Georgiou will be working with 2 classes each in Grades 1, 2 & 3. Looking at developing a baseline for learning. This is particularly helpful for identifying students who need supports. 6. Ambrose students will be visiting us over the next 10 weeks. There will 5 groups of 5 first year students coming to make observations. 7. We will have an Education student from Germany coming to visit to observe education delivery in Canada. She will be staying with a teacher from FFCA High School. 8. Health Nurse will be coming this year to catch up routine immunizations for Grades 1. She will also be catching up students for their routine immunizations in Grades 3 and 4 who missed those in-school catch up immunizations due to Covid. If any families have health concerns or wonderings about general health issues for their child/family, please contact us at the school and we can put families in touch with our Health Nurse. 9. Board Meeting is happening May 24 th – mark your calendars. They would like to have a presentation made by NWE Administration and by the Parent Council. Supper will be provided.	

9. Heritage Celebration Committee
Report

Nabila Siddiqui (Heritage Celebration Committee Chair)

1. Heritage Celebration Survey update:

- Survey was well received: 86 responses total.
- Using parent feedback to acknowledge and celebrate heritage events as they come up.
- Updated our events calendar based on the survey results. In September we have acknowledged Onam, Mid-Autumn Festival and Chilean Independence Day.
- **Nabila motions for the Heritage Celebration Committee to have \$150 toward items needed. Maira seconds. Motion Carried.**
- In honour of Day Of Truth and Reconciliation, we are sending out a video request to families inviting them to say "You Belong And You Matter" in their language or any language they choose to.
- **Action Item: Email Parent Community on Monday, September 26th with this request.**

2. Heritage fest:

Council to host a large scale Heritage Fest in spring 2023. Ideas include having a Kindergarten fashion show with ethnic costumes, serving multi-cultural food items, having exhibits of artifacts from different countries. Will form a parent sub-committee in January 2023.

10. Advocacy Committee Report

No Representative

1. Representatives are needed for this position to

- Advocate for a new school building for FFCA- NWE
- Advocate for accessible childcare (Before and after school care) for the NWE community

11. Community Services Coordinator
Report

Mahira Muradova (Community Services Coordinator)

1. Welcome Back BBQ Summary:

- Many families reserved tickets and attended.
- **Action Item: Maira will put notes into shared files for future years.**

2. Secret Seniors (Maira)

- **Maira motions to participate in the Secret Seniors program. Janine seconds. Motion Carried**

3. Halloween Dance

- **Maira motions to have \$400 toward glow-in-the dark bracelts for the Halloween Dance at recess in the gym on Thursday, October 27th. Janine Seconds. Motion Carried.**
- **Action Item: Deanna will bring disco lights**
- **Volunteers from Fun Lunch to help with bracelets.**

4. Skating Rink (Andrew)

- **Action Item: Andrew will look into a facility to accommodate a skating party**

5. Engineering for Kids:

- **Action Item: Maira will connect with NEE parent council for details**

6. Other Items:

- **Maira motions to give extra stickers and cutlery to the staff for student use. Marina seconds. Motion carried.**

12. Fun Lunch Coordinator Report

Mirabel Berrade (Fun Lunch Coordinator)

1. Shawna reported that Fun Lunch is starting in October with the first date being Thursday, October 27th.

13. Kindergarten Representative and ECS Special
Snack Coordinator Report

Salina Bhimji (Kindergarten Representative)

1. Special Snack

- Going to Kindergarten tomorrow (Friday, September 22nd)

