

# Calgary Arts Academy School Council Meeting Minutes November 7, 2023

## Attendance

CAA Administration:

Kimberly Hoey, Principal (Knob Hill)

Alyson Moore, Principal (Rosscarrock)

Juleta Severson-Baker, Assistant Principal (Erickson Centre)

School Council Members

Erin Wright - Co-Chair / Co-President

Hayley Nicol – Co-Chair / Co-President

Bob McEwan – Treasurer

Cathy Schwenning – Secretary

Blythe Butler – Director of Governance

Nancy Koutselas – Director: Casino

Carrie Cemka – Social Media

Joanna Tran – Fundraising Coordinator

Vacant Position: Vice President

Past Chair – Christy Ford

High School Student Council Representative: Lev

Total Participants: 44

**1. Welcome and Call to Order.**

Meeting called to order Erin Wright at 6:32 p.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Motion: Erin Wright

Seconded by: Tom Cox

**3. Approval of October 3, 2023 School Council Meeting minutes**

Motion: Erin Wright

In favour (in chat)

**4. Chairperson's Report – Hayley Nicol & Erin Wright**

a) **Halloween Dances – Thank you to the volunteers.**

Update from all 3 campuses that the staff, parents and students had lots of fun and it was a great success.

For the Knob Hill dance, we raised \$1,632.

b) **Chairpersons Transparency**

Erin will be on the School Council as a parent, but she also substitute teaches at the CAA schools.

There are some specific rules around how specifically the Casino money is spent. The 50/50 money we are looking into that right now, but we are really excited to make some announcements in the coming weeks with how that money is going sent to enhance student learning. We will have updates for that as soon as we have them.

**5. Principal's Report – Kimberly Hoey (Principal)**  
Update from all three campuses:

First off, I just want to thank council and I love the new look of the newsletter. It looks great! I want to give another nod to Council again for all the family Halloween dances. All 3 campuses hosted them and welcome the opportunity to foster strong community spirit. Kids enjoyed the decorations all week at Knob Hill thanks to Council.

Erickson Centre demonstrated strong leadership and planning as they prepared and hosted their dance.

Reminder to everybody we are moving to a 2-report card model. We have been 3 terms before. Report cards will come end of January and end of June. Modified format: now provide feedback and assessment in all curricular areas, and we will continue to offer meaningful and individualized narrative comments. Report cards still framed by the Circle of Courage though our assessment language has changed and these changes have been made in an effort to be more transparent and specific when reporting on student achievement. This new language for assessment is also being used in our learning contract (developing, achieving, and excelling). Our high school students will continue to receive percentage grades, and their marks are updated in power school regularly. All families have received or should receive soon, feedback celebrating and sharing your child's learning from their first learning contract.

Thank you for supporting extension projects, the numeracy and literacy tasks. We see so many great things coming in from families working with kids and connecting their learning from here at home. We are hosting parent/teacher conferences later this month. These provide an opportunity to connect with your child's teacher about their academic and personal growth and progress and next steps as a learner. Watch for a sign up genius from your child's homeroom teacher.

CAA Staff had the opportunity to attend the Bi-Annual Charter School Conference hosted by the Alberta Association of Public Charter Schools (otherwise known as TAAPCS) we went to Almadina Charter School. The Charter School community is certainly growing over the 20 years I have been a part of it. So many gifted educators within our schools that have the opportunity to learn and grow together is really valuable. We are continuing to focus our staff learning numeracy and literacy practices, new curriculum, democratic discipline, indigenous ways of knowing and inclusive education.

We recently welcomed an educator from the Jump Math program to our KH and RC campus. Gail James offered feedback and ideas to strengthen our numeracy program and instruction. Gail observed numeracy lessons and has provided insight to teachers individually and has recommended strategies for our whole school community. We look forward to reflecting and implementing next steps.

Lost and Found. It is growing and overflowing at KH and RC. If you are missing something, it is here, come and find it. We will be bagging it up and donating it so please come check it out.

Juleta gave all parents of younger kiddos hope that this eventually changes once they are in High School!

All K-12 students have started preparing for Jubilee performances highlighting our school theme, The Art of Community. We ask that all students attend this performance. It is the evening of December 1st. Information packages have been emailed out about ticket sales and timeline of events – Please watch your email.

