

School Council Meeting Minutes:

October 11, 2016

9:30-10:30 am Ardrossan Elementary Library

Attendees: Judy Whetstone (Principal), Helene Hewitt (Assistant Principal), Skip Gordon (School Trustee), Jackie Anderson, Connie Hamelin, Terri-Ann Trohubiak, Wendy Marty, JP Grebenc, Kelley Mitchell (AEL Counsellor), Ryan Harding

1. Welcome

- Meeting called to order by JP Grebenc at 9:40 am

2. Minutes from last meeting

- No corrections from previous meeting required
- Motion to approve minutes from last meeting by Connie Hamelin; seconded by JP Grebenc
- Motion carried

3. Chair Report (JP Grebenc)

- General: Upcoming dates including 14th Annual Literacy & Learning Day on October 22, 2016 and the Imagination Expo on February 25th, 2017 (both being held at the Northlands Expo Center)
- District has issued proposed Administration Procedure #164 (September, 2017) regarding nutrition policies in Elk Island Public schools
 - Promoting healthier eating habits
 - New Alberta guidelines containing options to:
 - a) Choose most often
 - b) Choose sometimes
 - c) Choose least often
- from foods listed under Canada's Food Guide
- FAQ included the use of vending machines in district schools and the food options offered within (promoting healthier choices such as water, 100% unsweetened juice, and milk)
- JP would like to see an amendment to the procedure which would give school administration, principal, and staff members the option for determining the number of "treat" options for school fundraisers (under the current proposition the number is set to one fundraiser/school being from the "choose least often" category)
- Proposed Administration Procedure #511: Safe, Caring Schools
 - JP noticed there appears to be an abundance of LGBTQ "support" and acknowledgement throughout the proposition for this particular minority as opposed to other visible minorities
 - Parent discussion then took place on what washroom policies may look like in the new school regarding gender-specific and gender-neutral washroom facilities

4. Trustee Report (Skip Gordon)

- On September 1, 2016 the Board of Trustees and EIPS senior administration met with Education Minister, David Eggen. Topics included: student mental health programming,

student transportation funding, and Alberta infrastructure and hold-ups on new school projects across the province

- General:
 - September 21: The board hosted its annual Commitment of School Councils Mix & Mingle for principals and school council representatives
 - September 26/27: trustees attended a board retreat to discuss goals/plans for 2016/2017 school year and beyond
 - October 5: trustees and entire division celebrated World Teacher's Day; recognizing teachers and the integral role they play in providing quality education worldwide
- EIPS Enrollment for the 2016/2017 school year is 17,101 students; up by 1% from the previous school year

5. Administration Report (Judy Whetstone and Helene Hewitt)

- Staff PD: September 30th participated in first 'Every Child Matters' (Orange Day)
 - Staff bannock lunch
 - First Nations, Metis, and Inuit blanket ceremony was well-received by staff members and is very powerful for giving a sense of understanding into the past
 - Collaborative Tools: working in collaborative teams where teachers meet and work together twice/month for 1 hour on numeracy and literacy to make sure no student is left behind
- Judy suggested the blanket ceremony be something that is offered to school parents; possibly following the November Parent Council Meeting; would be well-advertised to draw a number of participants; she also noted that several school councils have already participated in a blanket ceremony with great success
- Accountability Survey and PAT results: improvement noted across the board; PAT results have improved in both 'Acceptable' and 'Excellent' categories; 'Parental Involvement' has also increased
- New School ground-breaking ceremony to take place at 11:00 am on October 13, 2016 with various division officials expected, media invited, and the Ardrossan Elementary Grade 5 choir to sing
- Current student enrollment for the 2016/2017 school year at Ardrossan Elementary is 565 students
- **MAKERSPACE REPORT**
 - Maker Monday and Tinker Tuesday to begin Monday, October 17, 2016
 - Makerspace video presented to the council showcasing the amazing opportunities the students will have to create and build using various stations/tools and their imaginations (Lego, Makey Makey, iPads, Paper Creations, Pixel art, Little Bits, Scratch Animation on Chromebooks)

6. Student Report (Elisabeth Wharmby)

- French, Grade 6 student, Elisabeth Wharmby presented a lively account of events around our school, from the students' perspective
- Events included: Hoop dancing assembly, AED training from the Heart & Stroke Foundation, Grade 1 (Habit 1) Assembly, Maker Space training (amazing to be "learning without

learning”), Math Night (huge success, tons of family fun), and the Grade 5 (Habit 2) Assembly which showcased the Grade 5 group’s fantastic dance skills!

7. AEPSA Fundraising Report (JP Grebenc)

- Casino fundraiser successful; should know in January, 2017 the total amount Ardrossan Elementary receives from the fundraiser
- Upcoming fundraising:
 - a) Galaxyland
 - Should begin to ramp up in November, 2016
 - Date not currently set; January or February of 2017 is expected
 - Hoping for 1800 tickets; more tickets = less cost/ticket
 - b) New Playground Equipment
 - JP proposed to set a small, separate fundraising committee, specifically for playground fundraising due to the scope of the project. This committee can then focus on specifics such as grant requests, etc.
 - c) Coordinate with Hot Lunch to host a fundraiser at the upcoming Christmas concert? Possibly food item with water bottle?

8. New Business

- New school: JP voiced concern over whether or not we need to proactively look at adding more portables? Will the current school population fit in the new school? Judy addressed concerns, stating the new school will open with a population of approximately 650 students, with the ability to increase to 700 students
- School monument: the council discussed the future of the monument currently on school grounds. We considered the options of the monument, including: moving it as it exists, having a new monument to commemorate Canada’s 150th birthday (2017), or the possibility of a new plaque to commemorate the old Ardrossan Elementary school. We also considered the possibility of leaving the monument where it currently sits and potentially building a structure around it
- Terri Ann informed the council that the hot lunch program would begin offering lunch 4 days/week beginning November, 2016. She shared the vision for the program to hold small food fundraisers throughout the year and that the program is in need of fresh board members as current members have students that are moving to or have already made the move to the high school

9. Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 8, 2016 at 6:30 pm in the library

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Connie Hamelin

Seconded: JP Grebenc

