

A. L. Horton School, 5037 48 Avenue, Vegreville, AB

April School Council Meeting Minutes

Agenda – April 30, 2024

6:30-7:15 PM, Library, A. L. Horton School

Attendees: A.Rice, K.Busenius, R.Footz, H.Dinwoodie, Kelly D, S. Wiebe, M.Larsen, K.Miller, E.Robert

Bonnie D

1. Call to order by: Keri Busenius at 6:32 pm

2. Review of the Agenda & Parent Chair Designate for tonight.

3. Approval of the Minutes, as presented

a. February 2024 approved by Hannah and seconded by Bonnie.

4. Old Business

a. Officer Elections (Chair, Vice-Chair)

b. Meeting Schedule

-Last Tuesday of each month (May 28 is next)

5. Trustee's Report: Randy Footz

The Board approved the 2025-2028 3-Year Capital Plan which sees as its fourth priority, the modernization and expansion of Vegreville Composite High School to accommodate grades K-12 as recommended by the results of the 2022 Vegreville value scoping session conducted in September of that year. The estimated cost of the project is \$58,800,000 and when completed will be able to accommodate 765 students.

The Board of Trustees approved the reallocation of surplus to complete the following projects:

1. Windows Computer Evergreening - \$694,058 - This would complete the required replacement of all Division computers that would not be able to support the upcoming Windows upgrade.
2. Chromebook Evergreening - \$325,000 - EIPS supports evergreening of Chromebooks for student use.
3. Next Step Entrance at Salisbury Composite High - \$80,000 Currently, Next Step students in Sherwood Park enter the Salisbury Composite High building through the same main entrance as the Salisbury Composite High students. To meet the unique student needs at this site and ensure all students feel safer arriving at school, it's recommended a new, independent entrance be constructed.

These three projects will cost an estimated \$1,099,058.

BUDGET PRIORITIES for 2024-25

Focus areas include:

~ classroom complexity,

~ curriculum and resource development to support teachers,
~ the Mental Health Strategic Plan,
~ continued pursuit of the collegiate school and support for career pathways, ~ staff retention and
~ artificial intelligence considerations.

ENROLMENT – The Division expects student enrolment to increase by 53 students by fall 2024—to 17,813 students from 17,760 students in fall 2023.

FUNDING GRANTS – For the most part, funding rates remain unchanged.

The Capital Maintenance and Renewal Grant will increase to pre-pandemic levels to \$2.83 million from \$1.14 million.

Meanwhile, the Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal Grant will drop \$200,000—to \$2.22 million.

EIPS anticipates the overall certificated standard salary and benefit costs to increase by 1.79% and standard classified costs to change by (2.5%) and 4.2%.

INFLATION – EIPS anticipates non-salary inflationary increases to insurance, energy, construction labor and materials, fleet purchases and custodial services.

CARBON TAX –Currently, EIPS pays a \$80 per tonne carbon tax. That will increase until it reaches the federal government’s target of \$170 per tonne in 2030.

RESERVES –School Generated Funds are now included when calculating EIPS’ operating reserve limit. As of Aug. 31, 2025, the Division must ensure its operating reserves are within 6% of its 2023-24 expenses. Any surplus of more than 6% must be returned to Alberta Education.

EXPENSES – Administration developed a five-year capital projection that lists anticipated capital needs, including infrastructure technology, fleet vehicles, and careers and technology studies equipment. The list ensures planning occurs for sufficient funds in future years.

Student Transportation Fee Schedule

The Board approved the Student Transportation fee schedule for the 2024-25 school year. A new provincial funding model for student transportation, introduced in 2023-24 has created a surplus which will result in a decrease in 2024-25 Transportation Fees.

To reduce the surplus, Student Transportation will be providing the following:

- A rebate of 40% or \$30.00 on the \$75.00 transportation base rate which will be applied to the 2024-25 transportation fees. If families

choose not to access busing the rebate can be applied to school fees or if families are leaving the division a refund will be processed.

- A one-time payment to bus contractors to offset increased inflationary costs.
- A one-time payment to bus drivers that meet the Loyalty payment criteria.

