AL Horton School Council Meeting Minutes

Monday April 24, 2023

**Attendees:** T.Horon, K.Busenius, R.Footz, H.Dinwoodie, S.Golka, S. Kozak K.Allan, C.Geibelhaus,

1. **Call to orde**r: 6:31 pm by Ken Allan
2. **Review of the agenda**
3. **Approval of the minutes, as presented**
4. March 2023: Ken Allan and seconded by Hannah Dinwoodie

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

Through a series of three public engagements, the Board has been exploring ways to enhance French Immersion programming by increasing secondary-level retention, addressing anticipated enrolment pressures in Ardrossan and balancing enrolment at the elementary level.

In recognition of National Volunteer Week, April 16-22, Chair Boymook thanked all EIPS volunteers for the many ways they give their time, skills and resources to the Division.

The Board offered condolences to the family of RCMP Constable Harvinder Singh Dhami, who died in the service of the residents of Strathcona County.

The Board heard presentations from Village of Andrew Mayor Merwin Haight and Deputy Mayor Tammy Ann Pickett with regards to the possible closure of Andrew School.

The Board approved the key budget assumptions for the 2023-24 school year. Highlights include:

~ an emphasis on student-learning, student and staff well-being, career pathways, the new curriculum, junior high intervention supports, program equity and Division infrastructure.

~ a slight increase in student enrolment.

~ Alberta Education’s introduction of a new application process for its Institutional Program Grant along with two new grants—the Teacher Settlement Grant and Class Complexity Grant. Continuing grants include the Student Well-Being Grant, Curriculum Implementation Grant, Dual Credit Startup Grant, Dual Credit Enhancement Grant, Low Incidence Supports and Services Grants and Displaced Student Grant. Revisions have been made to both the Transportation Grant and the System and Administration Grant.

~ Costs are expected to increase for certificated and classified staff.

~ Based on the overall consumer price index, inflationary increases to furnishings, equipment, Careers and Technology Studies supplies, electricity, natural gas and custodial services are expected.

~ There will be an increase to the federal carbon tax costs based on the 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan.

~ Alberta Education confirmed EIPS’ Operating Reserve Limit for Aug. 31, 2023—3.25%, or $6.56 million. The Division must keep its operating reserves within 3.25% of its operating expenses. Any reserve money in excess of that amount must be returned to Alberta Education by December 2023.

The Board approved proposed school fees for the 2023-24 school year. It is expected that fees may increase by 5% for optional courses; alternative programs; extracurricular activities; lunch supervision; and field trips; and a 7% for food preparation courses.

The Board received for information a report regarding the possible closure of Andrew School. The report was prepared by EIPS administration and includes information about the school’s background, programming, infrastructure needs and costs, enrollment, class configurations, staffing, attendance-boundary demographics, costs and finances, student transportation and possible options going forward.

**5. Principals Report:** Keri Busenius

Events Past & Future

* The Jump Rope for Heart event was last Thursday. Many parent volunteers helped out. Students loved races, jumping, dancing, drawing on the sidewalk, and a popsicle treat for their strenuous activity.
* Student leaders ran an Easter Egg Hunt for grade 1-2 students on April 5.
* Grade 1/2 ULC students made paska and pysanka at the church and Grade 3-6 ULC students made babka with Panni Bombak, Panni Fedorouk, and many parent volunteers this month.
* 10 of our grade 4-6 students attended the Young Authors’ Conference in Sherwood Park on Saturday, April 15 and enjoyed sessions with Sigmund Brower, Marty Chan, Lisa Lypowy, and many other authors and illustrators.
* Our Kindergarten Info Night on April 18 was very well attended with close to 60 parents, siblings, and future students in attendance.
* Earth Week culminated with a playground and neighborhood clean up last Friday.
* This Wednesday morning is the speech competition for grades 4-6 in the gym in the morning. Six judges will hear the many speeches on a variety of topics and award medals.
* This Friday is Wacky Hair spirit day.
* May 3 from 6 to 7 PM is the Vesna Spring Ukrainian concert and all families are welcome. Doors open at the gym entrance at 5:45 PM. Our ULC students will be performing.
* May 1-4 is Education Week. Students can wear Hats On for Mental Health on May 3, decorate classroom doors as part of the week’s theme, shop for used books in the library, and enjoy stories read by various staff members.
* Grade 6 transition events are planned with Vegreville Junior Senior in the coming months, including a lock practice session, two visits to VJS, and a Q & A here at school about stress, courses, finding your way around, and more.
* The first grade 6 PAT is on May 17 in the morning. Students are writing a story and a news article all morning. Marks are awarded by teachers and are marked over the summer by teachers from across Alberta.
* Volunteer Tea is coming up in June. We look forward to treating and showing our continued gratitude to parent and caregiver volunteers!

Enrollment update:

We currently have 44 students registered in Kindergarten for next year. 6 are enrolled in Ukrainian Language & Culture (ULC).

6 students in PALS

40 Gr 1 - 12 ULC

48 Gr 2 - 14 ULC

47 gr 3 - 15 ULC

47 gr 4 - 19 ULC

53 gr 5 - 14 ULC

51 gr 6 - 16 ULC

Totals: 336 students pre-K to Gr 6 with 98 in Ukrainian Language & Culture

Gr 1-3 = 135 students

Gr 4-6 = 151 students

Miss. Graham is our reset room lead and she is having great success with intramurals and games. This is great for our active students. They played swamp ball, 3 ball and a chess game at lunch recess. This gives everyone an opportunity to play together. Chess was for grades 3-6. In our reset room students are able to get the support they need throughout the day.

Mrs. Kozak our grade one teacher, shared a slideshow with visuals of her class studying living and non loving things. They have planted bean seeds and are watering and caring for them. They are drawing pictures weekly of the changes in their plants.

**6a) Outstanding Business-** School Council Engagement Grant

The school council engagement grant that was given was 500.00. At this time we have not used it all up as our P for Privilege speech was not the entire 500.00. We are in ongoing discussion of what we will spend the last of the money on before the end of the school year

**7 Next Meeting:** May 29 2023 at 6:30 pm.

**Adjourned:** By Ken Allan at 7:06 pm