

AL Horton School Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday November 22, 2022

**Attendees:** R.Lal, K.Busenius, R.Footz, H.Dinwoodie, D.Gara, S.Golka, S.Kuhn.  
R.Billingsley, N.Keel, K.Daurie, A.Jesus, K.Allan

1. **Call to order:** 6:34 pm by Ken Allan
2. **Review of the agenda**
3. **Approval of the minutes, as presented**
  - a) October 24, 2022 Denise Gara and seconded by Sherice Golka
4. **Presentation: Leah Atcheynum EIPS First Nation, Metis, and Inuit division lead**
  - a) Indigenous learnings in Eips. At this time we have a half hour presentation by Leah all about her first nations knowledge, teaching and understandings. Leah kept coming back to the idea of learning her traditions and her language. There is no question that is a wrong question when learning new teachings. Leah went into an in depth conversation about her teepee teaching classes she does within schools. It's a hands-on learning activity with a take home teepee for every student which allows for further in-home conversations around the children's knowledge and understanding of her teachings. This activity encourages everyone to feel welcome and a part of her background. From the children, teachers, parents and elders. Leah also went into the understanding and importance of the land and her connection to the animals of the land.
5. **Trustee's Report:** Randy Footz

Thank you to the ALH for inviting me to be part of the Remembrance Day Ceremony on November 4. Remembrance Day has always been a special day for me, and I greatly appreciate the opportunity to be part of such a meaningful ceremony.

Since October 22, 25 EIPS schools have reached "Outbreak Status" (10% of the student population are absent because of illness). As of today, 5 schools are in that situation. A growing number of respiratory illness outbreaks in Edmonton-area schools is prompting some parents to suggest schools should take more infection prevention measures – at least for a couple of weeks.

In the first week of November, a total of 13,913 students and 591 teachers were absent from Edmonton Public Schools to begin the week. An additional 6,900 students and 238 teachers were away from the Catholic system. Online learning and event cancellation are being considered along with enhanced protective measures. Suggestions from parent groups include a return to masking, a return to online learning and cancellation of events such as concerts and athletic competitions. The provincial government has placed limitations on the use of masks as well as on-line learning.

A shortage of bus drivers has been problematic for many districts. As an example, High Prairie School Division does not have enough drivers to transport 265 students who live in Slave Lake and its subdivisions. Divisions cite the high cost of training (MELT Program) and low rate of pay as reasons for the shortage. School divisions are required to transport students who live 2.4 km or further from school - the distance of 2.4 km and less) is a walking distance calculated by the Government of Alberta.”

The Board approved the EIPS 2022-23 Fall Budget for the period of Sept. 1, 2022, to Aug. 31, 2023. The 2022-23 operating budget was initially approved on May 25, 2022, but every fall, the budget is updated to account for current information regarding enrolment numbers, revenue changes, actual carry-forward amounts, expenses and planned reserve spending.

Highlights from the Fall Budget Report: 2022-23, include: operating budget – \$206.21 million, which includes an \$8.23-million draw from operating reserves student enrolment – 17,460, as of Sept. 29, 2022 employees (full-time equivalent) – 1,351.97, as of Sept. 29, 2022 compensation – 1.75% increase to salaries, as per the certificated settlement, ratified on June 10, 2022 operating reserves – \$4.93 million, as of Aug. 31, 2023. capital reserves – \$460,000, as of Aug. 31, 2023 instructional spending –78.4% of the total budget, equating to \$9,560 per student. system administration spending – \$4.59 million, 2.2%, of total expenses.

System Assurance Reviews were done on October 31 and November 1. This is an annual occurrence whereby each department within EIPS is given the opportunity to review their department’s contributions over the past year, celebrate their successes and identify areas for future growth. The Assurance Reviews for schools will begin on December 5. AL Horton will participate in its review on Tuesday, December 6 along with Andrew School, Ardrossan Elementary, Lamont Elementary and Uncas Elementary. A parent representing the school councils from each school is invited to attend.

Mark Liguori, superintendent of EIPS, will be finishing his career on June 30, 2023, after announcing he is stepping down from the position and retiring at the end of the school

year. This is a huge loss for the division. The process of replacing the superintendent is already underway

## 6. Principals Report: Keri Busenius

**Focus areas:** Since the late October meeting, we've been working hard on school culture and supporting students and families:

- **Trauma** informed classrooms and school - safe space, safe people, calm reactions to dysregulated or unexpected behaviors
- **Newcomers** from Ukrainian and other countries around the world who speak Hindi, Punjabi, French, Gujarati, Russian, and Ukrainian, among others.
  - Staff are busy with our phones, iPads, and computers with Google **Translate**
  - Many of our staff are working on picture cards in two language for talking about school tasks, academic vocabulary, student conversation favorites vs. always relying on Translate
  - Thankful to key organizations and individuals making registration and arrival at school easier with translation, help with school supplies, warm clothing for winter, etc.
- **Supporting** community groups this holiday season with 12 Days of Giving: Christmas Bureau, Food Bank, and Vegreville Housing & Basic Needs Task Force with food, unwrapped toys, personal hygiene items, warm clothing
  - Families incredibly giving
- Our school vision is “connecting to foster the minds and hearts of **leaders**”
  - Lunchroom grade 6 helpers
  - Grade 6 recess helpers
  - Grade 5 patrollers
  - Grade 4 team recyclers
  - Snack delivery student team
  - Haunted house grade 6 organizers and actors on Oct 31
  - Buddy classes - 1/4, 2/6, 3/6, and grades with Kindergarten - leadership and games, math buddies, reading buddies
  - Students on video announcements - teach us items; sign off statement,
- Girls club for MHCB, various lunch clubs - **mental health**, friendships, regulation skills, social skills

**CALS Nutrition program grant question in the chat - What might parents and caregivers like to see for three hot meals or snacks each week?** (Parents consulted for decision making in the school) At this time we gathered as a group and shared comments and questions around this.

The Grade 4 team shares celebrations:

Miss. Billingsley- Miss.B shared her celebration in her classroom for relationship building, collaboration and leadership. She shared how it's been incredible to watch the children adapt and take charge in so many of these three areas. It has created a high opportunity for the children to work together and to even take on new roles in group work settings.

Mrs. Kuhn- Mrs. Kuhn shared a really heart warming story of a boy in her class who has mastered origami. He has studied it on his own and asked if he could help teach the class to make 3D origami snowflakes for a craft project. Mrs. Kuhn took this as a real teachable moment for him and they all gathered in our maker space room and created their own 3D snowflake with the help of our student. There were over 50 kids participating in this activity.

**Accountability:** Mrs. Busenius took the time now to discuss and inform us of to two upcoming surveys: AB Assurance Survey to grade 4 parents and students; EIPS Survey to all families

Below is the link being sent to students for a check in on how they are doing and areas to gather information about where we can improve as a school.

**Students:** <https://forms.gle/BeypKjqF8oJAqn9VA>

Thank you for your discussion and feedback to inform our next steps for school improvement.

#### **7. New Business**

- a) Meeting logistics review
- b) Virtual meeting vs. In person?
- c) Monthly vs. every second month

At this time we decided as a group to table this discussion as it is already going to be two full months until we meet again due to the holidays. This is going to be discussed at January's meeting in more detail.

**8. Next Meeting:** January 23,2023

**9. Adjourned:** by Ken Allan at 7:49 pm

