

Friends of A. L. Horton School Society

Meeting Minutes

April 25/22, 7:30 pm

Attendance: Dana Ambrock (Chair), Ken Allan, Hannah Dinwoodie, Principal Keri Busenius, Vice Principal Rita Lal.

NOTE: Quorum was not met for this meeting. Those present met informally due to the pressing nature of the business of the society. The decisions of this meeting are to be ratified at the next meeting.

1.0 **Call Meeting to Order:** Meeting called to order at 7:29 PM by Dana Ambrock.

2.0 **Approval of March meeting minutes:** TABLED to next meeting due to lack of quorum.

3.0 **Review of Agenda:** Various items tabled due to lack of quorum. Item added: 5.3 Municipal Council meeting report by Ken Allan

4.0 **Treasurer Report:** TABLED to next meeting due to lack of quorum and absence of Treasurer Denise Gara.

5.0 Old Business

5.1 Read a thon winner summaries: TABLED to next meeting.

5.2 Ukrainian Bilingual Rep: TABLED to next meeting or school council meeting.

5.3 Municipal Council meeting report by Ken Allan: Ken Allan presented to Town of Vegreville Council about playground replacement on March 22. The presentation was well received overall, and Town Council seems willing to help us reach our goals to the limits of its capacity. There were a few questions - Do we have priorities for construction? Do we have a separate society for fundraising? What would the lifespan of the new playgrounds be - we don't want to run into a situation when all three expire at the same time again. Council directed us to contact Phil Rowe, the Community Services Director, to set up an appointment. The Town is limited in the support it can provide directly to the school but may be able to loan funds to the Friends group (since it's a separate society) to help us get some matching grants.

Ken spoke to Phil Rowe, Community Services Director, around April 11. Phil forwarded a grant opportunity to Ken's email on April 4. Phil said the Town probably couldn't contribute directly to playground, since the town funds own playgrounds, and would be obligated to do so for other schools. However, they could be willing to loan some money for the purposes of getting matching grants.

After the meeting, Councillor Taneen Rudyk suggested seeking out information on survey on community resources put together by AB Health, Education, and Service AB(?). Phil may have local information to compare to this survey. Also suggested asking County for funding.

ACTION ITEM: Ken A to send grant email received from Phil Rowe to executive.

ACTION ITEM: Ken A to contact County of Minburn to request date to present to council on playground replacement.

6.0 Standing Business

6.1 Casino – Casino dates set for September 26 and 27, 2022 in Camrose, AB. There is some concern that finding the required volunteers for these dates could be difficult, as they are a Monday and Tuesday. However, it was suggested that if the casino was in the evening it may be easier to find volunteers. It was determined that more information was needed about the exact start and end times of the casino.

ACTION ITEM: Dana A to contact Denise Gara to find out details about the exact start and end times of the casino.

6.2 Build a playground

6.2.1 Confirm start dates and roles of volunteers: The group debated whether to hold the build a playground fundraiser at all, as the start time was coming quickly and many executive members and regular volunteers were exhausted or overwhelmed. Many at the meeting felt much of the responsibility for the playground was falling onto the shoulders of a small group of parent volunteers. It was suggested that some of the responsibilities be divided into small concrete tasks that could be passed onto others that could be managed by members of the executive.

The group also felt it was important to continue to get the word out that the all of the current playgrounds are to be removed in the summer of 2023, just over a year from now, which would leave the school without any playgrounds. The group felt the scope and consequences of the current situation should be better communicated to the community. The group also remembered that various businesses in the community had previously stated they would be willing to

donate to playground replacement. It was determined that a letter to businesses and a script for volunteers was needed.

At the end of the discussion, it was decided that the build a playground fundraiser would go ahead as scheduled. It was also decided that the society would focus on larger-scale fundraisers for the remainder of the year, and less on smaller-return fundraisers such as hot dog sales or popcorn fundraisers.

ACTION ITEM: Dana A or Jamie Galeta to contact radio station to get an interview about upcoming playground removal and need for replacement.

ACTION ITEM: Dana A and Jamie Galeta to provide a list of businesses who had stated they might be willing to donate to playground replacement.

ACTION ITEM: Ken A to create a business letter to be presented to interested businesses, as well as a script or speaking notes for the reference of volunteers.

7.0 Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM by Dana A.