

**École Chinook Park School**  
**École Chinook Park School Casino Association Meeting**  
**School Council Meeting**

*October 21st 2020 | 6:30 – 8:00 PM, Virtual Platform*

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**In attendance:**

Alison Pidskalny – Incoming Co-Chair ([chinookparkchair@gmail.com](mailto:chinookparkchair@gmail.com))  
Jason Switzer – Incoming Co Chair ([Jason.switzer@actia.ca](mailto:Jason.switzer@actia.ca))  
Lisa Doyle – Outgoing Chair ([chinookparkchair@gmail.com](mailto:chinookparkchair@gmail.com))  
Katie McKinnon – Incoming Vice Chair ([mckinnon.katie@gmail.com](mailto:mckinnon.katie@gmail.com))  
Kelly Sheppard – Outgoing Treasurer ([kelly.sheppard@shaw.ca](mailto:kelly.sheppard@shaw.ca))  
Dane Tousignant – Incoming Treasurer ([danetousignant@gmail.com](mailto:danetousignant@gmail.com))  
Clair Gordon – Secretary ([clair@dragonflygiftbaskets.com](mailto:clair@dragonflygiftbaskets.com))

Aliki Avdicos (Principal)  
Dawn Poole (Assistant Principal)

Various members of Chinook Park parent body

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**1. Call to Order** (Alison Pidskalny)

- Opening remarks

**2. 2020-21 Proposed Budget** (Alison Pidskalny and Dane Tousignant)

- Budget is typically in place at the start of the school year, but COVID-19 changed our timeline
- We need a budget in place to enable Council to make spending decisions
- With feedback from Aliki and Dawn on what the school needs and what the teachers are asking for, we will create a forecast of needs
- Budget forecasts expenses and revenues from the Chinook Park Council (operate under the Schools Act) and Chinook Park Association (Casino Funds)
  - Averaged expenses from previous years and then looked at what we needed
  - No casino funds this year – probably pushed back until April/May 2022
    - School Dance - \$0
    - Applying for grants – Estimate \$2000
    - Merchandise program
    - Item specific fundraising
    - Cobbs bread – expand?
    - Fun Foods – expand?
    - Increase check writing campaign
- Budgeting Priorities: For Budgeting purposes we separated past spending into broad categories and created a stress test to put all new spending through, in order to make decisions on spending.
  - Safe School/keep school open
  - Wellbeing of students and teachers
  - Benefit all/most students
  - Proven online or outdoor programs
  - Spend on things that may have a life after COVID-19
- Expenses
  - Student Enhancements

*École Chinook Park School Council. Minutes for the October 2020 school council meeting  
For more information please contact Chair, Alison Pidskalny ([chinookparkchair@gmail.com](mailto:chinookparkchair@gmail.com))*

- Went with Raz Kids subscription – It passed the stress test well
- o Capital Maintenance and Improvements
  - Classroom Speakers
  - Standing Items: Agendas, French Week, Health Fare – They are all on the books for the school to do them this year, may look a bit different
- o Admin Expenses
  - Having to invest in different platforms that allow us to have meetings and programs
- o Contingency
  - Things we knew we were going to cancel – Its not a slush fund, it still has to pass the stress test

### 3. Question Period

- Question: (Medeana) Is there a timeline for when we need to spend the casino funds?
  - o Answer: (Dane) Yes, the casino funds need to spend in 24 months of receiving them. We will be asking for an extension, as we will be approaching 27months.
- Question: (Medeana) Where does technology fit in to the budget
  - o Answer: (Alik) We created a 5-year plan in terms of technology. The school is given some resources from our CBE funds, but not enough to cover our needs. Council helped purchase 3 Smart Boards in 2018, 30-40 Chromebooks. We do have needs this year, so perhaps if council is able to assist with this.
  - o Alison – Yes council would be happy to help in this area. There are grants for some of these things as well.

### 4. Approval of the 2021 Association Budget as Presented

- Motion (Alison Pidskalny)
- Second (Dane Tousignant)

### 5. Approval of the 2021 Council Budget as Presented

- Motion (Alison Pidskalny)
- Second (Dane Tousignant)

