

School Council Meeting Minutes:

May 12, 2020

6:30 – 7:30 pm via Google Meet

Attendees: Helene Hewitt (Acting Principal), Kyla Harding (Acting Assistant Principal), Skip Gordon (Board Trustee), Layla Pretzlaff (Music Teacher), Krista Ruptash (Teacher), Maryse Bouchard (Teacher), JP Grebenc, Jackie Anderson, Jami McLaren, Ady Arbuckle, Cheryl Popik, Mandi Kozniuk, Val Uliac, Jennie March, Angela Royer, Vania Lloyd, Jill Herbert, Shelly Gall, Rilán Cerra

1. Welcome & Introductions

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

2. Minutes from Last Meeting

- March meeting minutes accepted by group majority; no meeting was held in April 2020

3. Board Report (Skip Gordon)

- The 2020/2021 transportation fee structure has been approved by the board; this will see each eligible student being charged a \$100 fee and those students less than 2.4 km from their designated school will be paying \$325 each
- Family transportation fee has been removed; fees are now charged on a per student basis
- The Alberta government has announced 3 possible options for schools for its Covid 19 reopening plan:
 1. Continue as we are now with online learning
 2. A partial reopening with a hybrid of in-person and online learning
 3. Open as normal for a new school year in September
- EIPS has announced a near \$7,000,000 shortfall for the 2020/2021 school year; this will mean budget cuts of approx. 2.9% at the school level and 20.3% at the central level
- Superintendent Mark Liguori has made the difficult decision to have to cancel graduation ceremonies for the 2020 school year
- JP Grebenc questioned whether there would be a refund for those families who have paid for busing for the 2019/2020 school year – yes, some families have already started to receive their refunds
- When will we have the potential to return to school? Skip replied that we are still awaiting direction from the Alberta government how we will proceed
- Ady Arbuckle asked what students will be charged if they fall in the category of being less than 2.4 km away from their designated school but there is no safe walkway or path. Skip replied he believes it is \$325/student

4. Chair Report (Jackie Anderson – COSC Review)

- COSC met via Zoom on May 6; final meeting of the 2019/2020 school year
- Trina Boymook gave board report, covering approved transportation fee schedule and EIPS budget for the 2020/2021 year; on May 14th there will be a public virtual meeting at 1:00 pm to determine the future of the Jr High program at rural Andrew school
- ATA Rep, Deneen Zielke reported that many long hours have been spent by teachers to create and deliver meaningful online content for students; she expressed the comments she has received about parents and students being concerned about their education; educators are worried about what the return to school will look like for the province as we await direction from the government
- At the annual ASCA AGM a new president, vice president, and 5 new members have been elected for a 2-year term, with 2 EIPS reps serving on the ASCA board (Jacquie Surgenor and Krista Scott)
- Associate Superintendent Sandra Stoddard covered numerous supplements to online learning in the Alternate Learning Toolkit (EIPS website) available to students/parents looking for additional options

- Superintendent Mark Liguori covered the upcoming budget allocation, stating a \$7,523,105 shortfall due to a reduction in funding from the current Alberta government and the EIPS school board no longer able to contribute to reserves. This will result in a contraction in programming, a near \$4,000,000 reduction in PUF funded programming, larger class sizes, and significant delays in abilities to work with students in the areas of OT, SLPs, PTs, etc
- Assoc Superintendent Stoddard also covered how assessments will look in the wake of Covid 19 to determine how students will receive a final grade and report card for this term

5. Administration Report (Helene Hewitt, Acting Principal)

A. 2020/2021 Budget

- o Budgeting process different this year with per student funding changed, carryover surplus is now included, and a reduction in funding to PALS programming
- o Reduction of \$174,895 for next year (PUF reduced significantly, PALS regulations now make program available to kids between 2.8 – 4.8 years then they must proceed to ECS with no third year in PALS, increase in staff costs due to staff reductions, reserve funds no longer available from central, less staff available to support students)

B. Classroom Configurations

- o All teaching assignments not yet finalized
- o At this time no combined/split classes but this results in some larger classes (ranging from 19 students to 32 students per class)
- o Admin is asking for parental support in trusting staff to create balanced classes for the upcoming school year. Requests will only be considered if there is some exceptional circumstance and parents must contact the office directly

C. EIPS Parent Survey Results

- o Response rate down slightly with 220 families replying compared to 360 last year
- o Results very strong – available on the AEL website
- o Positive results but admin acknowledges there are some areas to work on or communicate with parents the reasoning for their responses
- o Admin would love to hear suggestions to how our school can improve upon areas that have declined

D. School Education Plan & Literacy Project

- o Admin has identified 3 goals for the 2020/2021 school year
 - Goal 1: to ensure more students are at or above grade level expectations in literacy and numeracy in both French and English
 - Goal 2: to increase student, community, and staff understanding of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit foundational knowledge
 - Goal 3: to establish/maintain effective mental health supports for students, families, and staff as part of a welcoming, inclusive, respectful and safe learning environment

E. End of Year Information

- o Admin and staff are planning to create something for the Grade 6 group including a staff video montage to celebrate them
- o AEL is working hard to refund/credit school fees to families. By default, funds will be credited to accounts and can be applied to next year's school fees. Refunds can also be made but not until the June 26 deadline in order for AEL to ensure the return of loaned materials (Chromebooks, textbooks, library books, etc)

F. Alternative Learning Check-In

- o Thank-you to the 45 families who responded to the survey – feedback is helpful for staff in tweaking what they are doing to make online learning even better

- Staff is preparing for final report cards – available through Parent Portal on June 26. Final day of online learning will be June 19.
- All students who were on track to move to next grade level will be promoted
- Student marks will be a reflection of learning from all 3 terms and the professional judgement of staff given current context

6. CPF Report

- CPF Rep not available for report

7. Other Business

- Nothing new to add

8. Next Meeting

- It was determined school council will not meet again in June UNLESS new information is provided by the Alberta government regarding school reopening plan in light of Covid 19. In that case, Helene will confirm details of date and time for a June Google Meet

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by JP Grebenc at 7:48 pm