The Aberdeen School Community Council (SCC) has had a productive and engaging school season. During our 2021/2022 season, our council members included the following:

Amy Orth – Principal (Active Principal from 02/2022-06/2022)

Deanne Martin Gray – Vice Principal, (Active Principal from 09/2021-02/2022)

Shari Chelack – Chair

Rachelle Regier – Vice Chair & Secretary

Jamie Wright – Parent Rep

Carla Beaulac – Parent Rep

Chelsea Baron – Parent Rep

Jenny Guest – Parent Rep

Maryann Rempel – Parent Rep

Grace Wudrick – Division Rep

Rachel Boyenko – SLT Rep

Devon Tomolok – SLT Rep

Harper Doige – SLT Rep

Ayanna Kinar – SLT Rep

Our SCC meetings were held on the following dates in the Aberdeen Composite School staff room:

September 27, 2021

November 1, 2021

December 13, 2021

January 17, 2022 (Zoom Meeting)

March 15, 2022

April 25, 2022

May 11, 2022 (Zoom Meeting - Annual General Meeting & SCC Election)

Our main focus for the 2021/2022 season included parent engagement within our school and mental health initiatives for our students and staff members following the aftereffects of at-home and hybrid learning which the pandemic brought forth. We continued to use the SCC’s past mission statement to build new goals for the school year: “As school leaders, we have the responsibility to shake out the notion of what traditional parent engagement looks like. Our mission is to create synergies between home, school, and our community by offering events and opportunities to collaborate and grow together.”

This season we were challenged to look at virtual opportunities to engage our students and community. Using a grant from the SWG (Saskatchewan Writer’s Guild), we hosted children’s author, Laura Lawrence, in November 2021. The event invited our students to go on a journey of exploring self-confidence, self-esteem, and growth mindset. The theme fit well with our division goals of focusing energy on mental health initiatives with students and staff this year.

Prairie Spirit School Division (PSSD) also hosted a monthly opportunity for family engagement with online zoom meetings throughout the school season. From addressing literacy needs, social anxiety, teens and depression, and even touching on french cuisine, these meetings gave our parents/guardians an opportunity to gather together during the pandemic restrictions.

In addition to updating our regular school bulletin board which introduces our school families, we introduced a SCC bulletin board, meant to update staff and families of upcoming meetings and events. We also took the initiative to be more active on the community social pages to update families as well.

As the school was unable to host a Christmas concert this year, we postponed our annual and lucrative Christmas Basket fundraiser. In lieu, we held the FUNscript fundraiser at the beginning of the school year, with profits going towards current school initiatives.

Our group was really able to start momentum once pandemic restrictions were lifted in February 2022. We planned a *Teacher Appreciation Week* from February 14-18, 2022. We decorated the staff room with confetti, snacks, fresh flowers, and an appreciation banner. With catering from our local Aberdeen Recreation Centre (ARC), we hosted a lunch for our teachers and staff members. For a dessert option, we had donuts sponsored from Tim Hortons. In addition, we supplied a *Teacher Appreciation Card* template for our elementary students as a small token of appreciation to our teachers and staff members.

We held an in-person *Stay Safe / Stay at Home Alone Course* with Regan Crocker on April 2, 2022, and May 1, 2022, respectively. Around that time, *Aberdeen School Fun Night,* was also brought back to life and held in the school. Our SCC group sponsored and helped to facilitate the Candyland Room. We even had a few non-SCC parent reps volunteer on *Fun Night* in various game rooms and the popcorn/cotton candy room—thank you!

As the ARC closed at the end of April 2022, our supply to hot lunches also ended. Luckily, our principal, Amy Orth, found a way to bring them back! We had three initial order dates from Subway and Boston Pizza for the last semester of the school season. We would love to continue this initiative going forward if we garner enough interest from students. All funds raised will go towards our new playground equipment fundraiser.

The SCC group noticed the need to start fundraising for new playground equipment and formed a *Playground Committee* in May 2022. Along with working with the Aberdeen Town & Rec Committee, we plan to apply for grants and run fundraising events to fund the project. More to come on this great new initiative!

One of our larger initiatives this year was the *Spring Into Literacy Reading Week* held from May 2-6, 2022. We hosted a Scholastic Book Fair for the entire week, along with a week full of literary fun! With help from Mrs. Colleen Sheppard, we created a *Caterpillar Reading Log*, with the opportunity to win one of two $25 Indigo gift cards for reading at home. With sponsorship from Saskatchewan Music Educators Association (SMEA), we hosted children’s author, Wilbur Sargunaraj, for our elementary students. Wilbur used music, dance, videos, and motivational stories to inspire our students to become culturally intelligent “simple superstars”, passionate about building bridges across cultural differences.

We were also excited to purchase books for our elementary students, *My Father’s Dragon*, for the *One Book One School Program*, which was handed out from our principal during *Literacy Week*. To finish up the event, we hosted a *Dress As Your Favourite Book Character* day and *Teacher’s Book Pick.* We encouraged parents and guardians to come into the book fair, attend the SMEA event, and go to our local Aberdeen Wheatland regional library to read *Rising Strong: How the Ability to Reset Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead* by Brené Brown. As the SCC group, we pre-ordered as many provincial copies as the library could get to help engage literacy within our parent/guardian audience.

Speaking of libraries, we noticed the need for someone to help restock library books in the school library as we no longer have full-time school librarians (we have library technicians). We luckily had Maryann Rempel volunteer to lead the *Library Lunch Club*on Wednesday and Friday’sto help shelve books—thank you!

We looked into creating a *Before & After School Care Program*, however at this time, it seems that we will need to create more interest in order to begin a viable program that could be run out of the school. Luckily, the school has accepted the application of the *Aberdeen Creative Preschool Program*. We are excited to welcome our preschoolers into the school for the 2022/2023 school season!

Finally, we plan to meet at the end of August to plan a *Welcome Back BBQ* for teachers, staff members, students, and parents/guardians in September 2022. Along with the BBQ, we may plan a family scavenger hunt and will prepare welcome baskets for new families in the school.

All in all, it was a great first year to chair the SCC group. I learned a lot and I quite enjoyed meeting more of our school staff members, hearing from our Aberdeen SLT (Student Leadership Team) members and school division rep, Grace Wudrick, at each our monthly meetings. Going forward, I welcome any interested parents/guardians to join the SCC committee and/or our newly created playground committee next year! Personally, I love being immersed in my children’s learning journey and I genuinely look forward to continuing in-person events and initiatives to create synergies between our community, home, and school next year!

Sincerely,

Shari Chelack

Aberdeen SCC Chairperson