

Marion Carson School – School Council Meeting

Friday Mar 17, 2026 6:30pm

Attendance:

Kim H., Jenny H., Laura C., Tracy O., Jenn A., Huong L., Amangi J., Dustin T, Vanesse L., Devon K., Jenny R.

1. Introduction and Call to Order at 6:32pm (Kim H.)

- a. Land Acknowledgement by Devon K.
- b. **Motion:** Does your School Council approve the presented minutes from the Feb 20, 2026 meeting?
 - i. Moves: Laura C.
 - ii. Second: Kim H.
- c. **Motion:** Does your School Council adopt the Mar 17, 2026 agenda as presented?
 - i. Moves: Jenny H.
 - ii. Second: Amangi J.

2. Executive Update (Kim H.)

- a. Chair Report: ASCA course review
 - i. Cost was \$380; have some money left over on card.
 - ii. Most school meetings are small, but doesn't mean parents aren't engaged.
 - iii. Have principal or chair mention at school events where the money came from for that event.
 - iv. Have chair take microphone from principal as much as allowed.
 - v. Based on suggestions, we are already doing the right things (e.g. social media, shared drive, etc.).
 - vi. Provided good wording to promote our council. Document available with examples.
 - vii. Course would be more beneficial for a new council.
 - viii. Dustin T. noted that the next opportunity for council to promote itself will be the "Welcome to Kindergarten" event on May 28th.
- b. There will be a promo table for council during conferences.
- c. Confirmation of roles for next year
 - i. Need to know who wants to continue with what role so we can advertise before AGM.
- d. Additions to Agenda
 - i. No additions

3. **Principal's Report** (Dustin T.)

- a. Courtyard Camera / Entrance Buzzer Pilot
 - i. We are working with Verkada and CBE as a pilot school trying to find a solution that allows us to have a camera / push-button access at the east courtyard doors.
 - ii. Grade 6 students are piloting the system as they come in from the portables, as well as administration.
 - iii. Parents will continue to be asked to only ring the west door buzzer for entry to ensure school safety and security.
- b. School Planning and Engagement:
 - i. Survey Results have been shared to the school website.
- c. School Conferences
 - i. Our Student-Led Conferences are this Thursday evening from 4:30pm - 7:30pm.
 - ii. The booking system is now open in parent's MyCBE Accounts.
 - iii. Students in each class will have a plan in place for sharing their amazing learning and student work.
- d. Albert Government Classroom Complexity Team.
 - i. No decision has been finalized. Once we receive confirmed direction, school administration will communicate it promptly.
- e. Summary of upcoming events.
- f. Class photos are being re-taken because most photos appeared that the group was not ready when the photo was taken. Lifetouch manager will be supervising retakes.

4. **Teacher's Educational Report** (Huong L.)

5. **Trustee Question Period** (Jenny R.)

- a. See Appendix A for a summary of questions and answers.

6. **Committee Reports**

- a. Fundraising (Jenn A. for Deborah S.)
 - i. Register for Fun Run on May 2nd.
 - ii. Growing Smiles fundraiser upcoming with delivery scheduled for May 22nd.
 - iii. Chipotle fundraiser April 15th. Flyers will be distributed after spring break.

- b. Fun Lunch (Kim H.)
 - i. Fun lunch April 10 will be Subway.
- c. Casino - N/A
- d. Special Events - N/A
- e. Accessible Creative Playground (Tracy O.)
 - i. Variety is reaching out to landscaping company regarding accessibility in Marion's Meadow, such as raised garden bed or table spaces (e.g. when classes are sketching, accessibility to wheel up to a table). Tracy passed on Deb's list of ideas to Variety.
 - ii. Variety looking into whether they can assist with rubber removal.
- f. Book Fair - N/A
- g. Naturalization and Play Area Project - N/A
- h. Marion's Meadow (Kim H.)
 - i. Clean up Apr 23rd 3:30-4:30pm.
- i. Parent Education (Devon K.)
 - i. Saturday April 18th at 10am.
 - ii. Parent focussed, but parents can bring their children as Devon will bring materials for kids.
 - iii. Link between play, self regulation, and executive functioning. Things parents might not necessarily link to play.
 - iv. Will accept optional donations for playground and will reach out to F.E.O. and neighbouring schools.
- j. Apparel - N/A
- k. COSC Update (Vanesse L.)
 - i. First of three meetings this year.
 - ii. Overview of roles of the Board of Trustees, CBE Admin, and School Councils.
 - iii. Ed Matters Overview - fundraising arm of CBE. All monetary donations must go through Ed Matters. Supporting initiatives that include student well-being, essentials for learning, experiential opportunities, and future preparation including scholarships. People can donate to a specific school on Ed Matters website.
 - iv. Breakout sessions on school community and topics important to school councils.