14. Health and Wellness Report	Deanna Zhao (Health and Wellness Coordinator)
1. Fresh Food Friday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deanna motions for \$500 to have to use for food and supplies for Fresh Food Friday. Maira seconds. Motion carried. 	
15. Fundraising Coordinator Report	Mahira Muradova (Fundraising Coordinator)
1. Davison Orchards Apple Fundraiser: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Item: Maira needs the Apple Purchases Report from Lee Action Item: Janine will send an email to room parents to send out a reminder of the fundraiser to parents. Action Item: Maira will check with Davison about the time of drop off on October 14th. Action Item: Volunteers needed for Morning Shift (7-8:15am) Kindergarten Pick Up (11:30-Noon) and After School (3:30-5pm and 5-6pm) 2. Opt-In Fundraiser: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maira motions to run the Opt In Fundraiser from October 3rd to November 4th. Janine seconded. Motion carried. Action Item- Lee to set up Opt In in the Family Log In Maira to send information about Opt In to Shawna for the newsletter. 	
16. Parental Partnership Report	Ade Onasanya and Janine Rudolph (Parental Partnership Coordinator)
1. Room Parent Orientation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not enough interest at this point to schedule an Orientation. Have created a handbook that has been given to Room Parents. Many of whom have been Room Parents in the past. 2. Volunteer Interest List (based on Registration Survey) – creating a spreadsheet to contact volunteers. 3. Swimming Volunteers needed – especially men for the boys change rooms – we are usually short with male volunteers throughout the day.	
17. Communication Coordinator Report	Marina Lakhani (Communication Coordinator)
1. Communications Plan	
2. Newsletter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will send Lee a list of council members Will craft a note to put in newsletter regarding upcoming Casino 	
18. Chair Report	Aly Bhimji (Chair) or Andrew Chu (Vice-Chair)
1. ASC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrew gave a detailed report outlining highlights from the 25th Anniversary feedback 2. Ride sharing, before and/or after School Care Survey Results (Attached, Andrew)	
3. Report to Board: https://www.ffca-parent.com/s/gBoHbMnKLGWYcJS	
19. Other Items	Aly Bhimji (Chair) or Andrew Chu (Vice-Chair)
1. 2022/2023 Goals and Work Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrew willing to make explanatory videos for anyone who would like them 2. Action Items for Next Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See 2022/2023 School Council - NWE Action Items - Deck - FFCA Parent Community (ffca-parent.com) 3. Andrew motions to change NWE Parent Council meetings to the second Wednesday of each month. Maira seconds. Motion Carried.	
4. Meeting adjourned: 8:58pm	

MINUTES

The Association of FFCA School Councils (ASC)

September 19, 2022 | 6:40 pm Meeting called to order by Andrew Chu

25th Anniversary Committee Report (Sandi)

- There were 2691 attendees
- 1800 estimate turned into 2600
- Decided to eliminated checking food tickets to expedite meals but 300 extra meals were consumed due to doubling up on meals and extra meals for other family members
 - \$3000-\$4000 due to extra food and .
- Insurance: FFCA Insurance didn't facilitate bouncy castles but can have obstacle courses. But FFCA insurance didn't allow parents to volunteer to supervise the obstacle courses so outside help (no training or certification required) needed to be hired.
- Wristand for waivers was a last minute addition which required unexpected volunteers.
- Magazine really helped with sponsorship. Only made \$2500 but a lot of interesting history came out of it.
 - Ex. Karen Gies from NEE is still using the original desks from 1997 and her husband built the cups and pencil holders.
 - Discovered that FFCA does not keep yearbooks. Josten's had the last 2 years. All the yearbook files needed to be scanned. Suggest that all those files should be kept.
 - Couldn't track how many no-shows.
 - Screen projector could not be used for powerpoint because it was faulty. Rented as backlit and it was missing a piece.
- Parking Code: no abuse!

Selection of Chair or Co-Chairs

No one nominated.

Selection of Vice-Chair and Secretary

No one nominated.

Chair Report (Andrew)

Volunteer category changes in progress, existing entries won't be lost.

Consider reconsidering logging volunteer hours since it's not required for accountability. SWE and NWE are tracking hours. SEE is not. NEE don't. SEE does not report hours, but admin does try to get parents to track. SMS and NMS does not track.

Who's who has been approved by FFCA.

- Calgary Arts Academy received a temporary 2-year lease on Rosscarrock School (CBE)
- ASCA Letter to TAAPCS

- Motion by Unanimous Consent: Is there any objection to letting the Advocacy Committee automatically dissolve?
No Objections at pm.

South High School Campus Report (Ademola)

- Settled into MRU
- Admin submitting a lot of proposals for approvals to MRU (like Food Bank)
- Lots of red tape. Searching for textbooks to give to the kids and move the stuff to MRU

North Middle School Campus Report (Faruq)

- End of school year, had a pancake breakfast to say goodbye.
- Cedar's Deli this Thursday for Fun Lunch
- Considering Movie Night Oct 27th

South Middle School Campus Report ()

- Aug 26 Welcome Back BBQ. Same days as orientation. Huge turnout \$3000 under budget.
- FFCA Alumni painted a mural
- End of August: teachers, admin, and chair participated in Mini-Chiefs walking tour, led by Clarence Wolfleg. Walked around St. Patrick's Island and told stories about the area and why it was important
- Hosting Halloween Dance
- Fun Lunch this Thursday with SEE
- Focus: improve parental engagement and communications. Set up on Edsby to have a Council group. Fun lunch dates.
- Hoodie fundraiser.
- Discussing with other councils if they want to do a hoodie fundraiser for volume discounts.
- Hot Lunch every month. Done Cedar's Deli, A&W, Subway, Boston Pizza, Noodlebox
- Sushi for Grade 8's Japan Unit

Northeast Elementary Campus Report (Rohit)

- Successful Pizza Picnic with 600 attendees. Had to close it off a day and half.
- Hot Lunch on Sept 22nd Edo. No Council meeting yet. Plans done last year.
- Subway was costly, over \$10. McDonald's hot lunch under \$10. 4 or 5 hot lunches last year.

