



MEETING MINUTES

Davidson Creek Elementary School Council
October 8th, 2019 6:00pm

BOARD MEMBERS

Melissa Presse, Chair | Ashley MacInnis, Vice Chair | Karli Butler, Secretary
|Stephanie Peterson, Communications

MEETING MINUTES

Secretary welcomed attendees and guests and gave a Treaty 6 Acknowledgment

The Secretary took attendance:

- Parent Council Executive: Melissa Presse, Chair, Karli Butler, Secretary, - Present
- Absent: Ashley MacInnis, Vice Chair, and Stephanie Peterson, Communications Officer
- Parent Council Members: 9 additional parents attended the meeting
- DCE Staff: Kaye Schindeler, Principal, Murray Howell, Assistant Principal, Marlis Marler, Assistant Principal/Counselor, Tara Kramer, Teacher, Jenn Mikitka, Teacher
- Guests: Annette Hubrick, Elk Island Public School Division Trustee
- Secretary asked if there were any additions or deletions to the meeting agenda. – None were made. Meeting proceeded.

The Secretary asked for approval of minutes of September 10, 2019

There was a name change error on the September Minutes regarding the Wellness committee representative Sara Gruninger, which needed to be corrected.

- Motion was carried by: Courtney Mallow, Parent
- Seconded by: Nadine Gritter, Parent

OLD BUSINESS

Hot Lunch Options:

Kaye S. spoke about the hot lunch options currently offered to students.

Right now, students are given a juice as a part of every hot lunch. From a healthy eating standpoint this is a significant issue due to the amount of sugar in juice. DCE Staff are working to be in compliance with AP regulations for Elk Island Schools. In order to ensure a healthier hot lunch, juice will be removed from the menu.



Options to replace juice will be to, in some cases, include water or kids can access Moo Club milk. Kaye S. confirmed that smoothies, sometimes offered with certain hot lunch days, will still be acceptable.

The Hot Lunch committee will need to adjust pricing, in some cases, of hot lunches to reflect there will be no juice served.

Melissa P. for Erin, Bike Racks:

Melissa spoke for Erin W., who could not attend the meeting. Erin followed up on if the County would permit the school to pour an additional concrete pad on the school grounds, in a specific location, which would allow for more bike racks to be added.

Kaye S. confirmed the site for the concrete pads had been approved by the County, but she was still waiting on quote for the actual metal bike racks. This project can be discussed again in the Spring, as it is fairly late into the season to be able to pour concrete and Kaye still needed more information on the racks.

Wreath Decorating:

A Funds Request form was put forth to SC for approval. The request was for a total of \$50.00 to pay for some supplies and decorations, which would help kick off the wreath decorating contest taking place among the school classrooms.

Funds Request Approved:

- Motion was carried by – Courtney Mallow, Parent
- Seconded by - Tara Macdonald, Parent

It was agreed the wreath decorating initiative was a good idea:

The request will now go to the Fundraising Society for a final approval of funds. It was not expected this would have any issue gaining approval with the Fundraising Society.

Some of the meeting participants spoke about getting decorations donated. Melissa P. asked meeting goers to hold off on this topic until she discussed the Knickknack Shack, which would be an option to support donated decorations.

Melissa P. also suggested that to improve the contest portion of the initiative we should have someone judge the wreaths once completed.

Kaye S. suggest that DCE should invite a third party set of judges from outside the school but from within our community; thus lending some legitimacy to the effort

ACTION: Melissa P. Chair of the SC would invite a panel to judge wreaths, and may break up the judging into grade categories. Some of the suggested names for Melissa to invite were Rod Frank, Mayor, and Constable Rick, from Star Resource, Annette Hubrick, our school Trustee and Bill Toninta, our ward's councilmen.



Melissa P. will provide an update of who is attending as judges once she receives responses.

There was some discussion among meeting attendees as to if we should include the kindergartners in this effort. It was agreed they would participate.

An Interactive School Garden:

Kaye S. provided a brief update that Ms. Keen, a grade 1 teacher, had applied for the Salisbury Grant to have an interactive garden area put in at the school. DCE is waiting to hear back on their application.

Tara MacDonald brought forward a program called Little Green Thumb as a possible gardening program for the school to review. Kaye S. took the information for her files.

Chair Report, Melissa P.