### 6. Principal's Report (Alik Avdicos and Dawn Poole)

- Welcome and Thank You
- Introduction of Karen Woodrow, and Carla French. Both Chinook Park School teachers
- Carla French
  - o Enthused to be back, nice to have the energy of the classroom back. Overall positive vibe in the school. There are some difficulties, but overall it has been a great start.
- Karen Woodrow
  - o Kudos to parents and kids, as they came in prepared for the new routines and I am grateful to be back in the classroom
- Questions: How do you feel about personal safety?
  - o Answer: I am very comfortable. We are ensuring lots of handwashing and sanitizing. We do take mask breaks. Kids are feeling comfortable but are still being safe.
- Question: How are you handling outdoor/lunch time?
  - o Answer: Staggered recess and lunches are working well. There is lots of extra room, so it feels calm, and I think students are benefiting from this.
- Question: Where are our kids at, in terms of learning.
  - o Answer: We have spent the first few months making everyone comfortable. Now we are doing some testing to see where they are.
- Question: How are you handling Gym Class?
  - o Answer: One class, per period – so we have lots of space for our activity. We have one less gym class/week. Teachers work together to rotate equipment. It's a 2 week rotation, so only 1 cohort uses the equipment, before it is sanitized and rotated. It feels very normal, but it is also very safe.

- Question: How well do you think, we will be able to achieve academic outcomes?
  - Answer: We are trying to figure that out. There are many unknowns. CBE has done a good job of prioritizing work, so we are ensuring we are following that plan. CBE has created a scope and sequence so HUB and in class learning are parallel.
- Question: What is the plan in terms of having a partial or total shutdown?
  - Answer:
    - D2L. All teachers are maintaining an online presence
    - Submitting work can be done online
    - Working with students now, in person, on how to navigate and access the platform, so they have more knowledge
- Question: Do you have metrics for seeing how well our kids are doing?
  - Answer:
    - Reading – Grid
    - Math Assessment Tools – Google forms
    - Constantly assessing – Teachers reporting to parents via email, and there will be constant communication if the child is having difficulties.
- Question: Do you have sufficient supplies?
  - Answer: Yes
- Question: Do you, as a teacher, feel supported?
  - Answer: Yes, we feel supported by parents, students, and administration
- Question: Why D2L instead of G-suit?
  - Answer: With feedback from teachers & parents, we decided on D2L. More students and staff are familiar with it, and it is more secure.
- Question: How has the split classes been on the teachers?
  - Answer:
    - Our regular program has had multi-age classrooms before.
    - Some of our French teachers are new to multi-age teaching but they are experienced teachers. There is a lot of the curriculum that can be blended together, with different expected outcomes.
    - Younger students have the ability to ‘rise to the occasion’ and do the upper level work
    - Older students who may be struggling, can learn at a different level
- Question: How is it going without the Library?
  - Answer:
    - We miss it. It is an ongoing decision, and as Alberta Public Health policies change, we will change.
    - Raz Kids is helpful
    - Books can go home for home reading
- Question: What would happen in case of an illness in the classroom?
  - Answer:
    - Seating charts for contact tracing
    - AHS is moving to close down classrooms with 1 positive case.
- Presentation on IXL or Mathletics?
  - IXL
    - Aligns with curriculum
    - Skill based
    - Works for problem solving and calculations
    - \$3750
  - Mathletics
    - Kid friendly and engaging
    - Teacher can control activities

- Printable Workbooks etc.
- Digital Manipulatives
- Games for speed and accuracy
- \$5017
- o If we go online teaching, this would be an essential tool to support students.
- o Not something we would use a lot, in the classroom
- o Would be something we could re-evaluate after a year
- o Aliso: Thank you for the insight into this. It is definitely on the wish list and we will address at the council meeting in November.

### 7. School Survey Results

- 66.9 Thought back to school was going better than expected
- 32.4 Thought it was going just as they thought
- Positive feedback and lots of appreciation
- Parents want open and swift communication.
  - o Teachers are providing biweekly updates on what is going on in the classroom.
  - o In October, each parent will get an individual update on how their child is doing

### 8. Upcoming Events (Alik)

- Halloween happenings Oct 29<sup>th</sup>
  - o Pumpkin carving contest
  - o Costumes OK
  - o Teachers are doing individual things in the classroom
- Lockdown drill Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Remembrance Day Ceremony Nov 10<sup>th</sup> – Virtual Ceremony
- No School Nov 11<sup>th</sup>
- Fun Foods Nov 05<sup>th</sup> and Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Taming Anxiety Gremlins Nov 10<sup>th</sup>
  - o Offered by the Health Region. Pre-recorded sessions available that will cover a variety of topics for parents in regard to wellness and mental health.
- Listening Survey School Council Survey #1
  - o How you want to be engaged with Council
  - o Answers will be shared at Nov meeting

### 9. Closing remarks (Alison Pidskalny and Jason Switzer)

- Getting involved
  - o Reach out to your teacher
  - o Volunteer Co chairs – Natalie Harmon and Lindsey Stein
  - o Reach out to Jason and Alison
- A note of admiration for the administration.

### 10. Motion to adjourn (Alison Pidskalny)

The next École Chinook Park School Council Meeting will be held on November 18th 2020