AL Horton School Council Meeting Minutes

Monday September 19th, 2022

**Attendees:** H. Dinwoodie, R.Lal, K.Busenius, R.Footz, K.Allan, H.Reid, D.Barlott, B.Dribnenki, B.Burke, J.Bhatia, K.Alghadeir, S.Golka, K.Popwich, D.Gara, C.Granger, W.Kayisire

1. **Call To Order:** 6:33 pm by Ken Allan
2. **Review of the agenda:** All approved
3. **Approval of the minutes as presented:**
4. May 2022- Approved by D.Gara and seconded by K.Allan

**4. Trustee Report: Randy Footz**

June 16:

EIPS PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

In May, the Board approved the EIPS Three-Year Engagement Strategy, which details the Division’s engagement efforts over the next three years. The plan entitled, EIPS Three-Year Engagement Strategy, identifies areas the Division can improve operations to best serve students—such as programming and school capacity considerations. In June, EIPS hosted four public engagement sessions: two about ways to improve school attendance boundaries in Sherwood Park, one related to addressing capacity concerns at James Mowat Elementary, and a fourth about how best to manage enrollment within the Logos Christian Program. These sessions will continue in the fall.

August 25:

WELCOME BACK PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Board hosted a Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast for staff at EIPS Central Services. The breakfast is an annual event the Board puts on to kickstart the school year and thank EIPS staff for the work they do for the Division.

The Board held its annual organizational meeting, which included nominations and elections for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions. Trustee Trina Boymook was acclaimed the Chair, and Trustee Colleen Holowaychuk was acclaimed the Vice-Chair.

September 1:

The Board of Trustees approved the recommendation to ask the Minister of Education for permission to access Division reserves. Specifically, Elk Island Public School will ask to use $2.2 million—$1 million from operating reserves and $1.2 million from capital reserves—to cover the costs for needed repairs to Salisbury Composite High’s stormwater drainage system.

On September 13, the Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Board of Trustees met with Education Minister Adriana LaGrange. At the meeting trustees shared concerns about the lack of progress on the Sherwood Heights Junior High and École Campbelltown replacement school, the need for more modular funding, needed repairs at Salisbury Composite High, and the challenges the Board faces with the new reserve cap which is set at 3.15%.

On September 12 and 14, The Board took part in the Vegreville value scoping session, organized by START Architecture Inc. The session focused on the town’s two EIPS facilities and will help guide the Division’s short-term and long-term facility needs in Vegreville. Participants included Superintendent Liguori, both Associate Superintendents, parents of students currently in attendance at each school, school administrators, EIPS Trustees, representatives from the Town of Vegreville and Village of Andrew and 3 representatives of START Architecture. The board will receive a recommendation from START and address the recommendation as part of the Division’s Three Year Engagement Strategy.

September 15:

TRUSTEE REMUNERATION: 2022-23

The Board approved the trustee remuneration for the 2022-23 school year. Rates will increase by 1.76 per cent, effective Sept. 1, 2022. The rate increase aligns with the pay increase approved for all EIPS classified employees in the spring.

Read In Week: 2022

Read In Week will be taking place October 3-7. Read In Week is a division-wide initiative held annually to encourage a lifelong love of reading and to enhance literacy awareness among students, staff, families and community members. This year’s theme: “Choose Your Own Adventure.”

Summer Maintenance:

Throughout the summer months, Facility Services oversaw a total of 367 summer projects including Infrastructure, Maintenance and Renewal (IMR), Capital Maintenance and Renewal, and additional projects across the Division—98 per cent of which are now complete.

The next COSC meeting is on October 5. It’s an in-person meeting, in the Boardroom at the EIPS Central Services office. Before the meeting, the Board will host a Meet and Greet with school council chairs and principals.

**5. Principals Report By: Keri Busenius**

Ukrainian Heritage Day- cookies were sold toward humanitarian aid

Meet the Staff- we received a lot of positive feedback at the school on this event. It was great to see so many faces and new families coming out.

Field Trip- Our grade five classes represented our school well on their first field trip to the egg park to visit the wetlands. Thank you parent volunteers for your support.

Join your child for lunch- This wednesday we hosted our first child/ parent lunch day of the school year. Thank you to all of the parents who helped out with hot dogs and for joining us at the school. Following that lunch we held our first assembly of the year.

Terry Fox- Our school wide walk will be held Friday September 23, 2022. Our new permission clicks are being used for permission for the walk that day.

Our school population is currently at 351- that is up 20 from last year. ( 28 total in our LINKS classes, 10 in PALS and 323 in our K-6 classes. 100 of those 351 are in our Ukrainian language and culture program. We currently have welcomed 8 families from Ukraine.

Late August Parent Survey:

1. Permission Click- This is a new system for everyone allowing us to use significantly less paper.
2. Field Trips- this year we are basing it on classes. It will be a pay as you go this year, not the 45.00$ upfront that we did as a school last year. That being said we are noticing bus costs are high for field trips so we are keeping an eye on that.
3. Literacy and numeracy: Writing instruction, readers workshop, talk in math, lots of assessments are underway to help students for individualising.
4. Student Conduct- Teachers are all involved with restorative practices. Our student motto is to be safe and show respect. Get curious first; readiness of students is so important.

Denise Barlott, one of our grade two teachers, attended this meeting as a staff representative. Denise shared some of her grade two celebrations. Denise shared how well her whole class has adjusted to a new school year, expectations and new routines. Denise's class has been enjoying joining their grade 5 buddies for literacy and numeracy enrichment.

Heather Reid also joined us and is our other grade two teacher. Heather shared it really has been a joy seeing where all of her new students are at. They are also really enjoying their buddy system as well with our other grade five class.

Rita Lal- On wednesday at our first assembly Cheryl joined us from EIPS when we raised our First Nation Inuit and Metis flag for the first time. Rita also shared that every class is putting together an orange poster with every child's handprint so we can post them throughout our school on September 29th as we continue educating our school about " every child matters" on orange shirt day.

**6. New Business:**

1. About the School Council- We are an advisory body and we do not have a bank account. We respond to matters that are brought to us by our admin. We are able to provide feedback and have group discussions. We are a parent voice for our school as a community. At the school council we do not deal with specific child needs. Those can be discussed with teachers and admin at a different time. If someone is wanting to add an item to the agenda that can be done prior to the meeting start time by contacting Keri, Rita, Ken or anyone on the council. At the school council we make decisions together using a consensus or a vote.
2. Elections:

Chair- Ken Allan

Vice Chair - Willy Kayisire

Secretary- Hannah Dinwoodie

Parents at Large- Jaspreet Bhatia, Denise Gara, Sherise Golka

Kindergarten Parents at Large: Brianna Burke, Bonnie Dribnenki

1. 2022-2023 Meeting Schedule: Last wednesday of every month unless a school closure.

**7. Next Meeting:** October 24, 2022

**8. Adjourn:** 7:25 pm by Ken Allan