Melissa advised the SC the Operating Procedures had recently changed. Additions included some new parts to the request funds section and a new section on how the SC budget is generated. The SC Operating Manual will be posted for review until November's meeting at which point it will be approved and made official.

Melissa P. advised the meeting members she had recently attended a Committee of School Councils (COSC) meeting on October 2, 2019. This is a parent group comprised of School Council Chairs, Elk Island School (EIPS) trustees, and EIPS Administrators. The group meets to discuss educational issues and trends, specifically relating to EIPS.

Melissa mentioned that out of the COSC meeting she learned the Alberta School Council Association (ASCA), which supports School Parent Councils by providing a number of invaluable resources has had their funding denied.

ASCA was a big supporter and resource provider when DCE established our School Parent Council last year. With no funding ASCA will be closing down, indefinitely, in the next two months. Melissa encouraged parents to contact their MLA about this issue and bring it forward.

Melissa then discussed the idea of the Knickknack Shack

This concept was also discussed last year by the SC at various council meetings. Essentially it is an upcycling style resource page or website that would assist teachers looking for items they need for their classrooms; items that could be donated by parents or other members of the community. The idea would be for teachers to post a requests of items they need for their classrooms, i.e. Christmas decorations for the wreaths, or egg cartons for an art project, or used yogurt containers for storage and organization, etc. and then parents/others would know what to provide to whom.

Nadine G. a parent member suggested she may be able do a small website that teachers can log into and post items that the parents or community could see and apply with items to fill the need.



ACTION: Nadine G. will get back to Melissa P. about possible website options for the Knickknack Shack.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Wellness Committee Report, Sara Gruninger:

The Wellness Committee had their first meeting on September 21, 2019.

One of the items discussed at the meeting was the Buddy Bench.

The Wellness Committee attempted to pursue options to promote the bench or make it stand out more. One suggestion was painting it or decorating it somehow, but the County denied this proposal.

Right now the buddy bench is denoted only by a small plaque. At this point there will be no further efforts taking place to make the Buddy Bench more distinguishable.

The Wellness Committee also started discussing and making plans for their upcoming Healthy Snack Initiative.

Their next meeting is on October 21, at 6:30pm

Sara also gave a brief report on the Orange Shirt Initiative. The online app used to order the Orange shirts did not do a good job. Sara and other volunteers who were responsible for handing out the shirts to the kids found the delivery frustrating as it did not arrive with proper information to get the shirts to the right classrooms. The Wellness committee has decided not to use this online app again and will identify a new app for next year.

Moo Club, Nadine Gritter

The Moo Club Milk program started October 1st. Things went well.

There was a small improvement this year and the milk cards will now be marked with a punch and not a scribble, which should help with fewer mistakes on the cards.

It took some organizing, but the Moo Club has plenty of student volunteers, as well as, the necessary parent volunteers this year.

NEW BUSINESS

Principal Report, Kaye Schindeler:

Kay reviewed the Accountability Pillar results. Since there is no history of previous performance at DCE this is the first time the report was completed (based on the 2018-2019 school year) and DCE received results.



MEETING MINUTES

DCE School Council (SC)
October 8th, 2019 6:00pm

“The Alberta government has a system for school authorities to consistently measure success and progress, called the Accountability Pillar. [...] Schools and school authorities use the results to identify areas for improvement and to help build their education plan. [...] The data in the Accountability Pillar gives a good idea of school and school authority performance, including successes and potential challenges. Schools and school authorities use the data to find ways to improve student learning and achievement”

– Referenced from <https://www.alberta.ca/accountability-education-system.aspx>, Website.

Kaye also shared DCE’s Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs)

DCE exceeded provincial averages in all key categories, Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. Kaye was pleased with the results, and also clarified, again, that DCE School has no historical data at this time.

Kaye then asked parents to reach out their MLA regarding the PAT’s. Right now grade 3 students are required to take these exams. It is a high stress exam and is not necessary for this age range to be subjected to. The first year these test should be administered is at the current grade 6 level.

Kaye shared a DRAFT of the Davidson Creek School Educational Plan and goals at the meeting. This plan highlighted the current year’s focus and achievement targets, which are an extension of and improvement upon last year’s goals. The completed/approved version of this plan will be posted in November for all parents to review.

Kaye also spoke about some deficiencies that the school has faced in its first year, mostly regarding the building itself, as it was new in 2018 and wasn't 100% completed when school started. Over the course of the last school year these deficiencies were rectified.

