



## **Minutes**

Tuscany School Council Meeting

April 15, 2021 at 6:30pm

- Via Zoom -

### **Call to Order & Welcome**

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm.

### **Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Motioned by Deanna and seconded by Sasha.

### **Approval of March 18, 2021 Minutes**

Motioned by Sasha and seconded by Karen.

### **Guest Speakers**

Julia Hayter (Tuscany School Parent) and Support Our Students (SOS) Executive Director, Medeana Moussa – Discussing parent’s concerns with the proposed K-6 curriculum and the letter that SOS is proposing school councils send to the government.

Julia – Is a parent of a Gr 3 student at Tuscany School and 2 students at TMC; Upset as parent on the draft K-6 curriculum that has been proposed. Not preparing students for the future with this very outdated curriculum. Many school boards and Indigenous leaders have rejected this curriculum draft. Wanted to bring in SOS to present information as non-partisan representation.

Medeana – Support our Students advocates for our children’s education, public dollars in public school. They are not an advocacy group, but a citizen action group. SOS was founded in 2015 and Medeana has been involved since August in a volunteer role. She is not an educator – but a parent.

Jumping into the curriculum – many school boards are announcing they are opting to not pilot the draft curriculum. At this time 24/64 school boards have declared that intention and here is a sample of feedback from the Lethbridge School board:

“The Board of Trustees does not believe it would be ethical or responsible to have our teachers and students navigate the proposed draft curriculum that has an abundance of content that is not age-appropriate, fails to adequately address diversity, fails to further contemporary learning competencies and lacks coherence and integration of ideas.”

The CBE has been under threat by Education Minister for the last year. CBE had significant courage to stand up against the govt curriculum.

Reference [www.studentsdeservebetter.ca](http://www.studentsdeservebetter.ca) to compare current curriculum vs draft curriculum – no other comments, just the comparison. There is also expert feedback available within the website. This is a great place to start your research.

There have been accusations of plagiarism, racism and colonialism. Thoughts that there could be a challenge from the Francophone community as the language is not represented as per the charter.

Sum of all these small parts, seems to sum to the shift away from Canadian values and the proposed curriculum is more of a political move.

Overwhelming message being heard is that the parents want government out of the curriculum. Foundation is not there and does not support the development of our children.

Questions/Comments:

Amy – Comment. Called Sonya Savage, heard back from the office manager. Seemed worthwhile calling your MLA on that.

Julia – Comment: Email school trustee, Minister of Education, MLA

Medeana – Comment: we are an action group – so in their forum they've come up with resources on how parents can act – there is a letter writing tool available that is customizable. By sending a letter it gives additional support to your elected representatives.

Michelle – as parent representative we can discuss if we want to send a letter on behalf of the council. Comment made that the curriculum that was meant to be implemented in 2019 was not a politically generated curriculum – and was many, many years in the making.

Michelle reads out proposed letter to send on behalf of Tuscany School Council:

*Dear Premier Kenney, Minister LaGrange & Minister Savage,*

*In response to the draft curriculum for Kindergarten to Grade 6 released on March 29, 2021, we the parents of the Tuscany School Council assert that the draft curriculum is critically flawed and does not in whole have our confidence.*

*We agree with the widespread concerns for the draft being Eurocentric and even racist; for being developmentally inappropriate; for focusing on outmoded approaches to learning such as rote memorization of facts over meaningful engagement with material; for being inaccurate in numerous subject areas with regard to basic facts and principles; and for being developed without adequate input from teachers and education experts.*

*We agree with the Metis Nation of Alberta and the Chiefs of Treaty 6, who have called for a rejection of the curriculum, as it “perpetuates rather than addresses systemic racism”.*

*We, in our experience as parents and guardians, are intimately familiar with the needs and capabilities of our children and we, the parents, instruct the executive of Tuscany School Council to communicate this resolution to the Minister of Education, the Calgary Board of Education and to represent this position with the Alberta School Councils' Association.*

*Please listen to the feedback from educators, parents and other stakeholders who are telling you this is not the curriculum they want for their children. We call upon the Minister of Education and the Government of Alberta to re-draft the curriculum using extensive educator, parent and non-partisan stakeholder consultation.*

*Thank you for your time,*

*Tuscany School Council*

Open for discussion – It's difficult to represent a group of parents who have a variety of opinions.

Cindy – Comment: Information has been so well presented and there are so many avenues to articulate your thoughts. Encourage everyone to speak your piece and have your thoughts heard.

Morgan – Comment: Haven't researched, but letter seemed quite specific. How many parents on this call can support the content of the letter?

Sasha – Comment: Says the SOS tool on the comparison is very useful and found it quite alarming encourages others to use the tool to verify for yourself.

