

Al Horton Elementary Parent Council
February 28, 2022
Online Meeting Minutes

Attendees: H. Dinwoodie, R. Footz, M. Axten, K. Powley, S. Kozak, R. Lal, K. Busenius, D. Ambrock, K. Allan, R. Yackimec, J. Galeta, T. Horon, C. Sen, D. Gara

Call to order- 6:31pm by Ken Allan

Review of the agenda: All Approved

Approval of the minutes, as presented : a) January 2022 Jamie Galeta, seconded by Dana Ambrock

Principals Report: Kerri Busenius

Updates & Events: Safety- EIPS Operations Guidelines as of this week after the province's announcement on Saturday to lift restrictions: student masking is not mandatory (unless a child has had COVID in last 5 days and has returned to school asymptomatic; 5 additional days of masking required as per COVID health guidelines AND unless a child is ill with symptoms and is in sick area). Adults are not required to wear masks as of March 1, but mask use is encouraged. Requirements for cohorting, physical distancing, and capacity limits for gathering (eg., assemblies) have been removed from operations guidelines.

Upcoming assemblies and events proposed:

Wendy Brook Festival in the school

Kindergarten Info Night on April 7

No changes yet on playground arrangements for who can use equipment when at recess; we will discuss this with staff this week; social skills and self-regulation remain concerns, along with overcrowding on play equipment during winter.

Hand hygiene practices and sanitizing of shared surfaces continues at main doors and in all classrooms/breakout areas. A couple of families have been asking about microwave use; OHS, other elementary schools, and staff reviewing this practice due to many concerns (safety, loss of instructional time, cleaning needed, microwave costs for replacement vs buying tech).

Events in Ukraine:

Addressed in video announcements, briefly in school newsletter, and a bit on social media platforms in a show of support for staff and families with loved ones in Ukraine.

Teachers and support staff opening lines of communication in age-appropriate ways across the school - English and Ukrainian programs - because children hear the news and are on social

media and worry about war and family and events coming close to home (not knowing - many of them - where Ukraine is in the world).

Leadership club working on a small event in school (eg., cookie with blue and yellow sale) to raise awareness and funds for humanitarian aid; action helps when you feel helpless.

Professional Learning for staff to improve student learning and achievement.

March 2 staff meeting - reading workshop assessment focus, re-engagement and attendance session (a concern for us), EA and office team meetings.

March 4 professional learning day - First Aid (10 staff), Classified staff online for variety of session offerings, teachers working on new curriculum preparation and student thinking in the reader's workshop.

Early interviews on Feb 22 & 23 - 71% attendance on the two nights + additional noon and after school interviews teachers scheduled for some families.

Report cards are released online in the Parent Portal on March 18 by 4 PM. Term 3 begins.

Surveys - Gathering data from Grade 4 parents; Alberta Education has mailed a print survey with an online code to all Grade 4 families in the province. Helpful info gleaned related to school culture, engagement, and student achievement. EIPS Survey is also coming out later this month. Also gives us excellent information related to parent engagement and student achievement. I imagine Randy will speak to it more.

Celebrations & Events:

Pink Shirt Day events with important learning sessions

Black History month highlights on announcements and in many classes

Bell Let's Talk Day for increased talk about mental health and wellness for all ages

Spirit days - Tropical Dress and more - are helpful for connecting and laughter in our school.

Staff changes:

Miss Anna Hamill joined our educational assistant team a week ago, working in LINKS, Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 4

We are beginning to plan for 2022-2023 already

RS Registration ended today, Feb. 28

Still 80 families to phone and assist with RSR

High level budget was released last week; Central Office waiting on specifics coming in late March.

Fee recommendations are going to the Board for 2022/2023: survey feedback summary document to share.

Sandra Kozak our grade one teacher spoke: In grade one they are focussing on fiction reading. they are taking a deeper look at the table of contents, glossary and using expression.

Kayla Powley our other grade one teacher spoke: they are focussing on readers workshop and fiction reading. They are using their detective skills and dressing up and incorporating detective strategies to study fiction reading.

Rita Lal spoke: We had two consultants from our district come out and have a smudging ceremony and talking circle during our last early dismissal. March 16 we are getting a turn with the giant map. We are going to have a consultant here to guide us through using the map and show us how to embrace our timeline of our first nations people.

Trustees Report: Randy Footz

The Board approved sponsoring the registration fee for school council members to take part in the 2022 Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) School Council Conference and Annual General Meeting. The conference takes place April 22-24. The Board will fund the cost of one registration fee per EIPS school—up to a maximum of \$5,000. Cost of registration is \$125.00

The newly released budget should make the balance of the year interesting, but it's effect will be spread out over the next 3 years.

Money has been made available for resource development. Over the next three years, Education will invest \$191 million to implement Alberta's renewed curriculum for Kindergarten to Grade 12.

Over the next three years \$110 million will be provided in targeted funding to support students experiencing academic and mental health challenges, and student well-being.

\$3.9 billion for Early Childhood Services to Grade 12 Base Instruction grants.

\$1.4 billion for Learning Support Funding to support specialized learning needs and provide for additional supports to students. \$654 million for Operations and Maintenance to support well-maintained and safe schools. \$319 million to support the transportation system for 300,000 students across Alberta.

New Division Guidelines have been e-mailed to all EIPS families as the province has entered Step 2 of its lifting of public-health measures which will take effect on March 1. Since the initial message the Division has decided that adults need not wear masks in EIPS buildings but the Division encourages the continued use of masks by adults.

On Tuesday, March 1, we encourage all staff and students to wear blue and yellow—the national colours of Ukraine—as we stand in solidarity with the people of that country.

6. New Business: a) Ukranian Bilingual Program at School Coucil Meetings- tabled until March 21st meeting.

7. Next Meeting- March 21, 2022

8. Meeting Adjourned: 7:01pm By Ken Allan