

School Council Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2016

7:00-8:00 pm Library

Attendees

JP Grebenc, Yvette Kadatz, Angela Yorke, Wendy Marty, Cheryl Popik, Jackie Anderson, Kelley Mitchell, Skip Gordon, Terri-Ann Trohubiak, Ryan Harding, Vania Lloyd, Helene Hewitt, Judy Whetstone, Connie Hamelin

1. Welcome and Introduction of Council

Attendees took the opportunity to introduce themselves and the number of children they currently have enrolled at Ardrossan Elementary and corresponding grade.

2. Minutes from last meeting

Motion for acceptance by JP Grebenc and seconded by Jackie Anderson

3. Elections

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm by JP Grebenc. The meeting commenced with elections for 3 positions on the council. **JP Grebenc** was elected by Connie Hamelin for **President** of the council, which was then seconded by Terri-Ann Trohubiak. **Connie Hamelin** was elected by JP Grebenc for **Vice President** of the council, which was then seconded by Terri-Ann Trohubiak. **Jackie Anderson** was elected by JP Grebenc for **Secretary** of the council, which was then seconded by Vania Lloyd. JP offered if there were any attendees present that wished to take additional positions on the council, they were welcome to.

4. Chair Report

Main topic of discussion was the Parent Facebook Group which began in December, 2015. This is a page dedicated to general parent information, reminders, meetings, or other pertinent information for parents of students at Ardrossan Elementary. In order to be a part of this Facebook group, individuals must have a child currently enrolled at Ardrossan Elementary and those must be approved by either JP Grebenc or Terri-Ann Trohubiak. Caution should be exercised in the areas of complaints regarding school administration and/or teaching staff; the page is meant as a school community tool and not an outlet for frustrations or anger towards school staff members.

5. School Trustee Report – Skip Gordon

The replacement school timeline was discussed with Skip advising that the demolition of half of the old school was nearing completion. Foundation construction of the first half of the replacement school is to begin September 2016, and expected completion date of that portion remains at December 2017; with the expectation that staff will move into the new portion of the school over the Christmas break. Skip also acknowledged that due to the fact the project is

being managed by Elk Island Public Schools (construction by AMAN Construction) and not Alberta Infrastructure, that he is confident the project will remain on schedule.

Skip also advised the council that the Chair of Elk Island Public is now Trina Boymook of Sherwood Park and the Vice Chair, Harvey Stadnyk of Fort Saskatchewan.

6. Administration Report

Judy Whetstone led an exercise with the parents, asking them to list phrases that came to mind to coincide with the words: Welcoming, Safe, Caring, and Respectful in terms of how these words relate to Ardrossan Elementary. There was a positive response from parents involved in the exercise.

a. Beginning of New School Year

Judy discussed the very BUSY start to the 2016/2017 school year due to the commencement of the replacement school construction and the road construction resulting in extremely limited parking for parents. Judy expressed her gratitude that parents had limited the amount of traffic at the school throughout the first day and first week of the new school year.

In the first 2 weeks of school, students at Ardrossan Elementary had already reviewed the 7 Habits; learning that a school that is safe, welcoming, caring, and respectful is the key to learning before the 'education' begins

The Grade 1 assembly had the students singing the 'Habit Song' upon entering and exiting the assembly

There was a Hoop Dancers presentation

The Heart and Stroke Foundation donated an AED to Ardrossan Elementary and hosted a first-aid session with 12 first responders, all 5th grade classes, some EA staff, and approximately 20 Grade 6 students

b. Replacement School Update

The majority of this topic was covered during the Trustee Report by Skip Gordon, with Judy reiterating that parking would continue to be limited.

c. New Format for School Newsletter/Webpage

Judy asked attendees their thoughts on the updated school newsletter (now in new electronic format). There was a unanimous response that the linking of the school calendar with individual electronic devices is extremely handy and appreciated.

d. Upcoming Events

Picture Day: September 22nd and 23rd

Math Games Night: September 29th at 6:00 pm

Terry Fox Run: September 30th at 2:15 pm

Read-In Week: October 5th-9th

Habit 2 Assembly (Grade 5 presents): October 4th

Makerspace: Helene Hewitt explained that Makerspace will be making its way to Ardrossan Elementary. This will be where “technology meets construction meets engineering” and will be available to students from Grades 1-6. Makerspace will be available twice/month in the learning commons (library) where different creating zones will be set up. Donations for Makerspace are gratefully accepted for yarn, wool, fabrics, decorative papers, and other supplies; more information is to follow at a later date.

Questions for Administration

One council attendee inquired about lunch supervision, asking what the ratio of supervisor to students is during lunch supervision. Her concern was particularly for the younger grades. Administration advised the current ratio is 1 supervisor to 2 classrooms.

7. Other Business

The concern regarding the speed limit on the highway parallel to Ardrossan Elementary was raised. JP recommended a post on the parent Facebook group to determine the amount of ‘near misses’ regarding traffic incidents over the past years to determine if this information could be presented to the Alberta government in order to reduce the speed limit past the schools in the area. Connie Hamelin is now one of two Sherwood Park area parents on the Traffic Advisory Board for Elk Island. It was noted that a positive of the highway construction in front of the school is that the speed limit is currently down to 50 km/hr, rather than the usual 80 km/hr.

Vania inquired whether Ardrossan Elementary sends its running club to the annual race at the Butterdome, with Judy confirming that the club has participated over the last 5 years.

Terri-Ann announced that the CPF annual general meeting is to be held in Canmore this year on the last weekend of September, first of October.

Vania mentioned she had had some trouble paying her CPF fees for this year; her paper form was rejected as Canada Post determined the mailing address was unknown. It was suggested by a few parents who belong to CPF that she contact the organization via phone or try the online form.

Next council meeting: Tuesday, October 11th at 9:30 am in the library

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Jackie Anderson

Seconded: JP Grebenc