

2021-2022 Pine Street Elementary School Council Annual Review

Our school council continued to work to fulfill our Council Mission – to foster the well-being and effectiveness of the Pine Street Elementary School Community and to enhance student learning. The council is, in an advisory role, to provide a means for caregivers and the community to work together with administration, staff, and students to promote the well-being and overall effectiveness of the school community. It was another challenging year impacted by the pandemic and restrictions on activities we would usually promote as a school council to support the school goals.

This school year we wanted to focus on helping caregivers understand their roles in supporting the school goals by supporting their kids at home. Our conversations around how the school goals 'show up' at home were challenging. As an executive, we wanted to help caregivers understand how some of the more technical aspects of the school goals impact our kids and how we can support them at home, however, the discussions of the school education plan remained very high level.

Our council, along with the help of two dedicated parents advocated for the return of sport club for students in grades 4, 5, and 6. This program supports goal three promoting a positive school culture and was desperately needed. We realize that academics is not the only reason students come to school and that there are some kids who really need and value the additional engagement that school athletics provide. A huge thank you goes to these parents who volunteered their time to make this happen.

Council understood that in the circumstances of this past year, the classroom teachers are the ones making the difference for our students and that supporting them was a meaningful way of fulfilling our mission. Through collaboration with staff and with the funds from our volunteer fundraising society, we brought in the Alberta Opera, purchased gym equipment, musical instruments, funded Teacher's Wish Lists, virtual escape room, board games, and Raz Kids subscriptions for all students. Our Helping Hands group provided support to teachers by doing photocopying, laminating, and other preparation work so that staff can focus on classroom teaching. We created a 'Recognize Pine Street' survey where caregivers could send a kudos to a staff member and recognize the effort they put in to making Pine Street a great place for our students.

Our Council participated in many engagement opportunities this year including attending the Elk Island Public Schools Committee of School Councils, attending the Alberta School Councils' Association Annual General Meeting, attending the Alberta School Councils' Association Virtual Conference. Members joined the EIPS COSC Parental Engagement Sessions including Jodi Carrington's presentation, Amy Von Heyking's curriculum presentation, and ASCA's presentation on the role of school councils in the Assurance Framework. Our council participated in the ASCA School Council Engagement Task Force questionnaires. Our chair attended our Annual Results Review. Our council chair had the pleasure of joining Trustee and EIPS Board Chair Trina Boymook at the Alberta Legislature at the request of MLA Jordan Walker

for the announcement of the commitment letter for the new Sherwood Heights Junior High. Our chair attended ASCA Webinar Wednesdays and Meeting Mondays as opportunities to enhance capacity as a school council chair. We encouraged information sharing around the new curriculum and encouraged caregivers in our school community to share their feelings and thoughts with our government and elected representatives.

Our school council did not host any engagement opportunities beyond our school council meetings. We did participate in the 'Meet the Teacher' night at the beginning of the school year where we were able to meet with caregivers and discuss the role of school council and the important part caregivers play in the success of their students and the school. While not specific to our school, I am proud of the work we did to promote and attend the COSC Caregiver Engagement Series.

I cannot speak to specific activities or initiatives planned for the Pine Street School Council next year, however, I believe that a strong caregiver voice is necessary to advocate for our students. We know our kids best and we know what they need to be successful; a critical part of that is a collaborative relationship with staff at the school. I hope our voice is heard and valued next year and that our efforts can contribute positively to fulfilling our mission as a school council.

Lesley Bowman, Chair

2021/2022 Executive

Chair – Lesley Bowman

Vice Chair – Cara Kern

Secretary – Lorena Ellsworth

2021/2022 Meeting Dates

September 14, 2021

October 12, 2021

November 16, 2021

January 11, 2022

February 8, 2022

March 8, 2022

April 12, 2022

May 10, 2022

AGM June 7, 2022