

AL Horton School Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday September 25, 2023

**Attendees:** A.Rice, K.Busenius, R.Footz, H.Dinwoodie, T.Palamarek, M.Semeniuk, K.Jacques, E.Robert, L.Dobush, P.Stark, T.Bergley, N.Keel, Kelly D, L.Fehr, O.Masolova, K.Woywitka, M.Axten

1. **Call to order:** 6:31 pm by Keri B
2. **Review of the agenda**
3. **Approval of the minutes, as presented**
  - a) May 2023 Kelly D and seconded by Hannah D
4. **Trustee Report:** By Randy Footz

The Board held its annual organizational meeting on August 24, 2023. Board Chair, Trina Boymook, has stepped down after 10 years as Chair of the EIPS Board in her desire to seek the position of President of the Alberta School Boards Association.

Trustee Cathy Allen was elected the Chair, and Trustee Susan Miller was elected the Vice-Chair.

Superintendent Stoddard also introduced three new members of the EIPS Executive Team:

- Ragan Johnson, the Associate Superintendent of Human Resources;
- Ryan Marshall, the Associate Superintendent of Support for Students; and
- Weylin Gilewich, the Director of Information Technologies.

Enrollment is up. Elk Island Public Schools is Alberta's sixth largest school division serving nearly 17,500 students in 42 schools. EIPS is one of only a few urban-rural boards in the province.

On September 18-19, trustees took part in a retreat to discuss the Board's direction, priorities and work plan for the 2023-24 school year—all in alignment with EIPS' Four-Year Education Plan.

On September 20, the trustees met for the first time with Kyle Kasawski, a member of Alberta's legislative assembly for Sherwood Park. Overall, it was a productive meeting

focused on shared concerns, advocacy areas, and ways to work together to ensure strong public education. The board plans to meet with MLA Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk MLA for the constituency of Fort Saskatchewan- Vegreville and Nate Glubish, the MLA from Strathcona- Sherwood Park when their schedules permit.

The Board approved the trustee remuneration for the 2023-24 school year. Rates will increase by 2 per cent, effective Sept. 1, 2023. The rate increase follows Section 12 of Board Policy 7: Board Operations. which states: "Trustees' compensation shall be adjusted September 1 annually. The methodology to be used is an average of the percent change in annual average index of Alberta Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the percent change in annual average earnings Alberta Average Weekly Earnings (AWE), not to exceed the increase given to Elk Island Public Schools classified staff and not less than zero."

The Board also approved a motion to direct the Superintendent to conduct a trustee compensation review and present the report for information at the January Caucus meeting.

Over the summer Facilities conducted their annual inspection of each school within the Division. A. L. Horton underwent the following procedures in addition to the annual cleaning regime by the school's custodial staff:

Duct cleaning

Elevator inspection & maintenance

Floor refinishing - kindergarten room

Gas detection inspection and calibration

Grounds maintenance

Heating and Ventilation system preventative maintenance

Playground inspection and maintenance

Installation of Video Intercom System

**5. Old Business:** None

**6. Principals Report:** Keri Busenius

- New Staff: Dawn, Janelle, Trina, Laura, Amy – We are excited to welcome a number of new faces to our ALH Staff. In PALS, we have Janelle Kawyuk; in kindergarten we have Dawn Ionetz; Our new grade one teacher is Trina Horon; Our new LINKS teacher is Laura Hammond; and our new assistant principal is Amy Rice.
- New curriculum – What supports are being provided for teachers – Our new K-6 curriculum is rolling out piece by piece. Last year, our K-3 classes were introduced to new ELA and Math curricula. This year, our grade 4-6 staff and students will be introduced to ELA and math, and our K-3 group will have a new science curriculum. EIPS is supporting our teachers by offering training sessions throughout the school year to assist with understanding and implementing the new curricula.
- Success of Terry Fox Run/walk – Our staff and students participated in the Terry Fox Run/Walk on Friday, September 22. Final pledges will be due to the school tomorrow, however, a preliminary count shows that ALH has raised over \$2800 for Cancer research! Thank you to Mrs. Kuhn and Mrs. Miller for their leadership and to RCMP for their help at the main street intersection.
- Ms.Morgana’s role as our First Nations, Métis and Inuit leader – This year, Morgana Larsen is acting as our school’s First Nations Métis and Inuit lead. She will be working with our indigenous students, as well as providing meaningful instruction to all classes. She has a week of activities planned as part of our truth and reconciliation learning leading up to Orange shirt day on Friday, September 29. Keep a look out for the trees on our property.
- Feedback from families - 110 surveys returned re: Meet the Staff Night, Cheers & Tears, and tonight’s meeting.

School fees are posted online. This year we are posting all fees in the fall so parents can budget for upcoming field trips.

Values Scoping info was emailed to families tonight. The Mayor was on the radio and many community members were asking questions.

Playground metal testing info was shared. Latest tests to go to the fundraising committee.

Mrs. Semeniuk, our grade three teacher, was present and shared that it has been a great start and all of the kids are excited and learning new routines. Time has been moving so fast in the month of September. All of the kids are settling in and they have been working hard with start up assessments.

Mrs. Palamarek, our other grade three teacher, spoke as well about all of our new bookroom purchases and everything being set up in our book room. Her room has also been working extremely hard at assessments and benchmarking.

## **7. New Business**

a) Officer Elections:

Chair- not yet filled

Vice Chair- not yet filled

Secretary- Hannah Dinwoodie

Parent at Large- Hannah Dinwoodie

Kindergarten Parent at Large- Erin Robert

b) 2023-2024 Meeting Schedule- Last Tuesday of the month (with October as an exception due to Halloween. October's meeting is the second last Tuesday, October 24th

**8. Next Meeting** - Tuesday October 24th, 2023

**9. Meeting Adjourned:** By Keri B @ 7:33 pm