

## School Council Meeting Minutes:

April 17, 2018

6:30 – 7:30 pm Ardrossan Elementary Library

**Attendees:** Helene Hewitt (Acting Principal), Kyla Harding (Acting Assistant Principal), Skip Gordon (Board Trustee), JP Grebenc, Kasia Spiker, Darren Wright, Cheryl Popik, Ady Arbuckle, Jennie March, Carolyn Vankleek, Jackie Anderson, Vania Lloyd, Connie Hamelin, Wendy Marty, Alicia Ponciano, Allison Usher

### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

- Meeting called to order by JP Grebenc at 6:30 pm

### **2. Minutes from last meeting**

- Motion to accept minutes from last meeting by Jennie March; seconded by Connie Hamelin
- Motion carried

### **3. Board Report (Skip Gordon)**

- Three main items to report:

#### *A. Reporting Student Achievement:*

The board has repealed and replaced motion 067/207 with the following: ***“that in grades 7-9 percentage grades will be assigned for core courses and letter grades for complimentary courses; in grades 10-12 percentage grades will be assigned for all courses; and a motion of the Board shall be required to change this practice.”***

#### *B. Three Year Capital Plan:*

The board has approved the EIPS Three-Year Capital Plan for 2019-2022 with top 3 priorities as follows:

Priority 1: Modernization at Sherwood Heights Jr High

Priority 2: Modernization at Rudolph Hennig Jr High

Priority 3: Cluster study within Sherwood Park involving École Campbelltown, Pine Street Elementary, and Sherwood Heights Jr High

#### *C. Surplus Land (Ministik School):*

The board has declared Ministik School Reserve lands are surplus to the division. As a result the school and land will now be given back to Strathcona County. A full report is available at [www.eips.ca/download/126244](http://www.eips.ca/download/126244)

### **4. Chair Report (Jackie Anderson)**

- Jackie attended the recent COSC meeting on April 4, 2018
- The upcoming ASCA Conference was once again discussed, with members being encouraged to attend if possible (EIPS council members have always had a strong presence at this conference)
- Trina Boymook presented information regarding the budget for the upcoming school year, noting that not much will be changing for this budget period; she also touched on ‘Reporting Student Achievement’ and updated COSC members of Admin Procedure 541 (a motion has

- been embedded to only have 'école' preceding the name of single track schools to protect the board from further changes)
- The 2017/2018 Parent Survey had a higher response rate than in previous years (approximately over 2200 responses) with the majority of responders noting an improved level of education for our students
  - COSC members then watched an informative 'Ted Talk' on "Is Social Media Hurting Your Mental Health?" (Bailey Parnell/TedxRyersonU). The video prompted an open-table discussion on how COSC members deal with social media and how we feel it is affecting elementary school-aged children. The group consensus seemed to be that council members would like to see a board mandated decision on how personal devices are handled at the elementary school level

## **5. Administration Report (Helene Hewitt as Acting Principal)**

### **A. Judy Update:**

- Mrs. Whetstone is doing as well as can be expected. She is in excellent spirits as she interacts with her medical team to determine her best course of treatment. Mrs. Kyla Harding has stepped up as Acting Assistant Principal and is doing a wonderful job!

### **B. Events from the past month:**

- Rendez-vous de la Francophonie was a huge success with a BIG thank-you going to parents who volunteered to help out with Carnaval as well as the photo booth
- The Farm Smarts presentation was offered last week to all grade levels
- Grade 6 students have been working with Grade 9 buddies from AJS on upcoming math projects
- Grade 5s received a visit from the Beaverhill Bird Observatory
- The Bookmobile came to the school for the Grade 1s to use
- Rhythmic gymnastics took place prior to Spring Break

