

AL Horton School Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday January 30th, 2024

Attendees: A.Rice, K.Busenius, R.Footz, H.Dinwoodie, E.Robert, R. Yackimec, N.Keel, Kelly D, D. Ionetz, V.Hayduk, R.Billingsley

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

Trustee Footz thanked Principal Busenius for sharing my message to the students, parents, guests and staff at the AL Horton Christmas Concert.

Nov. 30 Board Meeting

RECEIPT OF TRUSTEE RESIGNATION

The Board accepted the resignation of Trustee Jim Seutter, effective Nov. 30, 2023. Seutter recently moved. His new residence is outside the ward he represents, which disqualifies him as an EIPS trustee. As outlined in the Education Act, section 81(2), a by-election isn't required when there is only one vacancy on the Board. As such, EIPS will not hold a by-election. Instead, the remaining eight trustees will assume Seutter's duties.

ANNUAL EDUCATION RESULTS REPORT 2022-23

The Board approved EIPS' Annual Education Results Report 2022-23. The Annual Education Results Report 2022-23 features detailed information about how EIPS is doing relative to Alberta Education's performance measures; how the Division's supporting students to achieve the best possible outcomes; and its successes, challenges and priorities moving forward. The Division has submitted to Alberta Education and has posted it online. To read the report visit, eips.ca.

EIPS 2023-24 FALL BUDGET

The Board approved the EIPS 2023-24 Fall Budget Report for the period of Sept. 1, 2023 to Aug. 31, 2024. The Board initially approved the 2023-24 operating budget on

May 25, 2023. Every fall, the budget is updated to account for current information regarding enrollment numbers, revenue changes, carry-forward amounts, expenses and planned reserve spending.

Highlights from the Fall Budget Report: 2023-24 include:

Operating budget – \$207.5 million, which includes \$1.05-million from operating reserves

Student enrolment – 17,760, as of Sept. 29, 2023

Employees (full-time equivalent) – 1,372.58, as of Sept. 30, 2023 compensation – a 2% increase, effective Sept. 1, 2023—for classified as well as certificated staff.

Operating reserves – \$7.25 million, as of Aug. 31, 2024.

Instructional spending –78.5% of the budget.

System administration spending – \$4.59 million, 2.2%, of total expenses.

Fort Collegiate: On December 5, trustees attended an Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) advocacy session about the proposed collegiate school in Fort Saskatchewan which is the first priority on the EIPS Three Year Capital Plan. Partners throughout the Industrial Heartland attended to discuss the collegiate school's potential, workforce needs and how to work together to enhance student learning opportunities in ways that benefit the region and its economic growth.

January 25 Board Meeting

School Fees: The Board approved the school fee parameters for the 2024-25 school year.

Optional-courses fees – five per cent allowable increase—up to seven per cent for food courses

Noon-supervision fees – five per cent allowable increase

Activity fees – five per cent allowable increase

Extracurricular fees – five per cent allowable increase

Non-curricular travel fees – five per cent allowable increase

Non-curricular goods and services fees – five per cent allowable increase

** Schools must set all fees on a cost-recovery basis.

COSC Conference and AGM: The 2024 Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) School Council Conference and Annual General Meeting is scheduled for April 26-28.

To encourage participation, the Board has set aside \$5,000 for the registration of up to 10 individuals (1 per school). To qualify, those applying must be part of a school council with an active ASCA membership. The registration deadline is April 8, 2024.

School Status Report: Each year, a School Status Report is prepared to present enrolment numbers, school utilization rates and per-student costs within the Division.

In 2022-23, the average per EIPS student cost was \$7,097—down by \$44 from the previous year.

In 2022-23, 20 Division schools operated above the \$7,097 average—the highest being the now-closed Andrew School, operating at more than \$14,000 per student.

In 2022-23, EIPS' utilization rate rose to 76 per cent—rising two per cent from the previous year.

ALH is 18th in the division at a cost of \$7,444 per student.

VCCHS is 9th at a cost of \$8,132 per student.

