

AL Horton School Council Meeting Minutes
Monday February 27, 2023

Attendees: R.Lal, K.Busenius, R.Footz, H.Dinwoodie, D.Gara, S.Golka, K.Miller, B.Dribnenki, T.Horon, K.Allan, C.Geibelhaus, k.Konieczny, N.Keel, A.Ordaz, Kelly D.

1. **Call to order:** 6:31 pm by Ken Allan

2. **Review of the agenda**

3. **Approval of the minutes, as presented**
 - a) January Ken Allan and seconded by Denise Gara

4. **Trustee Report:** By Randy Footz

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Sandra Stoddard as the Division's new Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer effective July 1, 2023.

Stoddard has had an impressive career in education which spans nearly 35 years. At the present time Dr. Stoddard is the Associate Superintendent of Supports for Students at EIPS, a position she's held since 2017.

I was pleased to have been invited to A. L. Horton for the February 13 announcement by Education Minister Adrianna LaGrange introducing the new nutrition program for students attending schools in Vegreville.. The program is funded through a new Alberta Education School Nutrition Program grant. Snacks are supplied by the Community Association for Lasting Success.

The Board approved sponsoring the registration fee for school council members to take part in the 2023 Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) School Council Conference and Annual General Meeting on April 21-23—for one member per school council up to a maximum of \$5,000.

Trustees have begun their tours of schools within the division. The Board will tour schools in the Vegreville area on April 25.

After using Alberta's education curriculum since the 1950s, the Northwest Territories has decided to adopt British Columbia's program of studies following a similar decision made by the Yukon.

It is not just Alberta teachers who consider the new curriculum flawed.

5. Principals Report: By Rita Lal

Teachers were involved with professional learning at the Teachers Convention. Some great opportunities to refine skills.

The second week of February was followed by a visit from many dignitaries, including our very own Trustee Footz and the Education Minister on Monday February 13th where an announcement about the CALS program was housed here at ALH. Melanie Semeniuk's classroom shared their space for this visit. CALS will provide nourishment to all schools in Vegreville and here at ALH this begins for us on March 7th where lunch will be served Tuesday through Friday weekly into June. A huge thanks to our office staff that managed the paperwork and pieces to support this initiative.

In the following week in February students completed their STAR literacy assessments for teachers to see student progress over the past few months.

Grade 4 students completed the Assurance Review to provide their insights about the school. Staff also completed theirs.

Parent surveys for the Assurance Review will continue to be accepted online and were extended until March 17th. The codes should be in the mail- hoping many have received them already. We are hoping parents of grade 4 students will complete the online survey for us to gather data.

The EIPS survey will begin on March 1st. Looking forward to lots of insight from families to gather feedback!

A few days ago student-parent-teacher conferences happened and teachers shared their joy in having opportunities to connect with families in person and email. New this year were both administrators present to answer questions from the Composite for our Grade 6 families. There was also the opportunity to complete the returning student registration forms with Chromebooks available to help support our office staff as they begin making individual

Phone calls to families following tomorrow February 28th. PALS registration remains open for parents of children ages 2-3 with language delays. Please let others know if they are looking for this programming.

For Kindness Week Ms. Giebelhaus created the kindness chains that involved students identifying a positive thought or idea and stapling them together to form a chain. On Feb 22 we had an assembly to talk about the importance of kindness and to watch a short video related to helping each other.

On our coldest day of the month we celebrated Tropical Day! With buses not running and a challenge to welcome the dress-up we decided to extend Tropical Day to this Thursday and call it Tropical Day Part II. Many more to come in March!

Some ULC students participated by singing a song and the anthem at the Pysanka on Friday evening. Considering the frigid temperatures, they still managed to sing! They did a wonderful job representing ALH. Our educational assistant and retired teacher Larissa Bombak supported the kids with this endeavor.

That same day involved our WISEST conference for some students at ALH that participated using a virtual format. Their project continued into Monday too.

Upcoming is our staff meeting and Professional Learning Day where we will start looking deeper into assessments and the literature that supports best practices. We are focusing on small group math instruction and we have been working on writing as well. We will be having many more safety drills as the weather gets nicer and before the Spring slush/mud/puddle centers begin again!

Some classes are working on their preparation for Wendy Brook. The Speech and choral is on Thursday March 9th at the United Church, while Monday the 13th we are hosting the Wendy Brook presentations here at ALH.

Report cards will be released online on March 17th.

Fees for next year were discussed and added items discussed included swimming lessons for grade 3 and lunch supervision. School council members felt fees were appropriate and no questions were raised in relation to the discussion.

Kastyn our MHCB wellness coach, had a chance to speak to the parent council. She works at our school three days a week and works in the prevention tier of mental health. Kastyn runs skill building programs and helps consult on coping strategies. She has been with us for two years now. Kastyn is working on three main teachings this year. 1) Introducing concepts/ feelings. 2) Connection and friendship building 3) Managing conflict.

Karina Miller, one of our grade one teachers, also had a chance to speak and share a celebration. Mrs. Miller shared that her students in her class are eagerly preparing for their windy brook presentation. They are working on memorizing a poem. Many of her students are excited about presenting.

6. Outstanding Business

- a) School Council Engagement Grant- As a group we discussed last meeting having a presenter on black history coming to our next meeting. Rita was able to find someone who we will be using some of our engagement grant funds for to come at 6:30 pm March 20th right before our next parent council meeting to do a presentation. This will aim to be a 45 minute presentation.

7) Next Meeting: March 20th, 2023 @ 6:30 pm

8) Adjourned: By Ken at 7:03 p.m