

Strathcona Christian Academy Secondary
School Council Meeting & Annual General Meeting
May 5, 2025

Attendance: Matthew Spronk, Sandy Johnson, Symonds Botchey, Cathy Allen, Leanne Seeochan, Lisa Harke (acting secretary), Teresa Tessier, Pauline Gurnett, Brett Harke

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting began at 7:08pm

Welcome by Chair, Leanne Seelochan

Round table introductions by attendees

Opening Prayer - Leanne Seelochan

Approval of Agenda

Approved with addition of presentation by Mr. Botchey

Approval of Minutes from January and February 2025

Approval of these minutes deferred to the September 2025 meeting

Physical Education Department Presentation

Department head, Mr. Botchey presented on the P.E. department and highlights of the year, including:

Success of having the P.E. classes run throughout the year (vs. on a semestered system)

Students able to be active year-round instead of only one semester

Allowed for unit to be more based on weather and follow the extracurricular sports programming

Upcoming track and field day this month

Parent volunteers appreciated

Support from high school students

Available funds used this year to purchase and update a variety of P.E. equipment

Pauline Gurnett - emphasized the value of having high school students involved in the junior high track and field day

Leanne Seelochan - Q. How long have you been teaching at SCA?

Mr. Botchey - A. This is my 10th year teaching here

Matt Spronk - Thank you to Mr. Botchey for being here and for the time that he invests in our phys ed/athletics program

EIPS Trustee Report - Trustee Cathy Allen

Full board report can be accessed here: Strathcona Christian Academy Secondary May 5.docx - Google Docs

Budget Season

EIPS Outstanding First Year Teachers Named

Priorities and themes from the recent budget survey

Differences noted in priorities in rural vs. urban communities

For example, access to supports such as social workers and physiotherapist identified as a rural priority and demonstrates the need for equity across our division

Budget priorities

Budget will be presented at the May public board meeting

Campus EIPS/Collegiate Programming

To be initiated in the 2025-26 school year

Will provide enhanced opportunities for EIPS students to explore career pathways, dual credit options and apprenticeship opportunities

Transportation considerations currently being looked into to make this programming more accessible across the division

Changes in Bussing

Board is looking at the changes in eligibility for bussing as the distances of eligibility are changing and looking at providing additional funding to help families access the bussing that they need

Brett Harke - Q. How will the fees/funding work for Campus EIPS?

Cathy Allen - A. Campus EIPS will operate fully as its own campus and fees will be paid to Campus EIPS for any collegiate programming accessed

Matthew Spronk - We currently send some of our students to SAL and Bev Facey for the specialized programming that they offer there. Campus EIPS will be of benefit to our students and will expand the potential learning opportunities they would be able to access.

COSC Report - Lisa Harke

Overview of highlights from the April 2, 2025 COSC meeting

National Volunteer Week

Campus EIPS/Collegiate Programming

Updating of COSC Operating Procedures

Trustee Nomination open now for fall 2025 municipal elections

Operating Procedures & Amendments

Proposed Amendments to School Council Operating Procedures

Link: School Council Operating Procedures - Proposed Amendments - May 5, 2025 -

Google Docs

Discussion:

Under section 5.A.3 which states “ One or more teachers and staff of the School, elected or appointed by the teachers”, Matt Spronk suggested that we take out the portion that states “elected or appointed by the teachers” as our current practice has been that teacher/staff representatives at our meetings have been requested by the principal and this has been a successful and valuable part of our meetings

General agreement that having different department leads come to our meetings as staff representatives has been a great way to hear about what is happening throughout the school and a way for the staff requirement to be met by a variety of staff members

Motion: To approve the proposed amendments to the school council operating procedures with the change noted above.

Motion by: Lisa Harke

Seconder: Pauline Gurnett

All in favor: Unanimous, motion carried

Council Year in Review Report - Leanne Seelochan

2024-2025 SCA secondary school council review

This was my first year as chair for SCA secondary council . I was joined by Lisa Harke as my faithful Vice chair and by Amanda Meints our detailed and dependable Secretary. We had a great team and our meetings were positive and very meaningful!

We met 6 times on the following dates :

September 16/2024

October 28/2024

November 25/2025

January 20/2025

February 24/2025

May 5/2025 (which was also our AGM)

Some highlights from these meetings were having a variety of presentations from staff and students.

Pastor Jordie Maxwell gave us a presentation about the Bible class he leads. It was so encouraging to hear his heart for Jesus and for our teens to experience him in a meaningful way.

Kallen Seelochan came and did a presentation about the robotics program at our school. He demonstrated how he was able to code the "Farm Bot." It was amazing to see how the machine could water on a schedule, identify growth and be monitored through an app he made. This writer may be biased, but it was amazing to see how our school is growing future programmers, builders and encouraging their love for computers and robotics.

We also had the pleasure of having 5 department heads come and present on their departments. Mrs. Schmidt represented Math, Mrs. Jones for Science, Mrs. Puttick for English, Mr. Camponi for Social and Mr Botchey for P.E. It is evident that they care deeply about the students and other teachers in their departments. They give their time daily for our teens and for them to give an evening to us parents for these presentations was a gift. We really do have the best teachers at SCA.

