

AEL School Council Meeting Minutes:

March 12, 2023 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Ardrossan Elementary School 53131 Range Road 222, Ardrossan, AB

Attendees: Chelsea Pretzlaw, Carla Kokotailo, Daniel Verhoeff Jill Herbert, Tina Zerebeski, Ady Arbuckle, Danielle Duncan, Susan Miller, Candice Lapoint, Tanya Doran, Jami McLaren

1. **Meeting Called to Order** at 6:30 by Chelsea

2. **Review Agenda**

Jill motions to accept the Agenda for March parent Council meeting. Tina seconds that motion. All in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried

3. **Approve Meeting Minutes**

Ady motions to accept the minutes as written for the February School Council meeting. Jill seconds that motion. All in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

4. **Information Reports**

A. AEPSA Report- Vania Lloyd

B. CPF Report - Chelsea Pretzlaw

Carnival was successful despite the cold weather.
Next CPF meeting is Monday March 18 at 6:00pm.

C. COSC Report - Chelsea Pretzlaw

Annual survey is out.
9 schools have attendees registered for the ASCA conference.

D. Principles Report Daniel Verhoeff & Carla Kokotailo

1. School Dance

a) Here's what you need to know about the event:

Dance will be at the school, in the gym, on March 21st, from 6:00-8:00pm.

Doors will open at 5:45pm.

There will be a concession that will sell water, candy bags, Gatorade, chips, and chocolate bars. (All items will be \$2, with the exception of water that will be \$1). It will be CASH ONLY!

The theme is "Space". Parents and students are encouraged to have a little fun with the theme and dress up if you like.

We will have a 50/50 and lots of amazing door prizes (which have been generously donated by one of our families).

It is a family dance and therefore parents/guardians must be in attendance with their kiddos as we will not have staff supervising the event (with the exception of our admin team who will be busy DJ;ing the event)!

All money raised in the 50/50 and concession will be used to purchase Chromebooks for the upcoming school year. Our school population has grown a bit and we have many machines that will no longer be in service next year so they need to be replaced. If you are able to help out during the evening it would be excellent. Just let Dan know and he will add you to the sign-up list. Thanks to Vania for taking the lead on the concession!!!

Link to the planning document:

2. Buddy Bench Update

- a) We had introduced the idea of a “Buddy Bench” during our Pink Shirt Day event. It was posted on the announcements for the week (we did a few skits with the kids to tell them about it and how it can be used.
- b) The bench is similar to the other benches out there and I think if we want the idea to stick, we need to make the bench stand out a bit.
- c) Would anyone be able to help make it “pop” by painting the bench and maybe helping add some signage to it. We could then resend the message out and share with our supervision team to help promote the bench.

Thoughts? Feedback?

3. Registration and Budget Update

- a. 2023-24 we have 586 kids from ECS-6
- b. 2024-25 we have 581 kids from ECS-6
- c. All of our French Immersion students remained in the program.
- d. The school budgets will be released late April, and will be due early May. It is at that point we will have a better idea of staffing and class configurations for the next school year.

E. Trustee Report - Susan Miller

1. EIPS WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU - Share your thoughts by completing the 2023-24 EIPS Annual Feedback Survey: For Parents and Caregivers—open March 1-21. Annually, EIPS conducts the survey to gauge its progress toward meeting the goals and priorities outlined in its Four-Year Education Plan. Parents and caregivers are asked a series of questions about their experiences with EIPS and the specific school their child attends; the quality of education being provided to students; areas for improvement; and new this year, the survey includes an additional series of questions—focused on stakeholder confidence in EIPS’ priorities and strategic direction as a whole. Collectively, the Division uses the survey feedback to help guide future planning, decision-making and strategies—all aimed at enhancing student learning and better serving the wider community.

TAKE THE SURVEY NOW!

open March 1-21

To preview the questions before completing the survey, see Question Preview - 2023-24 EIPS Annual Feedback Survey: For Parents and Caregivers. NOTE: To share the experiences of more than one child, or if you have a child who attends classes at more than one EIPS school—such as Next Step and an EIPS senior high school—simply complete the survey again.

2. 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 originally approved the 2023-24 operating budget on May 25, 2023. Each fall, the budget is updated to

account for current information regarding enrollment numbers, revenue changes, actual carry-forward amounts, expenses and planned reserve spending. Overall, the EIPS 2023-24 budget provides stability for schools and maintains essential services (see pg. 184, “2023-24 Fall Budget”).

3. HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FALL BUDGET - 2023-24 include:

- a. Operating budget – \$207.5 million, which includes a \$1.05-million draw from operating reserves
- b. Student enrollment – 17,760, as of Sept. 30, 2023
- c. Employees (full-time equivalent) – 1,372.58, as of Sept. 30, 2023
- d. Compensation – a 2% increase, effective Sept. 1, 2023—in accordance with the certificated settlement ratified June 2022. As approved by the Board, classified staff received the same increase in pay as certificated staff.
- e. Operating reserves – \$7.25 million, as of Aug. 31, 2024.
- f. Capital reserves – \$965,000, as of Aug. 31, 2024
- g. Instructional spending – 78.5% of the total budget, equating to \$9,448 per student.
- h. System administration spending – \$4.59 million, 2.2%, of total expenses.

4. ESTABLISHMENT OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM – The Board of Trustees approves the Sport for Life program at Clover Bar Junior High School to be designated an EIPS Alternative Program effective starting the 2024-25 school year.

5. ASCA MEMBERSHIPS 2024 - The Board of Trustees approved up to \$5,000 to sponsor the registration fees for school council members to attend the ASCA School Councils Conference and Annual General Meeting on April 26-28—one member per school. To qualify, members must be part of a school council with an active ASCA membership and apply before the registration deadline, April 8.

6. LEVERAGING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FUNDS – The Board received for information a report on the plan to utilize the funds for the second semester of 2023-24 school year. Junior high is an area where we are still seeing some higher levels of discrepancy between our schools and students around student achievement. Due to this discrepancy and the continued financial support provided by the provincial government to support learning loss in elementary schools, the Board of Trustees was in favor of targeting Leveraging Student Achievement funds (\$101,000) to junior high schools.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

- Annual Week of Inspirational Math – March 11-15
- Caregiver Series: March sessions
- EIPS Annual Feedback Surveys Promotion – March 1-21
- Substitute Appreciation Week – March 11-15

5. AGM date

Discussion to move AGM to May rather than September.
Chelsea motions to move AGM date to May. Tina motions to second that. None opposed all in favor. Motion carried. AGM date will be May 14 at 6:30pm.

6. Next Meeting April 9, 2023

7. Adjournment

Chelsea motions to adjourn at 7:02. Meeting Adjourned.