

School Council Meeting

A L Horton School, 5037 48 Avenue, Vegreville, AB
October 25, 2021 online via Google Meet
<https://meet.google.com/shi-ykot-xih>

Attendees:

Attendees: K. Busenius, R.Lal , K.Allan, R. Footz, H. Dinwoodie, C. Giebelhaus, R. Yackimec, D Ambrock, M.Semeniuk, D.Gara, T. Horon, R.Miller, J. Galeta, Weleschuk, Jamie K,

1. Call to order- 6:32pm by Ken Allan

2. Review of the Agenda

3. Approval of the Minutes, as presented (OR as amended) *

a. September 2021 approved by: D. Gara and seconded by R. Yackimec

4. Outstanding Business

a. new email address – alhortonschoolcouncil@gmail.com

b. Meeting Rules Update- This is an ongoing process Ken is working through and keeping us updated on.

5. Principal's Report: Keri Busenius

A) Introduction of staff here tonight: Assistant principal Rita Lal, Grade 3 teacher and one of our Literacy Lead teachers, Melanie Semeniuk and the wearer of many hats (PALS teacher, Grade 5 math teacher, & School Counsellor, Chloe Giebelhaus)

B) Upcoming Events:

`Secret Path Week Work Oct 17 - 22 (story of Chanie Wenjack and retold by Gord Downie, singer/songwriter for the Tragically Hip)

` Early interviews on Oct 26 and 27 - planning for 3:15 - 7:30 p.m.

` AMA Safety Patrollers start leading at the crosswalks this week - busy area out there during arrival and dismissal.

`Halloween events October 29 around the school; video coming for families

` Picture retakes Nov 1

` Remembrance Day virtual assembly Nov 5 - sent home unlisted link to families

` Fall Break Nov 8 - 12 No School

` Bullying Awareness & Prevention Week or Friendship/Kindness Week Nov 15 - 19

`The Christmas Concert Committee is just getting warmed up and planning has begun.

C) Celebrations & Events:

- `Read in Week was Oct 4 – 8. Lots of reading of text in all subject areas, we tuned in to some virtual readings that week.
- ` Bookroom and Library visits are happening weekly with every class.
- ` World Mental Health Day was Oct 10 with a week of talking about mental health
- ` The Pandemic has increased stress in all families and passes on to our children. When children are anxious, worried, frustrated, stressed - this affects their bodies and minds and can result in less sleep, poor eating habits, escape into too much screen time, etc. We know that moving the body (walks, games, exercise) is what children need and we all need, as is connecting with others (which is fraught with its own challenges), laughing, long hugs, long cries -these must have activities are what pop adults and children out of the stress cycle and signal to our brains and bodies that we are okay. Our children aren't engaging in enough of those activities.
- `CALS Breakfast Club - 3 mornings a week
- ` Leadership for Gr 4-6
- ` Hot dog lunch Wednesdays
- ` Dawn Ionetz, various EAs are helping in and around our school to make this possible. More volunteers are needed. They are working on ensuring they are warm when students come in from recess. Condiments must be doled out by staff, and they are working on vegetarian options if some students do not eat pork or beef.
- `Hot lunches- Subway, Loco Burro (delicious), Thank you, Mrs. Bay and Mrs. Golka!
- ` Bus Safety Week was Oct 18-22 and Bus Evacuation Drills completed
- ` Safety Side our On Alert to Lockdown Drill complete
- ` Positive tickets continue to flood our mailboxes! Be Safe, Show Respect, Work Hard, Finish Strong, Help Someone, Be You!
- ` Second draw for small prizes is on November 1
- ` New staff: Angelique Rodriguez, EA in LINKS Program and has joined the OOSCare team
- ` Yvette Korpan, EA in PALS & Kindergarten, Grade 6 (Bus driver)

D) Playground info- fundraising is needed. Keri stated we have two years remaining on our structures.

E) Results from Alberta Education Surveys (Parents, Students, Teachers) & EIPS Surveys (Staff & Parents).

- ` AB Ed survey citizenship, learning, and engagement

7. Trustee's Report: Randy Footz

The cost of the insurance for busses has jumped from \$1,300 to \$4,300 per bus, an increase of 358%. The increase occurred in November of 2020 and has caused several small contractors to cease operations. This may mean that provincially several routes will be eliminated and areas where that has happened ride times will increase.

EIPS Enrolment has dropped to 16,836 - a decrease of 66 students.

The election saw 4 new trustees elected to the EIPS Board of trustees. Three trustees, Heather Wall and Harvey Stadnick from Fort Saskatchewan, along with long serving Skip Gordon, from the County of Strathcona had opted to retire. Incumbent trustee, Annette Hubick of Sherwood Park, was defeated at the polls. Newly elected trustees include Cathy Allen in Sherwood Park, and Susan Miller in the County of Strathcona. Fort Saskatchewan will be represented by Jacqueline Shotbolt and Ralph Sorochnan, a recently retired principal from that city.

An organizational meeting for the new board is scheduled for Thursday October 28.

December 1 is the deadline day for complying with the EIPS Vaccination requirement for employees, contractors, volunteers and visitors.

8. New Business

- a. Alberta School Councils Association Website
- b. ATA Report from COSC Meeting- concerned letter from a teacher. Reminder that grace and kindness is important at this unprecedented time.

11. Next Meeting – November 29 2021

12. Adjourn- 7:21 pm By Ken Allan