The SCA society continued to come to all our meeting dates. The amazing Nate Peters and / or Teresa Tessier continued to support our staff, and parents with their detailed presentations. A great deal of time goes into attending their own society meetings and then doing detailed presentations for us. The SCA society continued to support our students with retreats for every grade level. We are grateful for the society!

Our Trustee, Cathy Allen, also attended a majority of the meetings. She continues to show up well, bringing important information that is pertaining to our division. She is always available for questions and feedback and continues to welcome engagement through email correspondence after the meetings. She has been an asset to our meetings and I have appreciated her greatly.

Lisa Harke attends our COSC meetings and gives reports about what other schools councils are doing in the division. She encouraged us to review our operating procedures and to make some updates. She presented that to council at our February meeting and will be present for the vote in May. She is an asset to our team and her detailed and driven nature is a blessing.

Our fearless leaders, Principal Matt Spronk , along with assistant principals with Kevin Winkle and Sandy Johnson continue to invest their time and gifts by attending our meetings. They come ready to discuss the Goals from our assurance review. They want our students to thrive and feel safe. They want them to be engaged and prepared for life outside of SCA secondary. They are willing to hear feedback to attain those goals. We also were presented about the fees and given a survey to give our feedback. I appreciate these leaders and their desire to be the best leaders they can be for our school. It takes work and determination to make our school a safe and caring place and they do so with humble hearts.

Our council used our engagement grant to provide two sessions for parents in March. The first presentation was from Toni Harrison who is a board member and speaker for the African/African-Descendants Friendship Club in St. Albert. His talk titled "Racism Isn't Funny" challenged and expanded our thinking on racism. He gave us tools to navigate with our teens in appropriate comments and jokes, outright racism, microaggressions, or just offensive behaviour in general. I wish more parents would have attended as I think this information was vital for us to have a safe and caring school for all.

Our second presentation was by Cheri- Lee Smith. She is the RCMP liaison at our school. She brings a wealth of experience and awareness to some of the difficulties our teens encounter. She discussed the importance of online safety, the struggle with harassment and bullying, the access to drug use, and the dangers of vaping and driving. She strives to be a positive presence in our school and wants our teens to know she is available and approachable. Both speakers were an asset and their gift of time and knowledge was appreciated.

And lastly, our parents wanted to thank and bless the staff and support staff at the school. We had a day in April where parents dropped off drinks and treats for them. We see the

hard work they do and wanted to make sure they felt seen and appreciated. It was a great response from parents and there were enough treats for the week! The feedback was very positive from staff and teachers!

We are blessed with exceptional staff at our school.

We look forward to the break and the next year of school council. Thank you again to everyone who attends these meetings and provides such a positive atmosphere and willingness to discuss hard matters with grace and kindness.

Society Report - Teresa Tessier

Society report can be found at: <https://scasociety.ca/about-us/>



About Us - Strathcona Christian Academy Soc

About Us School Beliefs To provide students with a Christ-centered education based on a Christian worldview. To offer a rounded education in academic, physical, moral and spiritual areas with God as central. A Christian education not only teaches how to make a living but how to live, with the Bible as the foundation to all subjects. [...]

scasociety.ca

Principal Report - Matthew Spronk

Musical Theatre production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory happening this week at the school

8 shows over the next 4 days

A great opportunity for students involved to be in community

Mrs. Jones has done an excellent job and has invested so much into the students and the production

Grad will happen at the end of the month with 92 students graduating

New office staff started: Mrs. Opio and Mrs. Tembo

Budget and Timetabling season is underway for our administrative staff

New Learning Management System being looked at for implementation during the 2025/26 school year

Brightspace will be phased out and we are looking at the 2 options of Google Classroom and Microsoft Teams as potential systems to implement

Looking ahead to the 2025/26 School Year

Looking to possibly change the format of Meet-the-teacher. Instead of having an evening event after school has started, they are considering the possibility of having a combination of Locker Day & Meet the Teacher the day before school starts (Wed, Aug 30) with teachers in the classrooms for students and parents to meet

Need for volunteers

Looking to possibly change the format of the Fall Awards Night for academic awards

Would shift this to a school day, possibly in early October

Blocks 3 (junior high) and 4 (senior high)

Invite parents

Possibility of a live-stream option

Use the grade 12 farewell for some of the grade 12 awards that are not dependant upon diploma exam marks (for example, construction award, drama award)

Emphasis on the value of having students recognized for their achievements amidst their peers/fellow students

Transition to AGM at 8:30pm

Executive Positions

Current positions held are:

Chair: Leanne Seelochan

Vice Chair: Lisa Harke

Secretary: Amanda Meintz

All current executive members have one year left on their current terms

Financial Statement

As of March 31, 2025 our bank balance was \$220.43

We are not currenting using our account and are paying a monthly fee of \$1.95 in bank fees

Plan to discuss in the next school council year what we should do with this account and the funds currently remaining

Currently signing authority is held by Aileen Bozic and Heidi Peters

Plan to update in the fall when we decide what to do with the account

Meeting Adjourned

8:37pm

2025/26 Meeting Dates

September 15, 2025

October 6, 2025

November 3, 2025

January 19, 2026

March 16, 2026

May 4, 2026 (with AGM)