



Collingwood School Parent Council (CSC) Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: September 17, 2025 at 6:30pm, in person and via Microsoft Teams

Council Members in Attendance: Ardith M. (Interim Secretary), Amy W. (Key Communicator, Interim Chair) Rachelle Y. (Interim Volunteer Coordinator)

Council Member Online:

Council Members Regrets: Henry Y. (Vice Chair), Spencer W. (Events and Communication Coordinator), Vacant (Chair), Vacant (DEI Committee), Vacant (Naturalization Member)

Guests in Attendance: Mercedes M., Amie K., Chelsea D., Sarah S., Jena E., Ashley M., Nader O.S.,

Guests Online: Adriana M., Alvaro E., Tylor H., Rasmus R., Baran H., Jessica K., Casey G., Andrea A., Anna S., Paul B., Simran J., Yulenda E., Constanza A., Brea L., Marley Y., Amanda S., Theresa, Whitney C.B., Ashley S.,

Land Acknowledgement and Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Amy W. seconded by Ardith M. We would like to acknowledge the traditional territories and oral practices of the Blackfoot Nations, which includes the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai. We also acknowledge the Tsuut'ina and Stoney Nakoda First Nations, the Métis Nation region 3, and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta
Welcome, Meeting Guidelines, Introductions	Welcome by Amy W.
Approval of Agenda for Meeting	Amie K. made a motion to approve agenda. Seconded by Mercedes M. New items to be added: - updating the council bylaws not updated since 2009 to include a reduced notification period for meetings, an update on positions, as well as the consideration of holding meetings online. - Move to second Wednesday of month, or whatever day doesn't conflict with SPB meetings
Principal's Report	Highlights – welcome to kindergarteners, gagaball success, 550 students in the school (somewhat lower than expected), SOGO residency, Ministerial orders coming from the government of Alberta (book banning, fairness in sport, opt-in policy for sexual health education), family welcome picnic, Terry Fox run – amazing support this year from families to raise money – over \$4500 raised!, labour issues – ATA strike mandate for October 6, in the meantime classes will continue as usual, Alveole beehive visits have begun, team teaching in grade 1 and grade 3, report on fees (last year shortfall of \$4,300),



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School Council Update	a) Key Communicator (Amy) – provincial budget not keeping pace with inflation or rising cost of students with complex needs, there is a desperate need for classroom space across the province b) Events and Communication Coordinator (Spencer) – engagement is high compared to the summer, we'll continue to monitor as the fall progresses c) Volunteer Coordinator (Rachelle) – active signup for potluck for teacher evening meeting, when you sign up – remember to use your legal name because it has to be checked against the police clearance, remember that in addition to the police clearance, you also need to fill out the annual volunteer form. Any questions, let Rachelle know - collingwoodvc@gmail.com d) DEI Subcommittee (vacant) – no update
Collingwood School Parent Association (CSPA) Update	Amie K. – first PA meeting will be Thursday September 25 we'll also have a table set up in the hallway during parent teacher meetings that night, last year we had such a successful fundraiser doing the move-a-thon raising over \$20,000 for the gagaball pit. We do frequent fundraisers throughout the year, the first one will be the apple fundraiser through SunOka with delivery in October
Previous Business	Vacant School Council Executive Positions: • Chair • Secretary • Volunteer Coordinator • Naturalization Member • D.E.I. Subcommittee Lead
New Business	• Updating council bylaws: • Update future meetings to the FOURTH Wednesday of the month to avoid conflict with the SPB meetings – Done – easy – if we meet during a strike, Yulenda will help us set up a link. Will need to modify in March during spring break. Commit to this for the fall, will revisit in the winter.
Q & A	Q: Discuss the possibility of AMA School Safety Patrol A: It's a very significant ask of the teachers, given the current climate it's going to be a very hard sell. Q: Presentation to grade 6s from the YMCA GM @ Crowfoot about the free grade 6 pass A: Dan – YES! Ardith to follow up Q: Thanks to the staff of Collingwood, last year we as parents, and I assume