7. New Business – N/A

8. Meeting Adjournment at 7:06pm (Kim H.)

Marion Carson School - Parent Association Meeting

Friday Mar 17, 2026 7:06pm

Attendance:

Kim H., Jenny H., Laura C., Tracy O., Jenn A., Huong L., Amangi J., Dustin T, Vanesse L., Devon K., Jenny R.

1. Introduction and Call to Order at 7:06pm (Kim H.)

- a. **Motion:** Does your Parent Association approve the presented minutes from the Feb 20, 2026 meeting?
 - i. Moves: Laura C.
 - ii. Second: Kim H.
- b. **Motion:** Does your Parent Association adopt the Mar 17, 2026 agenda as presented?
 - i. Moves: Jenny H.
 - ii. Second: Laura C.
- c. Additions to Agenda – N/A

2. Committee Reports

- a. Fundraising (Jenn A.)
 - i. YTD Fundraising total \$12,810 (includes Apples, Bottle Drives, Mabel's Labels, Purdy's, Movie Nights, Dances, Pedalheads, and Boulder Circle fundraisers)
- b. Fun Lunch - N/A
- c. Casino (Vanesse L.)
 - i. Received \$89,637 from casino fundraiser.
 - ii. Dustin T. noted that this is the most he has ever seen from a casino fundraiser.
 - iii. Vanesse L. asked if we have preferred casinos we would like to work at. Response was closer to Varsity (Ace or Elbow).
- d. Special Events - N/A
- e. Accessible Creative Playground (Tracy O.)
 - i. Two large donations recently (Pre-K and Omega 365). Thank you to both of them.
 - ii. Likely will not get any cost reduction on quote. PlayEnvy does not recommend volunteer removal of rubber surface.
 - iii. \$80k Variety; \$125k CFEP; \$50k casino; and \$36,500 donated and held by Variety.

- iv. Waiting to hear back on Apr 16 on one grant. Short listed for Kal Tire up to \$20k. Sandbox Communities at play is \$25k. Rotary club will meet with small funds (request is for \$9500).
- v. Kim sent request to Kinsmen.
- vi. Rotary Club sent cheque for \$1000, but cheque is lost in the mail.
- vii. CBE reached out to PlayEnvy because they need to book removal crew. Currently booked for June.
- viii. Jenny H. raised issue of play panels. Tracy noted play panels don't have to be installed as part of playground. Laura C. noted we can put \$10k towards play panels in playground.
- ix. \$5900 estimate for sign honouring donations (installed).
- f. Book Fair - N/A
- g. Naturalization and Play Area Project - N/A
- h. Marion's Meadow – N/A
- i. Parent Education – N/A
- j. Apparel
 - i. Have approved logo for print in solid yellow or solid blue.
 - ii. Will run one bulk sale this year in Apr or May to test new vendor performance (Refresh Brand Gear).
 - iii. Might include coupon in kindergarten welcome package.
 - iv. A couple zip up hoodies have gone missing.
 - v. Discussed ideas for using up old inventory.
 - vi. Dustin T. asked how much we owe for original bulk order. Referred to Treasurer report (\$~2k).

3. **Treasurer Report** (Jenny H.)

- a. Casino funds have been deposited.
- b. Minimal other changes in revenues and expenses.
- c. Jenny H. asked if play panel grant goes to Variety. Laura C. answered no because play panels may be placed elsewhere.
- d. Any fundraisers (e.g. Growing Smiles) specifically for playground will require funds raised to be sent to Variety.