Pleasant Ridge Colony is the 4th most expensive at a cost of \$9,449 per student.

Costs include the cost of operation and maintenance of the building as well as the cost of student instruction.

Leveraging Student Achievement: During the spring budget, the Board of Trustees directed senior administration to put any school reserve above 1% into what is called the Leveraging Student Achievement Reserves. This fund currently has a balance of \$101,000 and will be used to support initiatives that focus on student learning needs and equity of student programming.

Most of the LSA initiatives planned focus on literacy and numeracy—areas where the Division still sees the highest level of learning loss since the pandemic. The Division intends to hire two lead teachers—one for literacy and one for numeracy—to support EIPS' schools, working directly with struggling students and with teachers to help address learning loss.

French Immersion: The Board approved a solution to best address EIPS' secondary French Immersion program, grades 7-12, and senior high enrolment concerns in Sherwood Park:

- Relocate EIPS' senior high French Immersion program, grades 10-12, to Salisbury Composite High—effective when the new Sherwood Park replacement school opens, expected in the 2026-27 school year.
- Adjust Strathcona County's senior high attendance boundaries for Lakeland Ridge to be redesignated to Bev Facey Community High—effective when the new Sherwood Park replacement school opens, expected in the 2026-27 school year; and
- adjust the French Immersion junior high attendance boundaries for Cambrian Crossing, to be redesignated to Sherwood Heights Junior High—effective in the 2024-25 school year.

5. Keri Busenius: Principals Report

1. Welcome

2. Events & Celebrations (since November meeting)

- Christmas Concert - getting more chairs for our gym is a priority
- Spirit days added to school culture in December
- Christmas Bureau & Food Bank - many contributions received!
- Theatre Prospero in January - two daytime shows and a livestream, video to come
 - Focus was imagination, growth mindset, creativity, collaboration, movement, acting, costume design, and appreciating diverse stories and cultures
 - Indigenous stories and student writing and shared facts
- Grade 4, 7, 10 Alberta Assurance Survey is coming out
 - Gives us data and feedback for improvement; we'll be reminding parents/caregivers to complete their survey
- Professional learning days upcoming: Jan 31 focus on AI and Writing Assessment/Instruction; Teachers' Convention; March 1 all staff PD day with various focus areas
- Budget purchases
 - Volleyball donation helped us buy new poles and nets
 - Gymnastics mats
 - Chromebooks and iPads
- Other

3. Queries for School Council

- Skating for 2024-25?

- Cultural evening in the spring instead of Vesna with only Ukrainian highlighted? Parents willing to help to plan?

3. Teacher stories - Rae-Lynn, Vanessa from grade five

4. Fees [discussion](#) and opening consultations - survey to go home to families (on paper)
- Proposing to freeze fees
 - Skating up for discussion
 - Paper survey will come home soon for parents/caregivers to provide thoughts/feedback

At this time Our grade five teachers spoke. Miss. Bilingsley shared that her class is working hard on multiplication facts. They have been given examples on 3000×20 and have been working hard on carrying numbers. They have been working with elbow partners and sharing ideas and problem solving skills. In a sense it has allowed them to help and teach one another skills.

Mrs. Hayduk also shared that they have been on math and the new curriculum. Filling in the gaps from grade four to grade five when the newer curriculum started up. They have been focussing on standard word problems and using specific terminology from grade five and six to prepare for ruther years. On science they are focusing on magnetism and most recently have been creating circuits. Lots of students are thriving with hands-on work. Both grades have also been working in language arts on speeches and digging deep as to go more in depth when the time comes for public speaking. Both classes are also attending the telus world of science for a field trip this upcoming Thursday.

6. Old Business- Continued from previous meeting

- Officer elections
- Meeting schedule - Last Tuesday of each month. We have decided to skip the February meeting as it falls in the exact same placement as VJS. Our next meetings are as follows March 19, April 30, May 28.

7. New Business- Tabled as we did not have a Chair/ Vice Chair.

8. Next Meeting- March 19, 2024

9. Adjourned- 7:29 pm