Melissa P. suggested the Roots of Empathy Program as a possible idea for the school to pursue either this year or in the future. Kaye S. and Marlis M. agreed to look into the program further as a possibility and will follow up with SC.

Annette Hubick Trustee Report

Annette, spoke on the provided School Trustee Report below: See pages 6-8



Meeting Conclusion – Chair, Melissa Presse

The Chair thanked Annette for her update.

The Chair confirmed the following SC meeting dates for the rest of the 2019/2020 School year.

Please be aware that December’s meeting, due to busy schedules, was cancelled.

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| 1. November 19 | 6. April 14 |
| 2. December 10 - Cancelled | 7. May 12 (Final Meeting for Funding Requests) |
| 3. January 14 | 8. June 9 (AGM) |
| 4. February 11 | |
| 5. March 10 | |

The DCE School Council Meeting adjourned at 7:21pm



SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT
Trustee Annette Hubick
October 2019

Priorities for 2019-2020

After lengthy discussions at its annual retreat, the board identified the following priorities for its own work during the 2019-2020 school year:

1. School Fees – The Board will be establishing a system process for setting and monitoring of school fees. Work on this is already underway. Stay tuned.
2. Advocacy and Engagement – Advocacy will be important this year as the new government rolls out their plans for K-12 Education. It will also important to focus on stakeholder engagement as we inform our communities of the pending changes and how it will affect EIPS. Curriculum, funding and the Choice in Education Act are just three of the government’s initiatives that will have a significant impact on education in Alberta.



3. Education Funding – How to continue to provide excellence in times which by all indications, will become increasingly difficult.
4. Managing urban enrolment in both Fort Saskatchewan and Sherwood Park.

2018-2019 Provincial Exam Results

Division results are all posted on the EIPS website.

Diplomas: In comparison to the province, EIPS students performed particularly well in English Language Arts, French Language Arts and Science 30. Math, Social and the individual sciences' results were marginally lower than the province's.

PATs: EIPS students outperformed the province in all but two categories (Standard of Excellence for FLA9 and K&E Science, but both subjects did have significantly higher numbers in "acceptable standards").

These are the one year's results and the board has not yet seen any comparison reports to indicate if there are any trends and further analysis is required to determine what factors could be impacting those trends.

EIPS Name

EIPS has submitted a request to the Minister to retain "Elk Island Public Schools" as the division's "corporate name", i.e., brand identity. In accordance with the statute, the division's legal name is changing to Elk Island School Division.

Fall Budget

The Government of Alberta's budget is to be released October 24, 2019. We will then know if, and to what extent, we need to make adjustments to the 2019-2020 budget. Usually, the fall budget is adjusted to reflect actual enrolment; this year, it's also to reflect actual funding.

The deadline for school divisions to submit their fall budgets is still November 30th. The board will be meeting October 31st to review the budget and its impacts on October 31st and has scheduled two additional meetings in November to ensure we meet November 30th deadline. It is anticipated that the government will also be making infrastructure announcements that same day.

Funding Framework Review

- The province is undertaking a funding framework review. It has established six subcommittees: high school funding, inclusion, transportation, learning supports, ADLC/Virtual learning, efficiencies in education.
- The government has asked for input on opportunities for efficiencies. One EIPS has put forward is a provincial purchasing program for utilities and for software licenses.



- Although boards have long been advocating for a funding framework review, the speed at which changes are being contemplated is a concern. Input is being sought now and it's projected that a draft framework will be presented for public consultation in late winter and a new framework established for next year.

Funding Based on Performance

- One of the changes that the Mackinnon Report suggested was to fund schools based on performance. It should be noted that there are a number of factors that impact the level of performance at any given school.
 - programming divisions are able to offer based on numbers of students and size of schools
 - number of students facing challenges related to specialized needs
 - the socioeconomic composition of the community in which the student lives, as well as the individual socioeconomic status of a student's family
 - the level of supports available for vulnerable families in the communities served by a division
- Schools with a student population which include a higher number of vulnerable students will invariably see their results impacted.
- If Alberta Education awards a greater proportion of funding to those schools with a record of higher academic performance, students who truly need extra investment for supports and programming will not receive the funding needed to achieve to the best of their abilities, further marginalizing disadvantaged students and perpetuating a cycle of poor performance.
- Public schools serve diverse populations and it is their role to ensure all students receive a high quality education.