

AL Horton Online School Council Meeting Minutes
Monday March 21, 2022

Attendees: H.Dinwoodie, K.Busenius, R.Lal, K.Perpeletza, R.footz, J.Galeta, D.Ambrock, T.Horon, V.Hayduk, R.Yackimec, M.Palsitt, S.Eftoda

Call To Order: 6:30 pm By Dana Ambrock (Ken absent)

1) Review of the Agenda: All approved

2) Approval of the minutes as presented :

A) February 2022 - Approved by D.Ambrock and seconded by J.Galeta

3) Principals Report By: Keri Busenius:

Updates & Events: Report cards were released online via the Parent Portal on March 18
We are focusing on a growth mindset and goal setting on daily announcements. Parent feedback about going back to receiving paper copies of report cards over electronic ones.

Surveys to fill out :

Alberta Education - all Grade 4 families

EIPS Survey closes March 27

ALH Attendance concerns - about 50 letters sent out to families for students with 20-40% absenteeism; see attached letter sample

Kindergarten Information Night moved back to May 17, 2022

EIPS Technology Analysis and Strategy: About 59 Chromebooks are being sent to techno-trash this year due to no longer being secure/supported or repairable. We prioritized the purchase of 30 Chromebooks at a lower price to replace the cart we will lose this year

New curriculum implementation in 22/23: Kindergarten to Grade 3 will be using the new English Language Arts and Mathematics curriculum. Kindergarten to Grade 6 will be teaching the new Physical Education & Wellness curriculum.

Celebrations & Events in our school:

St. Patrick's Day fun with leprechaun traps and messes throughout our school

Hat Day school spirit

Readathon online draw winners announced this week

Wendy Brook Festival hosted here last week - LINKS, Kinder, Gr 1/2, Gr 3/4, Gr 5/6 Ukrainian classes and many duets and solos performed for adjudicator and audience.

Staff will be discussing spring assemblies at the April staff meeting.

Mrs. Hayduk speaks about her grade two class and shares that in the readers workshop they are starting to wrap up their non fiction unit. In grade 2 they are learning to use prior knowledge and are starting to note the differences in text features. Vanessa also shared that in math they are wrapping up their unit on 2D and 3D geometry.

Mrs. Palsitt shared that in grade four math they are working on fractions and when we see and use fractions in the real world. Also, in the readers workshop they are studying historical fiction. Mrs. Palsitt also shared that in gym class they are looking forward to curling this upcoming week.

Mrs. Lal - giant Indigenous floor map for FNMI and visit from our sister school, Pleasant Ridge Colony.

Brief parent discussion on Mrs. Jenny's summer camp being held at our school again this summer. Keri shared that at this time it will not be an option as facilities has said it is not something we can run in our building as of now over the summer months.

Staffing/Programming:

We are waiting on Alberta Education's Grade 1 Learning Disruption Funding.

Planning for 2022-2023:

Enrolment numbers are more difficult to work with this year; combined classes may be necessary due to class sizes of 37 or 15-17 being unviable.

Reviewing and revising our School Education Plan goals and strategies in April and May.

Absent attached sample letter:

Did you know that every day of absence and each late arrival affects your child's learning?

Attendance at school helps kids...

Work in a team

Feel more confident at school

Problem solve in a group

Develop important social skills

Feel like part of a community

Listen to and respect different ideas

Build friendships with peers and positive relationships with adults

Learn and grow

Did you know that if your child misses two days of school a month it will equal 20 days of school in one year? This is equal to one full month of school missed! Over a school career, 20 missed days of school in a school year is equal to 240 school days. That is equivalent to more than one year of schooling.

While useful digital tools are available to help support teachers and students to stay in touch, online work is not the same as being in a classroom in front of a dedicated, trained professional and participating and working alongside peers.

Elementary school is a time when foundations are built for lifelong literacy and numeracy skills. Reading strategies and math concepts build upon each other each week and it is difficult to fill in gaps in learning due to instruction missed.