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	you as teachers, were concerned about how the school would absorb Grade 6. So far it appears to be going amazingly well. And we assume your effort is significant and we appreciate that. Q: How can parents help fill the gap in fundraising dollars? A: They can donate through Education Matters - If you donate via Education Matters you have to make a note it needs to be directed to Collingwood School otherwise it goes to a general CBE fund – doing it this way you can get a tax receipt. Alternatively, you can donate by writing a cheque to the CSPA (or email to see if we can set up an e-transfer. This is somewhat controversial because essentially, we are filling the gap for parents who haven't paid the fees for their own students. The parent association considers many funding options during each school year, and this one always comes up for debate. Q: How can we stop kids from being so unhygienic at the water fountains? A: We can give them reminders, also the PA is working on a fundraiser and spend on water bottle filling stations!! This got lots of support Q: Are there / what are any plans to give the grade 6 students leadership opportunities during the year; for example helping distribute fun lunch? I think this will help prepare them for gr 7 / jr. high which is a big change A: Sra McCruden runs a student advisory group – this year will be grades 4, 5 and 6 – this provides them with a leadership opportunity. Admin group needs to think on this a bit, as in the past the thought has been that those students need time to eat and have their own break (or be in their own class). Q: How do we make sure the kids have enough active time given the new school hours. Jenny Sayer's email with respect to physical education resources – email was sent at the end of last year in response to the reduction in recess time. A: Considering three options for keeping kids active on Fridays that would still be included as instructional hours 1 – permanent orienteering course from SOGO residency 2 – inventive active play with buddies 3 – outdoor activity wagons – utilizing ideas from Timbernook residency, and making it easier for teachers to get their kids active Q: What happened to the “school agenda”? A: They sort of disappeared about 5 or 6 years ago – some teachers love it, some don't. Currently some teachers are still using them, just having kids write
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	in a notebook to come home every day, some teachers doing online communication. Is there communication missing? Not really no, but we would just like to know how much communication to expect. Q: Is there a minimum expectation of communication from teachers? Does it vary by grade? Can it be clearly laid out for parents? Should we expect a weekly email? A monthly? A: Yes, expectation is minimum once a month from each teacher, no difference between grades. Should cover what has happened last month, what is coming up next month. Teachers are free to communicate more than this, but that is the minimum Q: Does Collingwood school or any teacher have an amazon wishlist? A: Historically the teachers have been funded by \$100 from the PA, but this is getting more complicated in that items teachers are buying needs to go through approved vendors. Teachers aren't allowed to just buy things at Dollarama anymore. Q: First year student is on a bus. Are there instructions with respect to conflicts between students on the bus? A: Myfirst ride program for new students talks about rules and expectations on the bus. Essentially the bus driver oversees their bus, there are some differences between bus drivers, and some are more strict than others. If there are issues on the bus, the bus driver can't always help with this. Encourage parents to help students advocate for themselves – if that doesn't work they should go to the driver. If that continues, then the final step would be to talk to the school to help.
Approval of Previous Minutes	Approval of April and May meeting minutes. Motion by Amie K. seconded by Mercedes M.
Adjournment	Next meeting date will be October 22, both online and in-person and will be the AGM. It will also be the Parent Association AGM right after at 8:00 pm. Motion to adjourn the meeting by Amy W. at 8:02 Seconded by Ardith M.

Principal's Report – see attached

Links and Letters of Concern – see attached

Principal's Report to School Council September 2025

School Start Up

It has been a very smooth start-up to the school year. Our new kindergarten students seem very mature and are adjusting well to the routines. It is great to have our grade 6 students staying with us, they are an excellent group of leaders in the school. They have already been helping out with the Terry Fox Run and supervising the new Gaga Ball pit.

Gaga Ball

The gaga ball bit and bench installation was completed just prior to the family picnic and it has proven to be a very popular addition to the outdoor playground equipment. We are grateful to the Collingwood Parent Association and the entire school community for all of their support fundraising for this project.

SOGO Residency

The SOGO orienteering residency is well underway and it has been very popular with students and teachers alike. The students are learning about mapping and are running all over the Collingwood field to find the markers and stamp their maps. We are grateful to the parent volunteers who have been able to help out with this residency on short notice. The residency is particularly timely as teachers are being asked to teach the new Social Studies Curriculum yet no resources have yet been approved by the provincial government, so the teachers are taking this opportunity to teach about mapping skills.

Ministerial Order

The latest version of the Provincial Ministerial Order regarding standards for the selection, availability and access of school literary materials is looking specifically at explicit visual depictions of a sexual act in books at school with a deadline of removing items by January 5th from school and classroom libraries. This is a significant change from the previous order which was much broader and would have involved significant staff time to document all books in school and classroom libraries.

Ministerial Order relating to Fairness in Sport is now in effect and it involves girls sports from ages 12-18 and a requirement that schools collect documentation from families about girls gender at birth.

A further ministerial order requires families to send in paperwork to opt in for their child to attend sexual health classes.

