A.L HOTON ELEMENTARY PARENT COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 27, 2021 ONLINE MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: K. Busenius, R.Lal , K.Allan, R. Footz, H. Dinwoodie, A. Hankirk, R. Yackimec, D Ambrock, B. Barkwell, D.Gara, E.Robert, C.Granger, E.Seimers, R.Miller, J. Galeta

1. Call to order- Ken Allan 6:31 pm

2. Review of the agenda: All approved

3. Approval of the minutes, as presented:

 A. May 2021- No changes made. Approved by R. Yackimec seconded E. Robert

4. Principal Report- Keri Busenius

Keri recognized all the staff in the building and their hard work on individualized programing. Safety and school rules are talked about daily and our safety posters are placed everywhere throughout the school. Beginning and end of the bay safety is important. We have seen some families walking between busses and we are working on patrolling this. We have full hand sanitizers at every door in the school and at the entrance into every classroom. At this time every staff and student are wearing masks. Mask breaks can happen when there is eating, at recess and during gym time. Throughout the summer we had some cameras installed throughout the schools. It’s been helping us keep down incidents outside of bathrooms during high traffic times.

Our enrollment numbers are up at the school. K-6 there are 327 students enrolled altogether. 78% of them are in the English program and 22% are in the Ukrainian program. Our school runs on a ten period day. Periods 8-10 are when the kids split and go with their English/ Ukrainian groups. At that time they study social, health and gym. Our largest group is our ¾ bilingual classes that have 30 kids. Our school currently has 16 kids total in our LINKS and PALS programs. Our classes throughout the schools also combine for gym and library and this is when our teachers get their prep time.

Rita has run three fire drills for our school so far. All have gone wonderful.

WE have had our first spirit day September 10th which was funny shirt day. We also had our first school wide event where we left the school grounds for TERRY FOX. Field trip forms had to be signed and brought back to attend. All of the volunteers had to show proof of vaccination.

Avery Hankirk spoke to us about her grade five class. She said her novel study for the book Hatchet has been going well. All of the kid’s seem engaged and are often begging to read further on in the chapter.

Brendan Barkwell spoke about his classroom where he said the classroom community is tighter then he has seen it in the past. The culture and friendship building is wonderful. All of the kids seem very eager to be there.

Upcoming school events: orange shirt day, read in week, world mental health day, on alert and lock down practise, school photos October 5th, hot lunches, bus evacuations and parent teacher interviews.

7. Trustee Report: Randy Footz-

From June Meeting:

The Board approved nominating Dow Chemical Canada for the 2021 Friends of Education Award, an annual event hosted by the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA).

The award’s purpose: To recognize and thank the many Alberta-based organizations that contributes to education in their community. Every year, Dow Chemical Canada makes significant financial contributions to EIPS:

~ A $20,000 annual donation to maintain the Partners For Science program,

~ This year, Dow Chemical Canada generously donated funds to support First Nations, Métis and Inuit students. An outdoor learning centre largely funded by Dow was opened in Fort Saskatchewan on September 17.

~ A $50,000 donation to the Partners In Education program to fund junior high STEM and Career and Technology Foundations courses. Collectively, Dow’s ongoing financial and support in terms of employees who volunteer at many EIP schools offer students huge advantages, enhance student learning, and the company has had a lifelong impact on education within EIPS.

From August 18, 2021 Meeting: I will not review the Masking Policy which was established at this meeting as everyone here is familiar with the requirements nor will I review the change made to that policy at the September 2 meeting.

The Board of Trustees, along with senior administration, will continue to monitor the public health situation and adjust the Division’s operating guidelines as necessary.

The Board approved the recommendation to amend the 2021-22 Division calendar to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a federal holiday. The day lands on September 30. Going forward, the Division will mark the day as a school-closure day.

From September 16 Board Meeting:

READ IN Week 2021 will take place during the week of October 4th to 8th, 2021.

September is the time for a review of Trustee remuneration. The pay schedule will remain the same as it was for the previous year.

Starting September 20 and until October 25, 2021, volunteers within the EIPS will require proof of Vaccination. Currently, a single dose is considered acceptable so long as the dose was given more than 14 days before entering the school. After October 25, proof of double vaccination is required and so long as the second shot was received 14 days prior to entry, volunteers will be admitted.

\*\* On September 16, Alberta schools reached the ten percent threshold that qualifies them as achieving outbreak status.

Ten days later the number of schools with outbreaks reached 150

8 New Business:

a) Review of School Council Responsibilities: Consult with the principal to ensure students have opportunities to meet ministry standards, fiscal management is sound and the community is taken into consideration in planning.

Advise the principal and school board on topics as requested, being involved in school based planning, sharing ideas and information with other school councils, setting policies to relate to other school council functions.

b) School Council Meeting Rules: We will assure good intentions of all members of the school council, address all comments to the chair and we will debate and discuss ideas and not people. When necessary we expect the chair to remind us to stay on topic, to not repeat ourselves and to stay within a time limit.

c) Officer Elections:

Chair- Kenneth Allan

Vice Chair- Dana Ambrock

Secretary- Hannah Dinwoodie

Parents at Large: Jamie G, Dana A, Rachel M

Kindergarten Parent at Large: Hannah Dinwoodie

d) Approval of the annual report 2020-2021- Accepted as presented E. Robert, seconded by R. Yackimec

e) 2020-2021 meeting schedule:

During the 2020-2021 school years, the school council met on the following dates:

· September 27 2020

· October 26 2020

· November 29 2020

· January 25 2021

· February 22 2021

· March 22 2021

· April 26 2021

· May 31 2021

Highlights of the Council’s activities include:

· Gave feedback on school activities as directed by the principal, including changes to the school fees structure.

· Reviewed ASCA advocacy resolutions to determine which to support at the ASCA AGM.

· Continued to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

f) New school council email address: alhschoolcouncil@gmail.com

9) Next Meeting: October 25, 2021

10) Adjourned - 7:33 pm by Ken Allan