

## **AEL School Council Meeting Minutes:**

April 9, 2023 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Ardrossan Elementary School 53131 Range Road 222, Ardrossan, AB

**Attendees:** Tina Zerebeski, Jill Herbert, Chelsea Pretzlaw, Jami McLaren, Susan Miller, Candice Lapointe, Dan Verhoeff, Layla Pretzlaff, Carla Kokotailo, Val Ulliac

1. **Meeting Called to Order** at 6:31 by Chelsea Pretlaw

### **2. Review Agenda**

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

### **3. Approve Meeting Minutes**

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

### **4. Information Reports**

**A. AEPSA Report-** no report available

**B. CPF Report -** Chelsea Pretzlaw

Junior High Quebec trip is next month  
BBQ is set for last day of school  
Kindergarten year-end books were approved  
Parent looking into grant funding for CPF

**C. COSC Report -** Chelsea Pretzlaw

Primarily discussion was regarding new laws coming in for trans and gender nonconforming students and parent approval for use of non-birth assigned pronouns

**D. Principles Report** Daniel Verhoeff & Karla Kokotailo

1. School Dance
  - a. Huge success, it was so much fun and really well attended (We counted around 650 people that came in).
  - b. Big thanks to all of our volunteers who helped out!
2. Volunteer Tea- April 19 th from 10:00-10:45 in the gathering area
3. Earth Week Shoe Drive-We will be hosting a shoe drive to celebrate earth week (April 22-26, 2024).
4. Young Author's Conference- We have 1 student going from each one of our grades 4-6 classes to Young Author's Conference this upcoming weekend. It is an amazing event that is being held at Lakeland Ridge school
5. PAT Exam Update
  - a. Due to changes in the curriculum, and the PAT's not yet been field tested for the new curriculum, Ab Ed. has cancelled the Math and ELAL PAT's for this Spring. Our grade 6's will still write the following PAT's:

- i. FLA Part A and Part B (French Immersion students only)
  - ii. Science
  - iii. Social Studies
- 6. Alberta School Council Engagement Grant
  - a. School Council's are now eligible to access the funds that have not been spent in past years. We have a balance of \$560.77 (which includes this year's grant) that could be spent towards activities such as:
    - i. workshops for parents to increase capacity for school council members
    - ii. conference fees
    - iii. information sessions on how parents can support student learning at home and at school
    - iv. parent resources and workshops on important topics such as, mental health and well-being, cyber bullying, healthy living, etc.
    - v. programs to support families including those of English language and of Indigenous learners
    - vi. parent resources and tools in multiple languages
    - vii. events to engage parents on important local issues
    - viii. parent engagement in promoting the value of arts
    - ix. trainer or facilitator costs for the professional development, workshops or sessions associated with the above

**E. Trustee Report - Susan Miller**

On March 3-5, the Board attended the Alberta Rural Symposium, held in Edmonton. The theme this year was cultivating relationships, nurturing connections and harvesting success. This year's program and keynote speakers were focused and relevant to rural schools. Since Elk Island is an urban-rural school division, trustees attend this conference annually.

**THREE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN: 2025-28:** The Board approved EIPS' 2025-28 Three-Year Capital Plan. Annually, the Board reviews and updates the plan to prioritize its key capital projects. The Division's top five capital priorities are:

Priority 1: A replacement school for Rudolph Hennig Junior High and Fort Saskatchewan High (Grades 7-12)

Priority 2: A replacement school for James Mowat Elementary (grades K-6).

Priority 3: A new school for the Cambrian Crossing neighborhood (grades K-9).

Priority 4: A modernization and expansion of Vegreville Composite High to accommodate K-12 Programming

Priority 5: A modernization of Win Ferguson Elementary (grades K-6)

Now approved, the Division will submit the Three-Year Capital Plan to the province for funding consideration. **ASBA EDWIN PARR TEACHER AWARD: 2024** The Board

approved EIPS' nomination for this year's Edwin Parr Teacher Award nominee, Alexis Kotronis. Annually, the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 hosts the award to honour and recognize first year teachers and their pedagogical excellence.

Kotronis, a first-year teacher at Davidson Creek Elementary, was selected for her outstanding commitment to education, proactive approach and innate ability to create inclusive learning environments for students.

**REALLOCATION OF SURPLUS FUNDS:** The Board approved changes to the allocation of funds for the 2023-24 school year. The reallocation allows the Division to use any net surplus funds and ensures its operating reserves remain below the provincially

mandated 3.2 per cent reserve limit. In total, the Division will use the surplus of \$1.1 million for Windows computer evergreening (\$694,058), for Chromebook evergreening (\$325,000) and to construct a new entrance for Next Step Sherwood Park (\$80,000).  
**APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICERS:** The Board appointed Karen Baranec as the Returning Officer and Laura McNabb as the Substitute Returning Officer for the EIPS trustee election in 2025.  
**THREE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT PLAN: ATTENDANCE AREA:** The Board received for information, an update on one of the last remaining projects listed in the Division's Three Year Engagement Plan – the junior high attendance area cleanup. Throughout the spring and fall of 2022, the Division consulted stakeholders to explore possible changes to the junior high attendance boundaries in Sherwood Park. After analyzing the feedback, EIPS administration chose to keep the boundaries unchanged.

Global News - April 1, 2024

Ottawa unveils \$1B for national school food program

The Liberal government is pledging \$1 billion over the next five years for a national school food program in the upcoming budget, as Canadian families struggle to afford the rising cost of groceries. Deputy Prime Minister Freeland made the announcement in Toronto on Easter Monday, saying it will “mean peace of mind” for parents across the country. The goal is to feed an additional 400,000 children a year, by expanding programs offered by provinces and schools boards. More than 400 young authors are tapping into inspiration and finding their voices at the 33rd annual Young Authors' Conference on April 13. “This year's theme is ‘Finding my Story. The Young Authors' Conference is a long-standing collaborative event that welcomes students from both EIPS and Elk Island Catholic Schools (EICS) for a fun-filled day of storytelling. Throughout the day, students hone their skills in writing fluency, idea generation, illustration, expression and communication. Participants are grouped into grades 4-6 and grades 7-9. Students will also be able to attend virtual sessions on the conference day itself to watch and learn from home.

**7. Next Meeting** is the **AGM** May 14, 2023

**8. Adjournment**

Chelsea motions to adjourn at 7:13. Meeting Adjourned.