

AEL School Council Meeting Minutes:

May 11, 2021

6:30 – 7:30 pm via Google Meet

Attendees: Helene Hewitt (Principal), Kyla Harding (Assistant Principal), Skip Gordon (Board Trustee), JP Grebenc (Chair), Jackie Anderson, Ady Arbuckle, Val Ulliac, Shelly Gall Christenson, Jill Herbert, Darren Wright, Jami McLaren, Vania Lloyd, Kari Ludwig

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Meeting called to order by JP Grebenc at 6:32 pm

2. Minutes from Last Meeting

- Motion to accept April minutes by Shelly Christenson
- 2nd by Val Ulliac; motion carried

3. Board Report (Skip Gordon)

- Additional Provincial Health Restrictions: all K-Gr. 12 students to shift to online learning beginning May 7th
- EIPS hired external expert on curriculum, Janice Aubrey for her professional opinion on the merits of the new curriculum; link to her document to be put up on EIPS website
- National Volunteer Week was April 19-23; thank-you to all of our volunteers for their efforts to support success of EIPS schools
- 2021/2022 funding from Alberta Education remained almost the same with allocations for schools and supports for students seeing slight increase. EIPS plans to access \$2.19 million from operating reserves
- At April 22 Board Meeting the board approved proposed 2021/2022 school fees; each school to now post fees on individual websites
- Board also approved fees for Student Transportation; for 2021/2022 these fees remain unchanged; Transportation will continue to offer payment plan option for families with fees of \$300 or more

4. Chair Report: COSC Report (Jackie Anderson)

- COSC meeting held May 5th
- Trina Boymook informed the board has approved a 2-year reserve plan using \$2.1 million for Covid response costs
- 2021/2022 school year there will be no option for online learning; there will also be no option for in-class/online (if choosing to school at-home must be registered in an approved home school program)
- ATA local is purchasing lawn signs (available for \$4 each) to promote public education
- ASCA update: thank-you to those who were able to attend ASCA AGM – good representation of EIPS parents
- Invitation extended to other school councils to attend the AJSH Saffron Internet Safety presentation (virtually) on May 10 at 7:30 pm
- Sherwood Heights Replacement Initiative asking for community support to bring awareness to government and Alberta Education. Anyone with current or past connection to the school is asked to share stories of their time at the school. A website and email have been created but are not yet live.
- Covid 19 Update: 2 week out-of-school learning from May 10-May 25th; as of end of today: 37 active cases, 15 on alert, 5 on outbreak (3 schools with 5-9 cases and 2 schools with 10 or more)
- Budget Review: Overall a slight decline in EIPS student population; looking at a decrease of approx. \$7 million from last year to operate on (due to demo of Wye School and no more money received from Federal Government)
- School Council chairs must provide annual report by June 25th; include plans for upcoming school year with tentative plans for supporting school goals

5. Admin Report (Helene Hewitt, Principal and Kyla Harding, Assistant Principal)

- A. End-of-Year Info:
 - o Hope to be back in school before June
 - o Hope to finish last round of reading screeners
 - o Gr 6 and Kindergarten teachers working on year-end celebrations – will post info in Bison Tales
 - o Kindergarten Information Evening: May 19th (virtual)
 - o Email received from John Halco (facilities) re: renderings of new playground – looks amazing!

- B. 2021/2022 Budget Update:
 - o Approximately same enrollment amount
 - o Teacher standard costs up 1.7%, Classified standard costs up 3%
 - o Overall budget \$150,000 less than last year
 - o Staffing at 95.6% overall budget
 - o Class configurations not yet established; will consider requests for exceptional circumstances up to beginning of June

- C. EIPS Parent Survey Results
 - o Much fewer responses this year than in past 2 years (2021: 158 responses, 2020: 220 responses, 2019: 360 responses)
 - o Considerable reduction in “extremely satisfied” and “satisfied”
 - o Conversation during school council meeting had parents feeling similar: feeling disconnected from the school, disconnected from teachers and the classroom, frustrated to not be having conversations with teachers in-person, frustrated with Brightspace as the main platform for communication

- D. School Education Plan
 - o 3 main areas of focus remain:
 1. Literacy
 2. First Nations, Metis, Inuit Culture
 3. Mental Health
 - o Looking for feedback whether to continue focusing on these areas or not
 - o Suggestions for strategies to implement?
 - o How would parents like to be involved?

6. Other Business

- JP expressed concern over draft curriculum – wanted to know if a parental effort should be organized and should we direct concerns to social media? Jackie suggested that the best option for concerned parents is to direct their concerns to their elected officials in writing
- Helene inquired if there should be a change to the meeting schedule (as admin begins planning for the next school year); parent response was that it will likely depend on restrictions and where parents are at in their kids’ school journey. As of now, the 2nd Tuesday in September (Sept. 14th) is Meet the Staff Night

7. Next Meeting

- TBD

8. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Jackie Anderson
- Meeting adjourned by JP Grebenc at 7:39 pm