

School Council Meeting

A L Horton School, 5037 48 Avenue, Vegreville, AB

November 29, 2021 online via Google Meet

<https://meet.google.com/shi-ykot-xih>

Attendees: K. Busenius, R.Lal , K.Allan, R. Footz, H. Dinwoodie, S. Kuhn, R. Yackimec, D

Ambrock, T. Palamarek , D.Gara, T. Horon, R.Miller, J. Galeta, C. Granger, C Sen, D. Davis, D. Weleschuck

1. Call to order- 6:32pm by Ken Allan

2. Review of the Agenda

3. Approval of the Minutes, as presented- R. Yackimec and seconded by J. Galeta

a. October 2021 approved by: D. Gara and seconded by R. Yackimec

4. Principal's Report: Keri Busenius

Upcoming Events:

The Christmas Concert Committee has us all taking action:

Concert will be virtual for EIPS schools and we will send home the "Google Slides" labeled with each class and a video attached with a holiday song/dance/poem/theatre "number."

Afternoon options classes (Music, Art, FSL/UB/Literacy, Social Studies) are practicing together.

Christmas Break Dec 22 - Jan 4. Back on Wednesday, Jan 5 for early dismissal day

Gingerbread House building will be friendly competition/challenge in December; note coming home if it hasn't already.

Holiday Giving - Christmas Bureau and Food Bank donations are being collected re: 12 Days of giving on announcements & the Gingerbread House Building.

Celebrations & Events:

Early interviews on Oct 26 and 27 - attendance rate was: 72% but Kindergarten is about 90-95% on Nov 23 & 24

Video links sent home this year:

Halloween events October 29 around the school; video for families

Remembrance Day virtual assembly Nov 5 - sent home unlisted link to families

How do photos look this year? Like the end product? Retakes complete. There was feedback on glasses glare and not having a second photo option and only one.

Gr 6 vaccinations took place in our school.

Report cards came home last Friday - now into term 2. These were accompanied by attendance letters for absenteeism of greater than 30%.

Virtual book fair this past week

Volunteerism is picking up with vaccination records being more common for parents/caregivers

Reading volunteers, Hot Dog lunch volunteers, Hot Lunch Volunteers and Kindergarten Volunteers.

Enrolment, Budget & Planning, Staff, and Classes:

Welcome to Miss Brittini Wright who replaced Shelby Foster in Grade 2 Nov 15 - Dec 21. Vanessa Hayduk will return back in January.

We are beginning to plan for 2022-2023 already.

Surveying UB families about programming and their hopes for students at each year of programming

Would like to speak with families re: appreciation of diverse cultures and races and languages here at the school. We are hoping to hear from all families in January re: hopes around class sizes, class configurations.

We have received additional funding from the government for early learning due to student performance on division measures for reading and numeracy.

We hope to have a teacher for full days Jan 5 - March 24 to work with striving mathematicians and striving/struggling readers in Grades 2 and 3. This cannot be an EA. A number of other criteria must be met, as well as an end of year report.

This will be in addition to our current special funding for "unfinished learning" (formerly called learning loss) which has Ms. Giebelhaus reading with students in Grades 1-6, as identified by teachers

Also funded is lead time for Mrs. Mali to work with numeracy and Mrs. Palamarek/Mrs. Semeniuk to work with students/staff in literacy effective practices

Challenges:

Losing students from UB Program this fall term in Kinder, Grades 1-3 and Grades 4-6

UB Program Survey summary - next steps to address challenges

Results from Surveys:

Alberta Education Surveys (Parents, Students, Teachers) & EIPS Surveys (Staff & Parents)

We shared all slides and highlighted key themes for a brief discussion.

5. Trustee's Report: Randy Footz

Randy gave compliments to the ALH Staff for a touching Remembrance Day service. Thank you very much for inviting him to participate.

The Board held an organizational meeting on October 28, which included nominations and elections for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions. For the 2021-22 school years, Trustee Trina Boymook was elected the Chair, and Trustee Colleen Holowaychuk was elected the Vice-Chair.

The Division ended the 2020-21 school year with an overall operating surplus of \$6.11 million, which the Division has carried forward to the 2021-22 school year.

Decisions were made to :

- relocate three modular classroom units to South Pointe School from Fultonvale Elementary Junior High.
- replace three modular classroom units at James Mowat Elementary with four new modular units—to address aging infrastructure and the growing student population; and
- demolish three modular classroom units at Uncas Elementary. EIPS expects a decision with regards to funding these projects from the province in early 2022.

The ATA and Alberta School Councils' Association have joined together to launch a Stand for Education campaign. Families and teachers across Alberta are working together and lobbying the province to put children first in the public education system—by making necessary changes to the draft K-6 curriculum and funding manual.

The government's initial goal was for at least 10 per cent of students to try out the draft curriculum before it becomes mandatory. Edmonton Catholic School Board states that the draft curriculum in its present form is not ready for implementation. Alberta Francophone school boards refuse to pilot the curriculum.

According to Alberta's Deputy Minister of Education, fewer than one per cent of the province's teachers are pilot testing a new draft elementary school curriculum.

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) students in grades 2 and 3 who are struggling in literacy and numeracy after facing numerous learning disruptions throughout the past year and a half are receiving additional financial support thanks to \$791,840 in funding from the province.

At the Alberta School Boards Association Fall General Meeting, motions were passed to appeal to the Provincial Government for immediate assistance to bus contractors to aid in the sharply rising cost of insurance and to re-draft the K-6 curriculum.

Assurance reviews are currently underway and will conclude on Tuesday, November 30, 2021.

The Annual Education Results Report for 2020-21 was adopted as presented and will be available on the EIPS website on November 30, 2021. There is a great deal of valuable information on the Overview page.

The Board's Annual Retreat is scheduled for December 6 and 7. A new Four Year Education Plan is in the works and will dominate the majority of the discussion. School Calendars for the next few years will also be discussed. There will likely be a parent consultation with regards to the school calendar for the 2022-23 school years.

6. New Business:

a. Assurance Review Report: Thank you Keri, Rita and Chloe for representing that day.

b. School Council Grant: The government of Alberta is providing a 500\$ grant to school council. It has to be decided what this money will be used for. There will be more discussion to follow at the next meeting.

c. Discussion – boosting parent engagement was discussed in depth at the friends meeting and may be discussed further at our next parent council meeting.

7. Next Meeting – January 24, 2022

8. Adjourn at 7:34pm