

School Council Meeting Minutes:

May 8, 2018

9:30 – 10:30 am Ardrossan Elementary Library

Attendees: Helene Hewitt (Acting Principal), Skip Gordon (Board Trustee), Kelley Mitchell (School Counselor), JP Grebenc, Jackie Anderson, Vania Lloyd, Ady Arbuckle, Jennie March, Carolyn Vankleek, Donna Zons, Alisha Spence

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Meeting called to order by JP Grebenc at 9:35 am

2. Minutes from last meeting

- Motion to accept minutes from last meeting by Vania Lloyd; seconded by Jennie March
- Motion carried

3. Board Report (Skip Gordon)

- Approval of budget expected at the June board meeting with provincial government funding remaining the same as last year. There will be no cuts to basic funding; however inflation is accounting for a decrease in funding (approximate decrease of 1%)
- Transportation fees will increase by 5% to compensate for a funding loss of \$420, 000. This increase will affect Pay Ride and “school of choice” fees. The board has also approved the introduction of a Supplemental Bus Fee of \$125 per student for families requiring busing to/from a second location (only applies if a second bus route is required)
- One bus supervisor is being eliminated at Ardrossan Elementary due to opening of new school and parent traffic having separate entry/exit point from busing
- May 7th was Bus Driver Appreciation Day and had trustees handing out goodies to drivers as they arrived at the school
- May 8th was the EIPS annual retirement and long service awards; held at the Agora in Sherwood Park

4. Chair Report (Jackie Anderson)

- Jackie attended the recent COSC meeting on May 2, 2018
- Board Chair, Trina Boymook highlighted that Admin fees have been approved for next year and gave a transparent overview of the expected budget; on May 30th the board will be walking through the draft budget
- COSC members were informed of changes to busing fees for the upcoming year and encouraged to carefully read through the online transportation survey to ensure the best outcome for student needs; it was encouraged that parent council representatives relate this information to their individual parent councils
- The ATA report indicated EIPS is excited to represent our regions support by marching in the upcoming annual Pride Parade
- Next year will provide the opportunity for parent involvement in the way of a new curriculum information event with expected parent feedback being welcomed

- EIPS Superintendent, Mark Liguori provided a transparent overview of the budget planning process, explaining in depth where funds are allocated to and where there are expected shortfalls; he also accounted for EIPS' reserve funds. This information can be easily accessed through the EIPS website
- SCA Elementary hosted their Saffron presentation in April and had the largest attendance turnout with over 200 attendees! SCA's parent council chair has since contacted COSC regarding a joint initiative between Saffron and EIPS Parent Councils to potentially offer weekly or monthly online safety tips that can be shared with each school community in order to better increase student safety and awareness
- The annual ASCA conference was an amazing experience for those COSC members who attended with vast opportunities for break-out sessions that were informative and enlightening. Once again, EIPS had the largest representation and was an inspiration to other school communities

5. Administration Report (Helene Hewitt as Acting Principal)

A. Events Over the Past Month:

- Thank-you to those able to attend the volunteer appreciation event and Earth Day Assembly on April 20th – we are grateful to our amazing parent volunteers!
- Administrative Professionals were celebrated the week of April 23rd
- Bus Driver Appreciation Day was celebrated on May 7th

B. Upcoming Events:

- School Closure Days: May 17th-May 18th
- Habit 7 Assembly (ECS) on May 30th
- Grade 6 Provincial Achievement Tests have begun this month and will continue into June

C. New School Update:

- Progress continues with crews finishing up any deficiencies
- Landscaping work is just beginning and looks beautiful!
- Official Grand Opening is set for September 28th at 1:30 pm (no concerns for this to conflict with any other events ie: Terry Fox or Orange Shirt Day)

D. Parent Support for New School:

- Kelley Mitchell approached Parent Council members requesting funding for a "Buddy Bench" where students can connect with other students if they are shy or having a difficult time meeting others or involving themselves in a play group. The "Buddy Bench" would offer an opportunity for Play Core groups to spot friends who may need support to help them become involved. Price quote for the project (all in) is \$3,061.40 with discussion tabled for AEPsA meeting to follow
- Carolyn Vankleek questioned the best location for the "Buddy Bench" (Div I or Div II playground) which prompted a discussion of whether or not two benches would be beneficial
- The school is also needing new "Leader in Me" t-shirts (new logo and current shirts are getting old) Cost is approximately \$8.00/shirt with 600 new shirts needed = approximately \$4800.00 request

E. Parent Survey Results:

- Thanks to our parent community, Ardrossan Elementary had the largest response rate in the division! (77% of our parents took the survey)
- Ardrossan Elementary saw improvements in almost every category
- Two areas of growth administration is proud of are:
 1. The opportunity to be involved in decisions (10% improvement)
 2. Open & Honest Communication (10% improvement)
- Areas for growth:
 1. Condition of my child's school
 2. Awareness of citizenship and community partnerships

F. Follow-up on Healthy Competition:

- Div I Sports Day to remain as in past years
- Div II will include 3 or 4 events that will rank 1st, 2nd, 3rd competitors and will be ribboned

6. Student Report (Grade 2: Leo, Kolten, Jocelyn)

- Grade 1 students finished Bookmobile visits in April and received some amazing prizes
- Students were able to celebrate our amazing Ardrossan volunteers who know how to synergize and make our school great!
- In April the Grade 4 students led the Earth Day/Habit 6 Assembly with a cool song
- Teagan and Ava spoke for the Grade 5 and 6 classes, respectively at the district speech competition and did a fantastic job!
- Ardrossan Elementary running team finished off the year with a final race at the Elk Island Relays; in the final race the Grade 5 boys placed 3rd, Grade 5 girls placed 2nd and Grade 6 boys placed 2nd and 3rd! WAY TO GO BISON!!
- May 3rd was Hats on For Mental Health Day – we all wore hats to show the importance of good mental health
- Grade 6 students have been preparing for their Math Museum and showed off their projects on May 4th
- The whole school was able to try Sport Ball!
- This week students get to bring a bear for “Bear Witness Day” to support ‘Jordan’s Principle’; making sure First Nations children get the help they need when they need it
- On Friday, May 11th the Grade 1 students will celebrate with their moms at the Mother’s Day Tea
- Students are working on Habit 7 this month (Sharpen the Saw) Jocelyn likes to read to Sharpen the Saw, Leo plays hockey to take care of his body, and Kolten practices soccer to sharpen his saw
- Kindergarten students will lead the final Habit 7 assembly on May 30th at 9:30 am

7. CPF BBQ Meeting

- To be held May 15th from 9:30-10:30 am in the library

8. Other Business

- JP inquired if there were any general questions to be addressed
- Does there need to be a change to meeting set-up? Parent Council members agreed to continue with current arrangement of evening/weekday split every second meeting
- A group discussion was held regarding the potential for future teleconferencing for members unable to attend physically but may be able to tune in from another location

9. Next Meeting

To be determined for September 2018

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Jennie March

Seconded: Jackie Anderson at 10:38 am