Call out for donations. The Year 2/3's need stuffed animal donations. If you have any you would like to donate to their Jubilee project that would be amazing. You will not get these back because they are being re-purposed.

We are participating in a 5-part leadership series facilitated by Judy Riege from Connected Leaders. CAA is hosting the next series at the end of November. Juleta, Alyson and I recently attended the Visible Learning Conference alongside teachers from the province with a well known keynote speaker, Dr John Hattie.

Our Developmental Asset of the month is Boundaries and Expectations. Last month focused on Support. Developmental assets is one of the pillars of our school. If you are looking to learn more about it as it is a tremendous program. It is research based out of the Search Institute. We have shared resources in the monthly email for you to facilitate conversations at home.

All students have been working with the wellness, mental health curriculum provided through Open Parachute again. That's just funding for this year. There is a parent piece if it, and it is only available to is for the remainder of this year.

Remembrance Day observances tomorrow (November 8) where each campus will have a Remembrance Day assembly and will engage in reflection and art. We welcome donations, non-perishable food items for the Veteran's Food Bank through the month of November. Last thing. Pack a change of clothes, have clean indoor shoes and boots for outside so we can keep things clean. It is really muddy out.

Juleta Severson-Baker (EC Principal)

Lev is here! I am excited to introduce Lev to school council and parents. Lev is a year 10 high school student and has been attending CAA since kindergarten. Lev has stepped into this leadership role to be our high school representative to you at school council. Lev is going to give the high school update.

Lev's Update:

Jubilee rehearsals are in full swing. Our creative writing and dance students have been working on staging the piece while visual art students have been making art show behind the dancers. Media Art students have also been working on some animations to go with that and music students, which is me. We have been arranging and practicing our 4 songs that we will play live. Student Council also held the Halloween Dance at EC, which was a major success. 50 students attended.

We have also been having lots of post-secondary information sessions with the University of Alberta, University of Lethbridge, MRU and other Universities, all coming to speak to us. Individual academic, advising sessions with all Year 12 students are being held with Ms. Baker in the upcoming months.

We also had a lovely interdisciplinary learning week, in which we asked the question, how do we ensure access to clean drinking water in indigenous communities and reservations? We explored this question, using our problem solving model, created product designs and policy pitches.

We also had the privilege of welcoming 2 guest speakers into our classrooms during that week, one being an indigenous speaker from Treaty 6. Territory, Mario Swampy.

There will also be a high school information for current and new families on November 8. It was very helpful for me to go last year, so I definitely encourage any families to go.

Our high school, New York Arts and culture trip is going ahead. It's a very exciting opportunity for all high school students. And so far 15 families have registered – that is definitely something to look forward to.

High School lunch store opens next week, which will just be like a place to buy snacks, fruit, bagels, and stuff. The store is cash only. If you have a kid in high school, make sure to remind them to bring some cash next week.

Questions taken from chat:

· Siobhan

00:22:33

Hi, I'm Siobhan, daughter's Josephine. She is at Knob Hill but I'm wondering with the projects of understanding, healing, and indigenous communities was remediation projects, and nurturing the land to be clean enough to drink the water again. A part of it bringing in beaver systems and understanding normal activated charcoal that can be used from harvesting fire, fire, charcoal, and stuff like. Was that a part of it? Or was that like infrastructure and a little bit more like city, planning style of project

Lev

00:23:22

Aspects of it. More like indigenous ways of knowing and focusing specifically with like groundwater treatment. And we looked at some smaller ways of treating water and larger systemic ways. But we mostly focused on the scientific aspects of it. And what actually happens to contaminate the water that is, in indigenous reservations, because that is part of our high school curriculum. So it was largely connected to both our social studies and 11 and 12, their science curriculums. So, understanding that infrastructure is usually the greatest pollutant and actually nurturing headwaters. And natural filtration systems, like moss and trees, are filtration within, like the actual ground that's one of the main things we were looking at is natural filtration through like sand, charcoal rocks and stuff like that to the burden on indigenous communities.

So yeah.

Siobhan

00:24:44

cool. Yeah, yeah, that's exciting. Okay, awesome. Thank you.

## 6. Updates and Topics

**Volunteer Police Clearance Checks** - Volunteering in any capacity at the school you need a police check. Cost is \$20. Take a screenshot that you have applied and then you can start volunteering at the school for a single event until your clearance comes through. Give a copy to the school once you have it.