Southeast Elementary Campus Report (Michelle)

\$13,000 Spell a thon
 \$600 Skip the Depot
 Memory Books 394 ordered
 Grade Memory Books. Memory BOok Parent per classroom.
 Everyone loved Gelato so it was brought in for everybody
 Fundraiser for Westjet Raffle On The Go. No License?
 SoupTime.ca fundraiser. Long bags of soup bought for \$7 sold for \$12. Box of 24 to
 Fundraising consultant to try out.
 Art Fundraiser.

BBQ last Friday for Welcome Back > 700 people attend. Hawaiian Ice Machine and Photo Booth.

Ordered Orange Shirts for the entire school from an Indigenous organization (The Barn at Siksika. Lisa Big Snake. \$5020. \$12/shirt and customized. Can do contest. 400 shirts. Retrospectively should have a \$5 fundraiser.

Southwest Elementary Campus Report ()

- Decorated the school. Night before first night. Set up a photo booth.
- Welcome Back BBQ. 900 hot dogs.
- Built outdoor games. Built Kerplunk (3 of those), giant Connect Four, Giant Lawn Twister. Giant Jenga. Fire Truck, Ambulance, Police Car. Can call 311 to arrange.
- In Lieu
- Davison Orchards
- Room Parents (only half of teachers wanted a room parent)
- Movie Night in Gym. Have auctioned off special seats. Popcorn is free, admission is free, paid concession offering gummies and candies.

Superintendent Report (Phoebe)

Year end Aug 31st. Trying to close that off and preparing for the audit. 2 new coordinators: Mr. Lowther left over a year ago and finally replaced him with Budgens. Added Coordinator of inclusion. Going well so far trying to figure out what needs students have across campuses. The waitlist is basically holding steady at over 14,000. Renewal will be month of November. Lot of bus delays. Short drivers in the morning and afternoon. Some busses an hour or two late. Hopefully more drivers will be coming online to relieve this situation. The SHS at Mount Royal is going fairly well. Everybody seems pretty happy and the first board meeting will be at MRU. Parking and building map will be posted. NHS build is on schedule despite supply chain shortages. Everything is on track.

FFCA has always had a similar number of students that needed accommodations under Inclusion funding and so now the funds are available to offer more.

There is a job posting for a Behavioural Assistant to be shared among all campuses. That position came out of the campus consultations about what the campuses need.

Bussing issues are mostly in the north. SEE bussing issues are sorted this year.

Board Report (Shahid)

- Looking towards in-person approach to meetings. No virtual meetings.
- Visit all campuses
- Board approved salary adjustment for all teachers and employees. Salary had been frozen for a long time
- Board looking at Bylaws from a legal point of view
- Governance review. Board effectiveness. Orientation for new directors. Training for current directors. How to combine information in a video or handbook.
- Board Elections, trying to make process easier. Possibly members of School Council are in good position and candidates to come to the board.
- Recruitment input would be appreciated.
- Why did applicants not follow through with interest?

New Business (All)

- Michelle Video
- Michelle -
- Crystal - Secretary

Open Discussion (All)

- Michelle moves to go to bimonthly meetings
- Andrew Seconds
- Motion Carried

Meeting was adjourned at 10:44pm

Ride Share, Before-School Care, and/or After-School Care Survey

24 responses

Summary Responses

Which of these describe your situation? (Check all that apply)

Checkboxes

1. 13 (54%): **I am looking for after-school care**
2. 12 (50%): I am looking for ride sharing
3. 7 (29%): I am looking for before-school care
4. 3 (13%): I would be happy to offer ride sharing
5. 1 (4%): No response

Do you have after-school care at any of these locations?

Checkboxes

1. 14 (58%): **No response**
2. 8 (33%): Other
3. 2 (8%): Vivo for Healthier Generations
4. 0 (0%): Kids Club Calgary
5. 0 (0%): Shane Homes YMCA at Rocky Ridge

Would you be interested in after-school care at one of these locations if transportation could be arranged?