4. **Requests, New Business, Proposals, Additions from 1c**

- a. **Motion:** Kim H. moved to move \$500 from Sports Day to the Marion Carson School Inclusive Playground. Jenny H. seconded the motion. All voted in favour. Motion passed.

b. Motion: Jenny H. moved to use up to \$20,000 of remaining Casino funds for the Marion Carson School Inclusive Playground project if needed, in addition to the \$50,000 already committed, by May 31, 2026, so we can start building summer 2026. Vanesse L. seconded the motion. All voted in favour. Motion passed.

5. Meeting Adjournment at 8:59 pm (Kim H.)

a. Moves: Laura C.

b. Second: Kim H.

Appendix A: Summary of Q&A with Trustee Regal

1. In light of Sweden's recent move away from technology in elementary schools and research showing decreased comprehension and concentration with screen-based learning, how is our public school system looking at the balance between the importance of tech- literacy and the content retention and deep learning for our own students?
 - a. Jenny R. doesn't know CBE's stance on tech. Nothing has come to Trustees at this point, if CBE is discussing it. Textbooks are used less frequently as time passes because they get outdated and fewer companies are producing them. Until the issue is presented to Trustees by admin, she won't get that information, so her suggestion is to contact school administration or Aubrey Fletcher. Digital literacy is very important, but critical thinking around content is more important.
 - b. Dustin T.'s masters thesis was on tech integration into phys ed. He says conversations today are about how to control AI. Play and manipulation is a focus in elementary school. Funding primarily goes to tactile resources, not software and not tech based.
2. What specific measures are being made to maximize efficiency in education procurement and spending, so that every taxpayer dollar delivers the greatest possible value in our schools? We've seen instances where CBE's approved vendor list has wasted time (delaying the benefit to students) and taxpayers' money.
 - a. Current procurement policies were put in place to stretch dollars, but can pose challenges for teachers and administrators. No specific measures are being made, but procurement is an ongoing work in progress. Jenny R. hopes that someone in finance is looking at that.
 - b. Dustin T. shared an example of Procurement, Finance, and Mandarin Bi-Lingual Principals meeting to try and improve communication and how to be more efficient for procurement for the Confucius grant. As a result, he feels that they are being heard and that CBE is striving to improve.
3. Why was the Ward 1 & 2 Trustee position left unfilled for over a year, and what impact did this have on representation and advocacy for schools in these wards?
 - a. Regulations state that if a trustee position becomes vacant in first year of term, a by-election must happen. Vacancy occurred after that point. Would

have cost millions of dollars to have a by-election and money would have come out of education funding.

4. How are you, and the Board of Trustees advocating for proper funding for CBE schools?
 - a. They are doing it anywhere and everywhere all the time. Jenny R. was an advocate with the ATA for many years. She was VP of the ATA provincially. She was VP of the Canadian Teachers' Federation. Funding is discussed all the time at board meetings. Laura Hack, Board Chair, has often represented CBE in the media. They meet with MLAs to let them know what's going on. Current funding level is historic, but so is complexity. Jenny R. feels teacher strike brought attention to under funding. Advocacy priorities are readily available to the public on CBE website. Funding for new learning spaces is a current priority and previous advocacy efforts also center on funding and the lack of it.
5. In light of recently announced provincial funding for AB Education staffing (of teachers and EA's), where does CBE plan to recruit them? We are aware of the existing challenges of hiring substitute teachers and EA's, as well as the wage gaps for these positions compared to other provinces.
 - a. Hiring teams continue to try to hire locally, but have gone across the country, and even out of country in some circumstances (e.g. language programs). It will be an issue to find all the teachers we need. Jenny R. is concerned about regular attrition plus more teachers feeling teaching is no longer sustainable for them. There are rumours of funding for opening up more education spaces in universities. There are also rumours of expediting accreditation of foreign teachers.
 - b. Dustin T. added that Marion Carson has 4 teachers finishing up practicums, which could lead to new hires. Admin is trying to bring in as many student teachers as possible as a way to entice new teachers to work at Marion Carson.
6. What is CBE's current position - and your personal perspective - on specific programs within the system such as French immersion, bilingual language, GATE, TLC, Montessori, STEM programs? Is there greater support for some programs than others? And if so, which ones? Are there plans to expand any of these programs into higher grade levels where they are not currently offered?

