School Council Meeting

A.L Horton School

January 24, 2022 at 6:30 p.m

Online Via Google Meet

Attendees: K, Allan, K. Busenius, R. Lal, H.Dinwoodie, D.Barlot, R.Footz, R. Yackimec, C.Granger, K.Warawa, K.Bortnick, D.Gara, K.Perepeletza, D.Ambrock, J.Galeta, T.Horon, R.Miller, M.Axten

1. Call to order @ 6:32 PM By Ken Allan
2. Review of the agenda
3. Approval of the minutes as presented - November 2021

Approved by R.Yackimec, seconded by J.Galeta

1. Principal’s Report: Kerri Busenius

 Upcoming Events:

` Safety information - Fire inspection this week.

` Professional learning for staff over the next 6 weeks. Jan 31 PD day which will include emergency first aid in Mundare for many staff and our new curriculum introduction for teachers. Teachers will also be collaborating on reading, writing, and math instructional practices.online, and participating in an Indigenous resources session.

` Feb. 2 (early dismissal) staff meeting. We will be having a division consultant Jeremy Albert is doing and teaching about smudge for staff and then building relationships with us with a physically distanced talking circle.

` Reading focus: K-3 teachers attending early literacy sessions in February focused on phonemic awareness and K-6 teachers working on reading workshops with consultants `Feb 10 & 11 is Teachers’ Convention.

`March 4 PD day for teachers and classified staff; big focus on the new curriculum for ELA, Math, & Phys. Ed/Wellness

` Early interviews on Feb 22 & 23 - we had anticipated we would be in person 5 weeks from now, but we are waiting on final guidance in the next week. Our first thoughts had been to offer one evening in person and one evening of interviews by phone/Google Meet

Celebrations & Events :

` Volunteerism is helpful! Some days of academic review for students making it to school when the buses are not running. Teachers use Google Meet and Brightspace regularly to help build student familiarity.

Budget, Planning, and Staffing:

`Staff changes were announced in the January 13 newsletter: Mrs. Hayduk is back and in Grade 2 after her maternity leave. Miss Wright moved from Grade 2 to Grade 5. Mrs. Hankirk moved from Grade 5 to Learning Disruption with Grades 2 and 3. Ms. Palsitt joined us in Grade 4 and 3/4 UB. We said farewell to Mrs. Divytska who is working closer to her home in Edmonton now.

`We are beginning to plan for 2022-2023 already.

`January 20 was the Ukrainian Program parent consultation meeting. We checked in with families online and invited thoughts from parents not in attendance re: ○ 40% instruction in Ukrainian next year, up from 30% this year. Preference for a focus on Ukrainian in academic subjects OR a focus on language and culture events and activities. Attrition this winter due to learning loss and worries about 40% rigor next year. ` Themes from the meeting and questions raised were shared in the January 21 newsletter online and emailed home.

` Returning student registration and Kindergarten registration begins on Feb 1 online.

` Planning budget and fees for 2022/2023. Survey going home to all families January 25th for feedback.

Fees chart:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Bym1d27RjMkqgxbitkVCvB eaO6Y1NzhGyFLHkfdN3UI/edit?usp=sharing

Denise Barlot: Grade 2 celebrations recently involve them beginning to read non fiction books with readers workshop. The students have really been showing their love for reading in Mrs. Barlots class.

Kelsey Bortnick: Kindergarten has now started a read at home program. This is separate from their weekly library visit. They have also been focussing on a snowman unit where they have been building, creating and imagining all things related to snowmen.

1. Trustee Report: Randy Footz

In September 2022, the new K-6 curriculum for English Language Arts, Math and Physical Education will be implemented. Social Studies curriculum has been sent back for a rewrite. Other subjects will be implemented at a later time. The Board Chair of EIPS wrote a letter to Minister LaGrange encouraging “the Minister to implement the Language Arts and Math curriculum beginning in kindergarten and Grade 1 only and the Physical Education and Wellness curriculum in grades kindergarten through 6.”