Checkboxes

1. 10 (42%): **No response**
2. 9 (38%): Shane Homes YMCA at Rocky Ridge
3. 7 (29%): Other
4. 5 (21%): Vivo for Healthier Generations

If you answered "Other", please list the location(s) you have in mind:

Short answer

- **16 (67%): No response**
- Beddington before and after school program (BASP)
- Inschool care
- In an area close to NWE
- Active Start Sage Hill, Crowfoot YMCA,
- Bowness
- Active Start Childcare centre
- In-School would be amazing. I hear highwood has a contract with Kids come first, and I would love if FFCA NWE would have a similar program.
- Any Dayhomes

Please select all neighbourhoods from which you may be interested in working out a ride share with

Checkboxes

1. 6 (25%): **Nolan Hill**
2. 5 (21%): No response
3. 5 (21%): Sherwood
4. 4 (17%): Sage Hill
5. 3 (13%): Citadel
6. 3 (13%): Hamptons
7. 3 (13%): Other
8. 2 (8%): Arbour Lake
9. 2 (8%): Country Hills
10. 2 (8%): Evanston
11. 2 (8%): Hawkwood
12. 2 (8%): Kincora
13. 2 (8%): Ranchlands
14. 1 (4%): Banff Trail
15. 1 (4%): Bowness
16. 1 (4%): Collingwood
17. 1 (4%): Dalhousie
18. 1 (4%): Edgemont
19. 1 (4%): Greenwood/Greenbriar
20. 1 (4%): Montgomery
21. 1 (4%): Panorama Hills
22. 1 (4%): Parkdale
23. 1 (4%): Silver Springs
24. 1 (4%): St. Andrews Heights
25. 1 (4%): University Heights
26. 1 (4%): University of Calgary
27. 1 (4%): Varsity
28. 0 (0%): Hidden Valley
29. 0 (0%): MacEwan Glen
30. 0 (0%): Point McKay
31. 0 (0%): Rocky Ridge
32. 0 (0%): Royal Oak
33. 0 (0%): Royal Vista
34. 0 (0%): Sandstone Valley
35. 0 (0%): Scenic Acres
36. 0 (0%): Tuscany
37. 0 (0%): Valley Ridge

If you selected "Other", please list the neighbourhoods that did not appear in the list

Short answer

- **19 (79%): No response**
- Crestmont
- Carrington, Livingston
- Carrington/ Livingston
- Brentwood
- Mount Pleasant

Do you have any other comments?

Long text

- **18 (75%): No response**
- The bus ride from Crestmont / Valley Ridge is quite long. For example, our daughter doesn't get home until 5pm after school. We know that others in the community have pulled their kids out of FFCA for this reason, and that others have had to find other arrangements to avoid spending 3 hours a day on the bus. We don't want the cost of transportation to go up for just a few students, but this also will be a self-reinforcing decision. Parents in the community attempted to call attention to this issue last year but were denied any change.
- I currently use Wanda for after school care but I am concerned about what options are available if she decides not to continue to provide care.
- 1. In-school care could be an option to be considered from safety and ease of commute perspective. 2. My son goes to KG, and so two way bussing could be considered instead of ride share.
- We don't currently need the ride sharing for now but we may in a few months. There will be some changes with mine and my spouse's work schedules and potentially going back to the office instead of WFH. So this is something we are interested in, although not urgently.
- Bowness is the community with lot of schools except FFCA elementary school, if we have school in Bowness or Montgomery that will help.
- We are very fortunate to currently have afterschool care with Wanda right now, but since Ruthanne is no longer providing B&A care, we are worried about what options we might have if she were ever to retire. We have another child that will be going to FFCA in 4 yrs, and though it's early, it never hurts to start considering other options to prepare. Wanda is currently full and I see on the NWE facebook group that there are other parents who have struggled to find B&A care, and are having to rely on family/friends to help. That may work, but can be very stressful and inconsistent for both child and parent. Is it possible to investigate options for afterschool care providers that could operate out of the gymnasium outside of school hours to create an in-school program that is both convenient, trusted and safe? Another consideration is extending this program to FFCA junior high students in grade 5-7, who I understand can take the school bus to the NWE. I also heard that the Kids come first program at Highwood welcomes older Colonel Irvine Junior high students to volunteer/work to support the elementary school B&A program and Highwood to help develop their leadership skills.