- a. Jenny R. believes that these programs were created in CBE in response to the charter schools specializing in many of these areas. Programs like TLC have been expanding due to high demand from parents. Any program expansion would be based on need, space, and available teachers. Jenny R. and Dustin T. were in agreement that more choice within CBE is a good thing for families.
7. How are you addressing capacity pressures at specific schools within Ward 1 & 2 to ensure they remain functional learning environments?
 - a. Capital plan passed today is asking for 13 new schools for year 1 to be prioritized (several in Jenny R.'s ward), and a new high school in Livingston for year 2. System looks at enrollment numbers, CRA info, and other data sources. As school populations shift, government looks to see where population is and to redraw boundaries. Impact can be outrageous bus times. Of 40 schools announced, 9 were in CBE. Overpopulation started in 2021 and is now slowing. Communities are growing so fast, by the time government adds a school, it is already over capacity. Modulars are being brought in to address capacity. Government has introduced Schools Now program so that you don't have to wait for a new budget year anymore to move to the next phase in school construction.
8. How will you ensure that Alberta's education system prioritizes foundational academic skills that families agree are essential (such as reading, writing, mathematics, and science) while reducing emphasis on topics that divide students, parents, and communities?
 - a. Jenny R. disagrees with the premise of the second part of the question - reducing emphasis on topics that divide. Trustees have no impact on the education curriculum, which is set by the Alberta government. There is a focus on literacy and numeracy right now, which was mandated by the government. Part of a school's job is around socialization and teaching students to get along. Culture wars are indeed divisive, but not dealing with those issues in the classroom is remiss. She would hate to see a world where we stop looking at divisive topics in school, but how these conversations are handled in the classroom is important.
9. School Councils are being taken for granted. We have to fundraise for building upgrades, tech, playgrounds, etc. because in Alberta these items are not funded, or poorly funded (CFEP grant for example. The amount of \$125,000 has not risen in 20 years but the cost of playgrounds has tripled in that time). As

volunteers, these are huge tasks to take on with little to no help from the school board. In fact, our playground plans have had to be changed so many times, due to CBE not approving items that were previously approved at neighboring schools or in our previous proposals. Is there any talk of getting School Councils any assistance? Volunteers are in short supply these days, and many of them leave due to burnout, as these roles consume as many hours as working paid full time jobs. I personally, do not see School Councils being viable in the years to come.

- a. There is no talk of school councils getting any financial assistance. Jenny R. understands the challenge councils face, but there is not funding available. Suggests reaching out to Education Matters and connecting with other school councils.

10. How will you advocate at the provincial level for stronger and more consistent funding for mental health resources within CBE schools?

- a. There are a number of cross cabinet meetings happening soon and hopefully there will be more information about this coming out soon. There have already been a few well-being symposiums and Jenny R. has noticed that there is more focus on this topic in CBE over the last 10 years. Looking forward to seeing what programming looks like. She dreams of having at least 1 counsellor in every school.

11. What value do you see in the inclusion of children with intellectual disabilities in regular classroom settings, and how does CBE support meaningful inclusion for both these students and their peers?

- a. There is high value in the inclusion of children with intellectual disabilities, as it teaches acceptance, and CBE needs more money to properly support this. Currently, Jenny R. is learning more about the Equity Index, but would love to see every classroom have at least one EA.

12. If a particular issue or responsibility is not clearly covered within the current mandate, what is the role of the Trustee and the Board of Trustees in addressing it? Specifically, what actions are you taking in relation to Marion Carson School?

- a. If the Board doesn't know, then they can't do anything about it. We need to let them know our concerns/issues. Contact Jelregal@cbe.ab.ca.