A 17-member advisory group has been appointed by the minister to make recommendations on the implementation of the new curriculum. The advisory group is made up of members of the Alberta School Boards association, the College of Alberta School Superintendents, government officials, representatives of the group which prepared the curriculum and 3 teachers.

“The NWT announced that they are going to end their long-time relationship with Alberta (NWT has used the Alberta Curriculum and Alberta Provincial Achievement and Diploma exams) and that they’re going to be instead teaching British Columbia’s curriculum.”

Alberta Education requires that each school division prepare an annual report. EIPS’ Annual Education Results Report for 2020-21 is available at eips.ca.

Throughout November, the Board took part in the System Assurance Reviews, a division-wide forum for schools and departments to share with the Board their individual results, annual plans, budgets, successes and challenges. The sessions were held virtually and open to EIPS families and community members.

Review of Ukrainian Bi-lingual program: All programs are reviewed within a 5-year period to ensure that the program is meeting the requirements of Alberta Education.

There has been much discussion as to the use and effectiveness of HEPA filters in Alberta classrooms. EIPS understands that an effective ventilation system is essential for the health and well-being of students and staff and helps ensure a safe learning and working environment. HEPA Filters are intended for use in areas where mechanical ventilation does not exist. Health Canada advises that portable HEPA filters should not be used as a replacement for proper indoor ventilation.

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of students and staff:

* Conducts regular inspections and maintenance of all heating, ventilation and AC systems in all EIPS schools and buildings.
* EIPS runs the ventilation systems for extra time before and after school to ensure contaminants are removed.
* The air in EIPS Builds is exchanged 3 times every hour.
* EIPS is in regular consultation with Alberta Education, Alberta Health, Alberta Labor/Occupational Health and Safety and Alberta Health Services and follows their recommended protocols.

Education Minister Adriana LaGrange said schools have been focusing on ensuring their HVAC systems are running efficiently, but she does not generally encourage the use of stand-alone HEPA filters. Ventilation is a more effective way to help prevent the spread of because it replaces stale indoor air with fresh outdoor air.

Under the heading of “Food for Thought” – at the COSC Meeting last week it was suggested that the grant money for school councils be used for a series of speaker sessions. At present the executive has three speakers in mind but would like to increase that to four or five. They want to ensure that the topics will appeal to school council groups in both rural and urban areas and would like to know if anyone has a suggestion for either a speaker or topic.

The calendar for the 2022-23 school year has been adopted by the board and is available on the EIPS website.

The Board approved the school fee parameters for the 2022-23 school year. The parameters are based on the guidelines laid out within the new *Education Act* and the Board’s mandate for affordable school fees. An increase of 5% or cost recovery are deemed acceptable for most courses.

The Board approved a budget reallocation because of an unanticipated surplus of $1.5 million. The Division will use the funds to:

* hire two family school liaison workers, a consultant for the Specialized System programs and two occupational therapists;
* assist with implementing the new curriculum;
* support French Immersion and French-language programming;
* cover human resources costs related to staff and substitute compensation;
* develop a Division communication platform for staff and families;
* purchase Enterprise Level Division Form Solution Software;
* develop a new report card before September 2022; and
* replace more than 1,500 Chromebook reaching end of life

6. New Business:

1. School Council grant: The Alberta government is offering a $500.00 grant for school councils to use. This is not to be used on conference fees. There was a discussion around having Dr. Jody Carrignton speak, to have a curriculum expert or an ASCA speaker present. We made a motion that we all supported a shared PD opportunity with schools in EIPS. Motion made by J.Galeta and seconded by D.Gara. CARRIED.
2. Ukrainian Bilingual Program at School Council Meeting: The discussion was had and there was no decision made at this time regarding a separate member of the school council meeting. This is going to be something that is discussed ongoing at our next meetings.

7. Next Meeting: February 28, 2022 @ 6:30pm

8. Adjourned @ 7:32 pm By Ken Allan