### **C. Upcoming Events:**

- April 18<sup>th</sup>: Elder Wilson will be in to teach Grade 4s about round dancing
- April 20<sup>th</sup>: Volunteer Appreciation Event happening in the learning commons (8:30-9:30 am) Please stay and join us for the Habit 6 Earth Day Assembly (Grade 4 presenting) at 9:30 am
- April 25<sup>th</sup>: Superhero Day! Dress like your favourite superhero
- April 27<sup>th</sup>: PD Day with staff working on projects for the new school
- May 3<sup>rd</sup>: Hats on for Mental Health – wear a hat to support open discussion about mental health
- May 4<sup>th</sup>: Class Picture Day for all grades **except** Grade 1 and alternate ECS (Picture day for these groups is Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup>)

### **D. New School Update:**

- Progressing on schedule with subcontractors working daily and furniture arriving steadily
- The new school will be ready to open as planned in the fall

#### **E. Budget and Staffing Update:**

- The 2018/2019 budget has not yet been released; admin not anticipating any major changes
- Staffing has begun in the division; several rounds of hiring are to come, creating a domino effect. With Davidson Creek school opening in the fall, there is movement expected throughout the division

#### **F. Fees Update**

- No increase in school fees except for a small increase in ski trip rentals for cost recovery (ski rentals went up by \$5.00)
- Ardrossan Elementary is working with the division to order agendas in bulk. This is expected to cut the cost of agendas from \$9.00 to \$3.33! Look for a letter coming soon for opting in to purchase an agenda
- EIPS has set up a common supply list that schools must now follow. Ardrossan ECS and Grade 1 will continue to offer to purchase supplies in bulk for a fixed fee that parents can opt in to. Look for a letter regarding this as well over the next month

### **6. AEPSA Report**

- Social Night (Vania Lloyd): the night was a relative success for a first-time event (approximately close to \$4,000 raised)
- The planning committee hopes to have improved communication for the next one in order to reach more parents
- By starting corporate donation requests sooner next time, it is expected we could receive greater sponsorship to add to the event's success
- Those who attended said it was a fun event, very enjoyable
- A HUGE thank-you to the planning committee for an amazing job that was very well done!
- Galaxyland Family Event (Jennie March, JP Grebenc, Carolyn Vankleek): roughly 200-300 tickets remaining to be sold; since posting the event on social media marketing sites, numbers have been selling steadily. Fundraising group will set aside approximately 100 tickets for the night of the event
- May 25<sup>th</sup>: Date has been set aside as Ardrossan's first 'Staff Appreciation Day'. Discussion to be tabled until next meeting but with group deciding a pot luck style lunch would be a great option
- New Hot Lunch Kitchen (Allison Usher): the new kitchen is looking amazing and the hot lunch team is looking into the potential of offering a "hot lunch day" where all students receive a hot lunch for that day

### **7. New Business**

- Vania Lloyd followed up on a previously discussed topic regarding opportunities for students to have more healthy competition available to them at school in various genres. Helene responded that the discussion was talked about with staff and they are eager to implement some new techniques into the school's upcoming Sports Days
- Jackie Anderson inquired why there was no open house being offered for Grade 6 students venturing into junior high. Helene explained that a communication had been missed

between Ardrossan Elementary and the Grade 6 families. If parents would like to know more information, they are welcome to set up an appointment with the AJS school counsellors (Ms. Adriana Footz or Mrs. Tamia Richardson). Grade 7 orientation is set for August 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the AJS school theatre.

- During discussion of the progress of the new school build, both Wendy Marty and Jackie Anderson expressed concerns regarding the set-up of the new school's bathrooms. Helene and Kyla fully explained how the bathrooms are configured, so as to ensure privacy and safety for students, yet being open for staff to supervise. Admin has stated that they really feel the bathroom set-up will not be an issue, to please give it a try once the students move into the new school, but if concerns arise, consideration will be given to re-configuring the bathrooms to being more gender-specific.

#### **8. Next Meeting**

Tuesday, May 8, 2018 (9:30 – 10:30 am) in the library; followed by AEPSA meeting (10:30-11:30 am)

#### **9. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn: JP Grebenc

Seconded: Allison Usher at 7:52 pm