Angela – Comment: 2 children at Tuscany School and has been a social studies teacher for 15 years. It's all alarming and very concerning. Grade 6 is currently all about democracy – her class is doing a section on Calgary council. Replaced with learning about the KKK and learning the slogan – “where was the KKK membership highest”. It's just not age appropriate. Current curriculum on residential school teaching is tailored very age appropriate. We can't just assume the proposal will go away – have your voice.

Moran – Question: Do we vote tonight or do we have more time to review?

Michelle tried to summarize using the SOS letter without getting into grade specific issues.

Julia – Comment: Council represents the parents and are elected to represent the student body.

Michelle – Comment: Morgan's question was more on are we united here tonight or need more time to review?

Vicky – Comment: We should try to use our voices, make them loud and clear. Current draft is crazy. Vicky would be in favour of moving forward with a letter.

Shaun – Comment: I don't know as much about the curriculum – other than what is being said tonight and seen on media – if this had been on the agenda with the letter there may have been more parental feedback or attendance tonight. Michelle – Response: Letter was only in draft today – Option we can send out information and a timeline to vote. Shaun – Response: Maybe the end result from parent feedback could be even more strongly worded letter.

Julia – comment: There is a sense of urgency – want to bring to MLA's before this sitting is over. Harder to advocate once opposition is not sitting.

Response – this is political.

Julia - response - Coming to us to have our voices heard, not coming as a political representative – but as a parent.

Response – Loaded letter, and we haven't properly reviewed it. Don't see the rush as board has spoken that they are not going to pilot it.

2<sup>nd</sup> response – was anxious to send a letter, but with CBE not piloting – there is not as much of a rush.

Michelle – more than happy to send out the information, links the draft letter – with response by midnight Saturday and vote on Sunday? Does that work? Two full days to review and vote.

Cindy – loves the comments coming from every angle around this discussion. Shows how important and how passionate parents are on public education and how we going to be moving forward. So important for parents to learn the curriculum and walk forward with their children. Recognizing how busy everyone is, but is happy to see the focus on the curriculum and discussion on what should we be engaged in. We will now be going forward with this conversation in our mind. Easier for teachers who live the current curriculum and see where gaps are – but a real benefit for parents to move forward with their understanding.

Maureen – The petition being circulated by Julia – is this still being sent in? Can the CBE be forced somehow? Response – CBE will not be piloting. The petition letter was sent in today – Tuscany School had approx. 60 parent signatures. A collection of these petitions will be submitted jointly into the legislative assembly with a copy to the opposition. Decision not to pilot, doesn't mean it could still be implemented in the following year.

Question on the process – If you don't pilot, we won't take your opinion.

Michelle – in the interest of time, will wrap up discussion and will send out information and send out for vote on Sunday.

**UPDATE:** Letter and several resource links were sent out for parent review. Tweaks were made to the letter to allow for it to appropriately represent a group of parents who may not all have the exact same concerns with the proposed curriculum. The revised letter that was submitted to our MLA, Minister of Education and Premier is attached for your review.

### **Committee Updates**

None at this time.

### **Principal's Report**

There is going to be a survey sent out tomorrow and Cindy wants to make sure we are aware of the difference between CBE System Fees and Tuscany School Fees. A Power Point presentation will be available on the school website demonstrating how a dollar is allocated – 74 cents goes to the school “the RAM”, then balance between maintenance, bussing, school improvement & service unit school support and system administration. Grants are gone – ex. grants for PUF funding, class size grants.

The school uses RAM dollars used to purchase “staff”, without class size grants, current classes are approx. 25/class, the EES program comes with its own supports that meet their unique needs. You also want to be able to have Ed Assistance support to support student learners – we have 1 ½ for the school. Funds go to school supplies, photocopying, learning resources, library, etc. This is not charge through school fees. RAM allocation is deployed to meet the needs of all students at the school.

Student Fees – pencils/crayons/erasers – bulk orders get charged to parents.

Transportation Fees – charged to students requiring bussing.

Noon Supervision Fees – charged to those who stay at school over lunch hour

Survey – how would you like to see fees coming to parents – field trips, dance trips, residencies, milk program? Charge out to parents. Cindy wants us to rank the importance on how we rank the priorities of how we charge fees.

In addition, school council fundraising allows us to have technology, stand up desks, artist in residence, document cameras, etc. School council has gifted the school with many enhancements.

Survey called “Civil Space” – please provide feedback. Survey will also have link to the power point. [2021-22 School Budget and Fees Engagement Presentation Template \(cbe.ab.ca\)](https://cbe.ab.ca) Would you prefer to have a different type of specialist? We have had a music specialist, Julie Miller, for many years. French as a second language specialist, Library specialist, Ed assistants working thru K – Gr 5 and two learning leaders focusing with literacy and numeracy.

