A L Horton School, 5037 48 Avenue, Vegreville, AB

School Council Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2023

Library, A L Horton School

**Attendee**s: K.Busenius, A.Rice, T.Footz, H.Dinwoodie, E.Robert, H.Reid, D.Barlott, K.Daurie, Bonnie D, S.Golka, R.Miller, D.Ionetz

1. **Call to order** 6:32pm

2. **Review of the Agenda**

3. **Approval of the Minutes**, as presented (OR as amended by those who attended)

a. October 2023 Approved by Bonnie D and seconded by S. Golka

5. **Old Business** – continued from previous meeting

a. Officer Elections (Chair, Vice-Chair)

b. Meeting Schedule -Last Tuesday of each month (Nov. 28, Jan. 30, Feb. 27, March 19 (tentative, if not overlapping with VJS meeting, Apr 30, May 28)

6. **Trustee’s Report**: Randy Footz

Board meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of each month. Because of an extraordinarily busy month for Trustees, the November Board meeting was re-scheduled to November 30.

Many days this month were used to conduct assurance reviews. Every department within central office underwent an assurance review and every school within the Division participated in an assurance review often with 3 other schools of similar designation. The assurance reviews concluded yesterday afternoon. Thank you to the administration team from A.L. Horton for hosting the admin. teams from Ardrossan Elementary and Bruderheim, the 4 trustees who participated and associate Superintendent Ryan Marshall.

The last week, trustees from 63 school boards including 2 boards from Lloydminster and 2 from Yellowknife attended the Annual Fall General Meeting in Edmonton. Topics discussed and debated:

* fully funded, full-time (950 hours) Kindergarten
* speedier accreditation for teachers with valid teaching certificates from other Canadian jurisdictions
* removal of the maximum limit for operating reserves for school boards
* reviewing the current practice of administering provincial high school diploma examinations
* funding for Dual Credit programming
* funding for and access to community-based service agencies with which schools collaborate.

7. **Principal’s Report**: Keri Busenius

1. Four members of the EIPS Board of Trustees, including our trustee, Randy Footz, along with Associate Superintendent Ryan Marshall, and school administration and parents from Bruderheim and Ardrossan Elementary visited our school on Monday this week to share celebrations and areas of growth related to our **School Education Plans**.

Our schools spoke about character education, reading, and writing as areas of strength. Numeracy instruction and student engagement in math along with building First Nations, Metis, and Inuit foundational knowledge were areas for next steps.

Shared trends in our schools were student absenteeism and mental health and the pressure of the new curriculum and gaps students have that teachers and support staff are working hard to address. Ms. Rice and Mrs. Busenius have begun working in grade 1-6 math classes to support small group instruction and to work with striving mathematicians.

Our school has received just over $12 000 for **learning disruption funding** for grade 1-5 students. We will be staffing a part time teacher to work with our striving readers and mathematicians from January to June to address learning needs related to letter identification, sounds, comprehension, number recognition, place value, and number operations.

2. **Skating** field trips are upcoming in December and February.

What are your thoughts on those dates? Does School Council wish to help with something like a skate’s exchange? Is that a need here? What supports are needed? We had a discussion around the pros and cons.

3. In January, **Theatre Prospero** is coming with a team of artists to work with all classes for four weeks. Stories, movement, set design, music, **diversity** of language and culture, creativity, and collaboration will be our focus areas. We can’t wait!

4. The **Jingle Bell Jukebox** **concerts** are on December 14 at 5 PM and 6:15 PM. Doors will open fifteen minutes before start time and students will meet teachers in classrooms and come down to the stage shortly before showtime. Seats will be reserved for School Council and Friends volunteers (2 each?) and for the front row draw winners. Songs include *Hot Chocolate*, *Here Comes the Snow, Hippopotamus for Christmas*, and *Jingle Bells.* The Ukrainian Language & Culture classes will perform, and self-identified First Nations and Metis students will also read aloud a story by Leah Dorion.

5. Grade 5-6 **volleyball** action wrapped up today with games at St. Martin’s School. The Saints squared off against the A.L. Horton Cougar Cubs last week as well. Lots was learned about teamwork, covering the court, bumping and serving, and managing time to show up at practices. Thank you to Mrs. Kuhn, Laura Agnemark, Luke Miller, Miss Billingsley, and Ms. Rice for supervising and coaching.

6. A **newsletter** came home today with much of this information. **Report cards** are posted online by 4 PM on Friday, December 1. In July, two weeks after school ended, we checked our online report card reading rate and it was below 30%. We will be sending out several reminders in different ways in the coming weeks to ensure parents/caregivers are logging into the Parent Portal to check on children’s progress.

7. New for us this year will be a **Ukrainian Program Info Night**. This will be on January 30, 2024, from 5:30-6:15 PM, just before the School Council meeting. Teachers will talk about the program goals, key learnings about Ukrainian language and the Ukrainian culture, and the many community and cultural events students will participate in, including the Pysanka Festival, babka making, and Ukrainian dance shows.

8. We welcomed Mrs. Jodi Lakevold to our staff this month. Miss Jodi is our part time **Family School Liaison Worker**. She connects with families and students on Mondays and Fridays.

At the meeting both of our school’s grade 2 teachers were there. Mrs.Reid and Mrs. Barlott shared they have been working very hard on concert practice for our upcoming concert December 14th. In social they are talking about communities and in the most recent days have been talking about Iqaluit. Both classes have been talking about the weather and have been taking advantage of the nice temperatures while it lasts.

8**. New Business** (to proceed if a Chair/Vice-Chair is chosen) Tabled as positions were not filled

a. Alberta School Council Association (ASCA) membership and learning sessions grant $500\*

b. Motion to use a past School Council donation for books for the playground.

-$12 327 amount in school generated funds budget

c. Yearbook offering for 2023-24 – discussion.

d. New school newsletter format– feedback for school administration

9. **Next Meeting** – January 30, 2024

10. **Adjourned** at 7:01pm