### **Hayley (Co-chair) Introduction:**

Erin and I are new to Co- chair the School Council. We had a lot of volunteers at the Halloween dances and we welcome any volunteers to help with events. More hands make little work for everyone involved. We have some volunteer opportunities and you can also get your volunteer hours. In the Weekly Newsletter we have some volunteer opportunities you can sign up for via Signup Genius

- a) **Parent Interest Surveys** (Link will be coming soon!)  
What would you like to see?

A survey will be coming for parents to fill out for things the want to see/done/happen.

- b) **Volunteer positions** – Signup Genius for these events in chat below. Please also reach out to council

**Staff Appreciation Lunches** (November 16)

We love our teachers and all the staff there and we want to show our appreciation by providing dinner at the Parent/Teacher conferences.

**Jubilee T-Shirts** (November 20)

We need help to label the t-shirts.

**Fundraising Volunteering** (sorting & pickups)

Growing Smiles pickup December 6th

Healthy Hunger

Help admin work (1 hour or less) by going into HH and sending distribution list to school admin and send the income statement to Bob – Treasurer (Filled this role by Denise P)

Indoor Plant Gardener

Water and maintain the indoor plants including the bathtub garden (Filled by Siobhan)

**Jump Math Event Planner**

Organizing and implementing the prepackaged jump math event.

Students/Parent Workshops (e.g. Babysitting Course, Home Alone, etc.)

Need someone to organize these courses. We need an instructor for each course.

Knob Hill Garden

Head gardener to plan and implement the necessary task to keep the KH outdoor garden going and growing strong.

7. **New Business**  
No new business.

8. **Adjournment**  
Erin (Co-chair) adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

**The next meeting will be held on December 5, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom**

Council Zoom Chat:

Jaime 6:28 PM

Do we need cameras on?

You to Everyone 6:30 PM

Carrie Cemka

Denise Powley to Everyone 6:30 PM

Denise Powley

Tara Simonton to Everyone 6:30 PM

Tara Simonton

Dani Larose to Everyone 6:30 PM

Dani Larose

Michael Hurd to Everyone 6:30 PM

Michael Hurd

Katya Heinrich to Everyone 6:30 PM  
Katya Heinrich  
nancy k to Everyone 6:30 PM  
Nancy Koutselas  
Jaime to Everyone 6:30 PM  
Jaime Macdonald  
Jane Flynn to Everyone 6:30 PM  
Jane & Andy Wilson  
Bob McEwan to Everyone 6:30 PM  
Bob McEwan  
Cathy S to Everyone 6:30 PM  
Cathy Schwenning  
Danielle Istchenko to Everyone 6:30 PM  
Danielle Istchenko  
Juleta Severson-Baker to Everyone 6:30 PM  
Juleta Severson-Baker - AP at Erickson Centre - High school - Hi everyone!  
Jason's iPhone to Everyone 6:31 PM  
Jason Avramenko  
Deanne Robertson to Everyone 6:31 PM  
Deanne Robertson  
Tom Cox to Everyone 6:31 PM  
Tom Cox  
Heidi Klaassen to Everyone 6:32 PM  
Heidi Klaassen  
Dr. Chad to Everyone 6:32 PM  
Chad Yaeck  
Phil to Everyone 6:32 PM  
Philip Andrews  
Ellery Chyzyk to Everyone 6:32 PM  
Ellery Chyzyk  
Gwen to Everyone 6:32 PM  
Gwen Piedad  
Jessica Thorburn (she/her) to Everyone 6:32 PM  
Jessica Thorburn  
Qamar Rasheed to Everyone 6:32 PM  
Qamar Rasheed  
Chris Ewington to Everyone 6:33 PM  
Chris Ewington  
Jessica Maye (F9FD487QLMPD) to Everyone 6:33 PM  
Jess Maye  
Lev Swaffield to Everyone 6:33 PM  
Lev Swaffield (student representative)!  
You to Everyone 6:33 PM  
In favour  
Tom Cox to Everyone 6:33 PM  
In favour  
Blythe Butler (she/her) to Everyone 6:33 PM  
Blythe Butler  
Jaime to Everyone 6:33 PM  
In favour  
Danielle Istchenko to Everyone 6:33 PM