- An upgraded video surveillance system and two additional cameras on each bus.

The approved 2024-25 student fee schedule is available online at Student Transportation Fees 2024-25, as of May 1.

The Board was scheduled to meet with the County of Minburn Council on April 15 to discuss the EIPS Annual Education Results Report and the EIPS Four-Year Education Plan 2022-26.

This meeting was cancelled at the County Council's request and will be rescheduled.

The Board met with the Mayor of Vegreville and the Town Council on April 18 to discuss current issues which included: the Joint Use Agreement of existing facilities, Joint project with new school and recreation Centre and a Regional Recreation Feasibility Study.

The Board of Trustees appointed Karen Baranec as the Returning Officer and Laura McNabb as the Substitute Returning Officer for conducting the 2025 trustee elections for Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS).

A Candidate Handbook will be developed to assist those running for office and will be available by Jan. 1, 2025—the date on which candidates can begin filing nomination papers for the next trustee election. The deadline for nominations is Monday, Sept. 22, 2025. Election Day is Monday, Oct. 20, 2025, and that day will mark the beginning of the next four-year term for trustees.

Mr. Footz will not be seeking a third term as your trustee.

6. Principal's Report: Keri Busenius

Events past:

Young Author's Conference - grades 4-6

Badminton intramurals and tournament this past weekend for grades 5-6

Grade six attended a day at the legislature.

Spring registration night in March was attended by school administration and the School Council members.

Kindergarten Information Night on April 23 included over 35 parents and caregivers and 22 of our 32 registered students. We expect about 15-20 more registrations by early September.

Marco Corbo - mental health presentation for grades 5-8.

Friendship club for grades 5-6 with our school-based Family School Liaison Worker.

Boys group running afterschool, led by the Mental Health Capacity Building Coaches.

Great hot lunches from our neighbor, Vegreville Composite High School.

Grade 6 transition activities are on the go. Visit one from school administration talked about grade 7 options and life up at the high school. Visit two included practices with locks and students choosing their options.

Ukrainian Easter activities have been ongoing including babka making grades 3-6 and paska baking and pysanka decorating for grades 1-2 and Kindergarten.

Funding from UBLA made grade 3-6 embroidery possible this month.

Wendy Brook Festival in March a huge success with many classes presenting and winning a variety of donated awards.

Other info:

New principal Mr. Murray Howell visited a couple weeks ago and joined in at Kindergarten Info Night. He will join us at the next and last School Council meeting this year.

Class list making for 2024/25 begins this month. Many considerations and team meetings are involved in designing classroom cohorts, including friendships, academic levels, supports needed for learning, social skills, mental health needs, student participation, peer dynamics, etc.

The May 8 Cultural Appreciation evening is approaching. We look forward to sharing what students have been learning about countries and cultures around the world.

a. Staff to share stories from classrooms.

- 1) Morgana Larsen is our LIKS 2 classroom teacher and shared their current enrolment is 11. Morgana is also our school Metis and Inuit lead. April 30 Morgana led a grade 5 blanket ceremony for both classes. This was an experience for students to see what happened with colonialism, turtle island and all its change. It was very moving for the grade 5 students. To wrap up the exercise they held a restorative circle to share their experiences, how they were feeling and what they had learned. There has been a lot of conversation around truth and reconciliation. Upcoming for our school is indigenous people's day on May 21.
- 2) Karinna Miller is one of our Grade 4 teachers. Mrs. Miller shared that her class is really gearing up and preparing for our school culture night happening May 8th. They have chosen indigenous Canada, specifically Cree culture. This ties in nicely with the grade four social curriculum. They have been doing art and a lot of current research in preparation. Mrs. Miller is also the school lead in preparing for our Jump Rope for heart next Friday May 10th. There are going to be many stations set up for the classes to go around and be active and bring their heart rate up!

7. New Business (to proceed if a Chair/Vice-Chair is chosen) Tabled

8. Last Meeting this year – May 28, 2024 @ 6:30pm

9. Adjourn at 7:16 pm