We realize that school attendance has been challenging for some students. They may be feeling anxious, lonely, or overwhelmed, and we are doing all we can to support them here at school, including:

Having a daily focus on social-emotional learning and purposeful movement breaks
Sharing strategies as an instructional team to help with students' mental health, academic achievement, social skills, and engagement in learning
Tracking lates and absences and informing parents and guardians
Speaking with students to find ways (bedtime routine, setting limits on technology use, getting up earlier, setting an alarm, having a granola bar for breakfast) to be on time and at school on a regular basis

You can find attached a recent printout related to your child's attendance, absenteeism, and lates.

This year, your child has missed _____ of instructional days.

We have noted _____ days away due to illness, leaving _____ full days absent.

4) Trustees Report: Randy Footz

The Board approved EIPS' nomination of Shell Canada in Fort Saskatchewan for the 2022 Friends of Education Award, an annual Alberta School Boards Association recognition of organizations that contribute to education within their local community.

Over the last 3 years, Shell Scotford through the "Shell in the Community" grant has provided the Division with over \$185,000 to support the development of Indigenous Outdoor Spaces. These additional resources have allowed EIPS to create 8 Indigenous Outdoor Spaces in Fort Saskatchewan/Bruderheim and has provided funds to begin the creation of similar spaces in Sherwood Park and Lamont. The additional spaces are currently in the planning stage.

Shell Scotford, through their Fueling Kindness initiative have also provided staff to support various initiatives within the Division. Shell has provided staff to read during Read-in-week, interact with students about Math in the workplace during Week of Inspirational Math

The Board of Trustees approved the access of \$1,401,500 from operating reserves for the following:

- ~ \$68,000 for emergency strobe lighting in CTS areas to enhance safety for all students
- ~ \$252,000 to complete Facility Condition Assessments of all schools.
- ~ \$18,000 to replace fire alarm panels in Central Services.
- ~ \$63,500 for a support analyst position which would be a shared resource between Human Resources and Payroll and Finance starting in February 2022.
- ~ \$1,000,000 to fund additional COVID costs that may arise between now and year-end.

The province will proceed with the new K-6 curriculum in the areas of Language Arts, Mathematics and Physical Education. Final copies of the curriculum are expected to be released sometime in April.

New School Announcement

The Board received the news that the Planning and Design phase of a new school slated for the current Sherwood Heights Junior High School to replace the existing structure.

The new school will have capacity for up to 1,200 students in a dual-track French and English immersion school made up of students from Sherwood Heights and École Campbelltown.

The cost of replacing Sherwood Heights Junior High School is expected to be around \$40.8 million.

Chair Boymook addressed a letter to the Minister of Education to express our displeasure with the department's decision to spend \$72 million for funding of Alberta's 16 charter schools. The \$72 million represents 5% of the money budgeted for funding Alberta's 2,266 K -12 schools. To put this in proper perspective, the 16 charter schools receive the same amount in provincial grant money that 119 public schools receive.

Charter schools generally focus on a specific aspect of education, like music or outdoor learning. Charter schools usually operate out of schools which have been closed by school boards. Typically, they are run by their own boards, have their own superintendent. Those who teach at charter schools are not part of the ATA receive less pay and may not have accreditation required by those boards which are part of the ASBA

*** Charter schools are essentially private schools funded by the province.

Effective Monday March 21, the policy requiring mandatory vaccination will be suspended for both current and future EIPS employees, as well as all contractors and volunteers.

This decision has been adopted by many school divisions in Alberta in accordance with the overall rate of vaccination across the province and the recent change in public health restrictions.

5) Outstanding Business:

- a) Ukrainian Bilingual program representative- Tabled until April's meeting.

6) Next Meeting: April 25th, 2022 @ 6:30 pm

7) Meeting Adjourned: By Dana Ambrock @ 7:10 pm.