In favour  
Ellery Chzyk to Everyone 6:33 PM  
in favour  
Blythe Butler (she/her) to Everyone 6:33 PM  
In favour  
Dani Larose to Everyone 6:33 PM  
In favour  
Cathy S to Everyone 6:33 PM  
In favour  
Jane Flynn to Everyone 6:33 PM  
In favour  
Gwen to Everyone 6:33 PM  
In favour  
Qamar Rasheed to Everyone 6:33 PM  
In favor  
Phil to Everyone 6:33 PM  
In favor  
Katya Heinrich to Everyone 6:33 PM  
in favour  
Carlos Castilla to Everyone 6:33 PM  
carlos castilla  
nancy k to Everyone 6:33 PM  
in favor  
Danica Marshall to Everyone 6:33 PM  
in favour  
Hayley (Adyson, Rylee, Everly's mom) to Everyone 6:33 PM  
In favour  
Deanne Robertson to Everyone 6:33 PM

nicola to Everyone 6:34 PM  
In favour  
Rhonda to Everyone 6:35 PM  
Rhonda Manning  
You to Everyone 6:35 PM  
Great work to the decorating team! It looked great!  
Bob McEwan to Everyone 6:37 PM  
We'll make sure to have your last name correct in the future too  
Dani Larose to Everyone 6:46 PM  
Rosscarrock too!  
Blythe Butler (she/her) to Everyone 6:46 PM  
Love all the PD and support for our educators, thanks for all you do - great to hear about all this awesome stuff!  
nancy k to Everyone 6:47 PM  
welcome Lev!  
You to Everyone 6:49 PM  
Great job, Lev. Thanks for the update!  
Jane Flynn to Everyone 6:49 PM  
Great job Lev!  
Lev Swaffield to Everyone 6:50 PM  
Thank you all!  
Blythe Butler (she/her) to Everyone 6:57 PM

Staff Potluck Link: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CAFA823A0F8C61-45851627-staff#/  
staff#/  
Jubilee Tshirt help \[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CAFA823A0F8C61-45890135-jubilee#/  
jubilee#/  
Growing Smiles help  
<https://calgaryarts.growingsmilesfundraising.com/home>  
Denise Powley to Everyone 6:59 PM  
Can we label the shirts from home, and return to the school?  
You to Everyone 6:59 PM  
Can't make it in to donate a dish for the potluck? Sign up and have something delivered to the school! It's a great way to still lend a hand from a distance.  
Siobhan to Everyone 7:01 PM  
I am very happy to for Growing Smiles...  
Denise Powley to Everyone 7:04 PM  
I'm happy to do the healthy hunger admin work if someone can send me some details on it.  
Thanks!  
Siobhan to Everyone 7:04 PM  
I see that Nov 19th s the last date to order for the winter Fundraiser.  
Siobhan to Everyone 7:02 PM  
Where is the sign up sheet though? And is there meetings for smaller projects to discuss Gardening and or any other efforts should they be determined to require it?  
Bob McEwan 7:05 PM  
we'll check that one, looks like it is the fundraiser link  
Blythe Butler \\(she/her\\) to Everyone 7:05 PM  
Thanks Denise!  
Danica Marshall to Everyone 7:05 PM  
Could I come for about an hour to help out with tshirts? I have to work by 2:30  
Shelley Alexander to Everyone 7:06 PM  
What date is the shirt labelling again please?  
Siobhan to Everyone 7:06 PM  
And for the volunteers for the delivery days... will there be a sign up sheet sent out?  
You to Everyone 7:07 PM  
\\[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CAFA823A0F8C61-45907146-distribution#/  
You to Everyone 7:08 PM  
Here's the sign up genius for the growing smiles distribution volunteer sign up  
Siobhan to Everyone 7:09 PM  
I am volunteering Mondays until Christmas... I am happy to water the plants!!!  
Siobhan to Everyone 7:11 PM  
Also love to be head Gardener... so many ideas and leads in the gardening department...@@@!!!  
Danica Marshall to Everyone 7:12 PM  
I'd be interested in the baby-sitting course instructor. I have my Early Childhood Educator diploma and 25+ years working with young children!  
Blythe Butler \\\(she/her\\\) to Everyone 7:13 PM  
Adjourn COUNCIL meeting at 7:13pm\\]\\(https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CAFA823A0F8C61-45907146-distribution#/\\)\]\(https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CAFA823A0F8C61-45890135-jubilee#/\)](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CAFA823A0F8C61-45851627-staff#/)