Provincial Assessments

Grade 1-3 teachers are very busy this month completing a variety of tests in literacy and math standardized as required by the province.

Labour Issues

The Alberta Teachers Association has issued strike notification to begin on Monday October 6th if an agreement is not reached prior to that date. At this point, classes continue as usual.

Family Picnic

We had great weather and an excellent turnout for our family picnic. From parent reports the line ups for food at the food trucks were more reasonable this year.

Collingwood Beehive

The team from Alveole has done a couple of visits to our beehive this year, so 4 classes have had the opportunity to see the bees up close. Alveole will continue to monitor the hive throughout the year.

Team Teaching

Four of our grades 1 and 3 teachers have been team teaching in our large classrooms. The students seem to be adapting well to this change in routine and the teachers are positive about the experience thus far.

Report to Parents on Fees

The annual report to parents on Fees is now available on the Collingwood School website. There was a shortfall of just over \$4000 in unpaid fees. This loss had to be absorbed by school general funds. The school will have a conversation with the Parent Association to see how we should approach this shortfall. The school cannot continue to subsidize this shortfall in school fees. When we survey the parents, the results always come back very strongly that families want to have field trips and they see value in them. The school also appreciates the learning opportunities provided by field trips, however we may need to cancel some field trips we had planned for the upcoming school year.

We are grateful to the Parent Council for funding the busses for swimming and canoeing as this amounted to \$6838 which we did not need to charge parents.

Link to 'Contact the Premier':

- You can copy and paste your letter and submit directly in the link below
- <https://www.alberta.ca/premier-contact.cfm>

Link to 'Contact a Cabinet Minister':

- You can copy and paste your letter and submit directly in the link below
- You can pick 'Education' and 'Transportation & Economic Corridors' from the 'Select a Ministry' drop down menu if you want to send to both!
 - Education Minister is Demetrios Nicolaides
 - Transportation minister is Devin Dreeshen
- <https://www.alberta.ca/contact-a-cabinet-minister>

Link to 'Contact MLA'

- Calgary-Klein MLA is Lizette Tejada
- Website: <https://www.assembly.ab.ca/members/members-of-the-legislative-assembly/member-information?mid=0970>
- Email: Calgary.Klein@assembly.ab.ca

Link to 'Contact Board of Trustee'

- Collingwood is a Ward 4 school, which falls under Laura Hack
- Website: <https://cbe.ab.ca/about-us/board-of-trustees/Pages/Wards-3-and-4.aspx>
- Email: laahack@cbe.ab.ca

Link to 'Contact Area Director'

- Collingwood is an Area 2 school, which falls under Martine Sawatzky and Tori Healing
- Website: <https://cbe.ab.ca/about-us/leadership/Pages/system-support-for-schools.aspx>
- Email: Area2@cbe.ab.ca

FORM LETTER IS BELOW THAT YOU CAN EDIT HOWEVER YOU LIKE AND CUSTOMIZE TO WHOMEVER YOU'D LIKE TO SEND IT TO.

Office Of The Honourable Danielle Smith

Dear Premier Smith,

Subject: Concerns Regarding the Reduction of Lunch and Recess Time in Calgary Elementary Schools

I am writing to express my concern regarding the reduction of lunch and recess time in Calgary elementary schools. As a parent of three young children, I believe this change is negatively impacting the health, well-being, and overall development of students.

The unstructured time at lunch and recess plays a critical role in supporting physical activity, social skills, and mental health. These breaks are essential for children to recharge, socialize, and return to the classroom ready to learn.

Alberta Education's 'Daily Physical Activity (DPA)' initiative has a stated goal of getting students active every day and developing positive habits for healthy lifestyles. The DPA policy of ensuring that students have 30 minutes of activity per day is being further eroded by cuts to essential periods of activity like recess. I fear that the shortening of these critical periods may lead to increased stress, behavioural issues, and reduced academic focus.

In a letter home to parents addressing schedule changes at schools due to transportation issues, the Calgary Board of Education stated that "Bell times were reviewed across the system to ensure students receive the required instructional hours while maintaining time for breaks like lunch and recess, transitions between classes and extracurricular opportunities." Despite this promise, schools are being forced to make cuts to recess times in order to meet instructional hours and keep the mandated 20 minute minimum for lunch.

I respectfully urge your government to ensure that student well-being remains a top priority, and that physical activity and healthy eating habits are not further sacrificed. Our schools, teachers and students all deserve the health and academic benefits that come with ensuring our students have the time they need to eat and be active on a consistent, daily basis.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jenny Sayer