

***AL Horton School Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday October 24, 2022***

**Attendees:** R.Lal, K.Busenius, R.footz, B.Burke, S.Golka, D.Gara, D.Ambrock, M.Axten, Willy Kayisire, C.Zorniak, M.Semeniuk, T.Palamarek, H.Dinwoodie

1. Call to order: Hannah Dinwoodie @ 6:30pm
2. Review of the Agenda
3. Approval of the minutes, as presented
  - a) September 2022 Deirse Gara and seconded by Hannah Dinwoodie
4. Old Business- NONE
5. Trustee's Report: Randy Footz

Thank you to the staff at A. L. Horton for inviting me to participate in Read-In Week earlier this month.

As of September 29, 2022, enrollment for the division is 17,460 – an increase of 339 students.

The Board approved the request from Facility Services to apply for funding to be used to:

- Relocate 2 modular classrooms from Ecole Campbelltown to South Pointe School in Fort Saskatchewan.
- Add 2 modular classrooms from Alberta Education to South Pointe School in Fort Saskatchewan.
- Demolish 3 modular classrooms and reclaim the site at Uncas Elementary School.

The Board approved school year calendars for 2023-24 and 2024-25.

- Both calendars have the school year begin before Labor Day and both include a week long November Break.
- Full details will be available on division and school websites.

The Division ended the 2021-22 school year with an overall operating deficit of \$1.76 million, which was less than budgeted, by \$4.58 million. The primary reasons the deficit was less than

budgeted are: lower COVID-19 costs, changes to grant funding, and school and department surpluses. The deficit was offset by operating reserves.

The Division's accumulated surplus totals \$22.69 million, which includes investment in Board funded tangible capital assets (\$5.97 million); operating reserves (\$15.01 million); and capital reserves (\$1.71 million).

## 6. Principal's Report: Keri Busenius

Since the September 19 meeting, we've been working hard:

- Reading workshop in classes, teachers working with consultants
- Writing instruction focus on October 7 and action plans until the December staff meeting
- Educational assistant team focus on October 7
- Communications with families - class newsletters, school newsletters and voice reminders
- Parent phone calls re: absenteeism, positive calls, academic queries
- Leadership awards coming home and on video announcements

Other focus areas for staff have been indigenous teachings, student leadership (lunch and recess helpers, buddy classes, announcements, Haunted House preparations), attendance monitoring, mental health and wellness team referrals and conversations with students, students with special needs in language, behaviour, self-regulation.

**Staffing:** We've been able to hire some part-time educational assistants to help with students with complex needs. Welcome to Kim Stefiuk who joins us this week. Angelique Rodrigues is also working with our team again this year. And welcome to Annie Jesus.

We have a staffing change upcoming in the LINKS program - we welcome Mrs. Roberts to the LINKS teaching team and say farewell to Ms. Umphrey who will be moving on to other teaching positions.

The Grade 3 team was at the meeting to share their celebrations. Melanie Semeniuk spoke to us about her student growth since the beginning of the school year. There has been significant growth in numeracy and literacy. It's also been really neat to see their writing stamina go up. The students are given time to pick any topic and write about it. It has been great to hear children coming up to her and asking her for time to write.

Tracy Palamsrek spoke to us about the grade three's love for science. Hearing and recognizing sounds, specifically. They have been able to use instruments such as violin, record players and guitars. They have been studying specific science concepts and practicing how they apply.

Mrs. Lal, First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Lead, shared that our metis and inuit flag is now in our entryway and on display. Grade 6's have been studying the secret pathway and residential schools. The grade 6's are going to help make a monthly change to a designated metis and inuit bulletin board right outside of our library for all students to see. Rita discussed having a question on the morning announcements to spark conversation around this topic.

This month we also have our giant floor map in our gym where classes got to go and walk the lands. This got a lot of really neat conversations going in all grades. The kindergarten class was observed pretending to canoe on the water then putting on " snow shoes" to walk to land. There was a great classroom discussion around respect.

Mrs. Busenius shared all of the highlights of EIPS Survey & Alberta Assurance Survey from Winter/Spring **2022**

There is concern regarding only six Grade 4 parents responding to the Alberta Assurance Survey - a limited sampling. Keri discussed working on messaging to families in January to watch for surveys arriving via mail.

Our school's survey data show confusion or concern around the areas listed below.

What questions might you have and what might you like to see/hear about

- lifelong learning habits taught in elementary school?
- indigenous history and culture taught at school?
- more about discipline (teaching/coaching, consequences/making amends, context for decisions) at school?
- personnel and programs to help striving learners, students with absenteeism issues, students with issues outside of school?
- ways in which students are involved with helping the community?

There was a small group discussion and feedback to inform our next steps for school improvement.

7. New Business:

- a) 2022-2023 Meeting Schedule- revise date to third monday of the month. This was decided to be tabled and discussed at the next meeting in November.

8. Next meeting: November 28 @ 6:30pm

9. Meeting Adjourned By Hannah Dinwoodie @ 7:06pm