Cindy is sharing some great news – came in on a Monday and found parking barriers hauled into the parking lot two days in row and the park bench was moved. There was vandalism to the plugins being taken apart. Resulted in multiple calls to maintenance. Four phone calls in a row, with the end result being that surveillance cameras will be installed on Tuscany school playground and parking lot. Signage will be going up – will hope to reduce partying, garbage and vandalism.

Question – will the cameras work at night? School and parking lots both have lights and will be able to pick that up in the dark.

HighField has a security team that will be providing the monitoring.

Will they be on during the day in case of bullying/violence, etc...? Not sure – teachers are responsible for monitoring during the day.

Cameras will only be able to pick up what's happening on the school property will not being able to monitor any private property.

Timing – Is it here for good and when will be installed? With the cost of install, Cindy views as permanent with the amount of damage and will be going all year long.

Will the cameras cover the outdoor classroom? Cindy will need to review and provide feedback.

**New Business**

Succession for 2021-22 School Year:

- Chair
- Secretary
- Communications
- Fun Lunch \* Interest Shown
- Fun Snack (One-year term)
- Teacher Appreciation \* Interest Shown
- Grade 4 & 5 FI Farewell (One-year terms)
- Special Events

Invitation to TMC's May council meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm

This is different from the parent meeting on April 22<sup>nd</sup> for incoming grade 4 parents.

**Next Meeting Date**

Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 7:00pm.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.



**Minutes**

Tuscany School Enhancement Society Meeting (TSES)

April 15, 2021 at 7:30pm

- Via Zoom -

**Call to Order & Welcome**

Called to order at 8:25pm

**Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Motioned by Maureen and seconded by Deanna and Chelsea.

**Approval of March 18, 2021 Minutes**

Motioned by Maureen and seconded by Deanna.

**Updates**

Budget

**Here is the breakdown:** The General account \$7,367.67. We have some pending items for approximately \$1769.00. We will be clearing out the raffle funds under technology (educational equipment). Once we clear the incoming items, we will have approximately \$1456.44 remaining in one-time donations that we need to spend before end of year.

Here is the breakdown of the account we have:

\$2,951.44 remaining in this year's One-time Donations.

\$249.58 carry over from special events Halloween dance last year.

\$2180.03 Company Donations.

\$275.00 Raffle Funds (Need to be AGLC use of proceeds approved).

\$1711.62 carry over from a previous GIC.

<b>GENERAL ACCOUNT</b>			
<b>TSES ONE TIME DONATIONS</b>			
Donation Designation	Allotted Amount 2020-2021	Actual Amount Spent 2020-2021	Funds Remaining
Home Reading	\$ -	\$0.00	\$ -
Technology	\$ 350.00	-\$350.00	\$ -
Arts	\$ -		\$ -
General Enhancements	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00
Any of the above	\$ 5,650.52	-\$2,749.08	\$ 2,901.44
<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$ 6,050.52</b>	<b>-\$3,099.08</b>	<b>\$ 2,951.44</b>

The Casino account is at **\$54,395.00**.

	Casino Account Budget 2020-2021		
Description Of item	Budget	Actual Expenses	Remaining
<b>2020-2021 Budget Items</b>			
Artist In Residency	-\$6,000.00		
Visual Journals	-\$2,400.00	-\$2,336.80	
Words, Words, Words	-\$500.00	-\$427.99	
Gardening Supplies	-\$250.00		
Allotted Amount to hold in account	-\$5,000.00	-\$5,000.00	
Insurance for 2019-2020	-\$840.00	-\$840.00	
Document Camera (Equipment)	-\$3,000.00	-\$2,270.76	
Chromebooks	-\$6,100.00	-\$5,825.13	
PE Equipment	-\$586.38	-\$586.38	
Sound Creations	-\$5,906.25		
TU4HL(\$500 from previous year and \$500.00 this year)	-\$1,000.00	-\$320.50	-\$679.50
<b>Total wishlist</b>	<b>-\$31,582.63</b>	<b>-\$17,607.56</b>	
Starting Account Balance	\$66,978.86	66,978.86	
Total of Wishlist Items	-\$31,582.63	-\$17,607.56	
Estimated Balance for 2021-2022 school year	\$35,396.23	\$49,371.30	(Including \$5000.00 hold back)
<b>Alien in Line</b>	<b>-\$5,500.00</b>	<b>-\$5,283.20</b>	

Email from AGLC – when would we be available? Replied any quarter except for the summer.

**New Business**

Succession for 2021-22:

- President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

**Next Meeting Date**

Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 6:30pm.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.

**Attendance:** Michelle PB, Jennifer D, Deanna H, Sasha B, Marty K, Angela F, Karen T, Vicky A, Julia H, Melanie G, Kate T, Morgan K, Amy E, Medeana M (guest), Amit S, Shaun H, Maureen A and Karisa D