**Meeting Minutes**

Davidson Creek Elementary School Council

**October 13, 2020 6:30pm**

**Zoom Video Conference Meeting**

**Board Members**

Melissa Presse, Chair | Sarah Anderson, Vice Chair | Karli Butler, Secretary

|Vacant - Communications

**DCE School Council Meeting MINUTES**

The Chair welcomed attendees and guests and gave a Treaty 6 Acknowledgment

**Attendance:**

Exec Committee: Melissa Presse, Chair, Sarah Anderson, Vice Chair, Karli Butler, Secretary,

Absent: Vacant - Communications

DCE Staff: Kaye Schindeler, Principal, Murray Howell, Assistant Principal, Marlis Marler, Assistant Principal/Counselor, Amy Rice, Teacher, Tara Hanasyk, Teacher

Parent Representatives: 8 parents/caregivers attended the Zoom meeting.

Invited Guest: Annette Hubick, EIPS Trustee

**Approval of Agenda:**

The Chair asked for changes in the Agenda no changes made.

* Motion was carried by: Melissa P.
* Seconded by: Sara A.

**Approval of DCE SC Meeting Minutes of October 2020 (Zoom)**

* Motion was carried by: Melissa P.
* Seconded by: Sara A.

**Kaye Schindeler, Principle Report**

Our leadership team, along with our teachers, continue to work on reaching the mile stones of our School Education Plan 2018-2022. These have not changed from what we laid out last year.

No reports of any COVID to date. The expectation of COVID complications continues to be stressful on staff and students.

Kaye reviewed the School Education Plan in further detail [added post DCE School Council meeting: the current school education plan can be found online at <https://www.davidsoncreekelementary.ca/download/213088> ]

* Goal #1 of the Plan: The Culture of Literacy started in 2019/2020 and continues 2020/2021 (2020 is a shortened year)
	+ Working with teachers to help support them with the “Love of Literacy” Program
	+ Kaye asked for input from the parent attendees about the current “Love of Literacy” program - feedback was positive and DCE will continue working towards this goal and the program.

Kaye responded to a parents question about books coming home. The library is functioning, but there are a few issues with the software managing the books. The school Librarian continues to work with each classroom.

Books inside a classroom are shared as they belong to that cohort.

* GOAL #2 of the Plan: To create a culture of understanding and celebration of diversity, with respect to First Nations, Métis and Inuit cultures.
	+ - The First Nations/Matinee programing is continuing with teacher, Amy Wait leading it. The current program focuses on promoting indigenous children’s literacy.
* GOAL #3 of the plan: Continue to develop a safe, caring, welcoming school community and culture.
	+ - We continue to develop a safe and welcoming school culture. We continue to practice the 7 sacred teaching of our indigenous forefathers.

This year Kaye is trying to work on how to involve parents in the school and virtually. Suggestions included sending pictures of bulletin boards and projects posted for parents to see online and stay connected

Group then discussed how parents can contribute, videos of reading stories, videos about what they do for work.

Kaye will consider the options discussed and keep parents informed through newsletter and emails

Kaye discussed creating a mathematics centric culture at the school for 2020/2021. There is a new math program for grd. 3 - grd. 6 called “math up”, as well as, other initiatives to learn and interact with math. Kaye listed several math learning options that students are participating in the school offers. The goal is ongoing and Kaye doesn’t feel it has been fully achieved, but will continue working on it.

Bright Space (online learning portal for EIPS) is starting to move forward and teachers are working on content and preparing in the event that kids are working from home.

A parent asked what will be the process for being notified if there is a COVID case at the school. Kaye confirmed directly exposed children and families will be notified by a confidential email first, which will contain instructions on what to do. Then rest of the parents with children not exposed will get another email for transparency. There are also additional “flags” that would go out to notify parents to read important emails. – If this process changes, Kaye will send out information.

**Annette Hubick: Trustee Report**

Annette gave an update on the allocation of funds from the federal government.

There was also a review of other fund allocations that have occurred due to savings found in the budget because of current pandemic conditions; however, t there are several areas of the budget that need padding due to COVID. Leave coverage for staff, janitorial services, PPE, hand sanitizer, etc.

Board of Trustees established their own priorities for the year, these were reviewed by Annette in the following report:



**Trustee Report for Davidson Creek Elementary School Council**

Annette Hubick

October 13, 2020

**Additional funds for Safe School Re-Entry**

* The federal grant amounted to $6.1 million for EIPS. Boards are permitted to spend these funds in four areas:
	+ online learning and online teaching training
	+ student transportation
	+ increased cleaning and safety costs
	+ increased teaching and substitute costs
* There are reporting requirements from boards to the province and from the province to the federal government.
* On Wednesday, September 16, 2020, the Board held a Special Public Meeting to decide on the allocation of these funds. EIPS determined that the needs of schools exceed this amount. As such, the Board made the decision to allocate an additional $4.4 million toward its COVID-19 response—using its unallocated reserves and budget efficiencies such as lower than estimated insurance costs—for a total of $10.6 million. EIPS is focusing the additional resources in a variety of areas:
* O*ut-of-school learning –* A $1.7-million allocation to out-of-school learning to hire extra teaching staff and tech support.
* *In-school learning –* A $2.96-million allocation to flow directly to schools to address three key areas of concern—classroom configuration, learning gaps and mental-health supports. Because specific needs vary from school to school, principals are in the best position to determine how to use the funds effectively.
* *Student and staff safety* – A $1.9 million allocation for personal protective equipment (PPE), hand sanitizer, and additional school bus cleaning and janitorial services.
* *Medical leave & Substitute Costs* – $4.1 million.The Division will be constantly monitoring staff medical leaves to see if further funds are needed or can be reallocated to address other needs.
* *Student Transportation –* $245,000 for extra daily cleaning and disinfecting of EIPS buses.
* *Staff overtime*—$67,000 to respond to urgent cleaning requirements upon a confirmed case of COVID-19.

**Board of Trustee Priorities 2020-2021**

* Monitoring the Division’s pandemic response.
* A resolution to the need for a replacement school for Sherwood Heights.
* Value of Public Education. In response to the current political climate, we will be focusing our advocacy efforts on the role that public education has in creating a strong educational system.
* Budget – not only in terms of monitoring this year’s budget and the impact of the pandemic but also looking ahead to 2021-2022 budget where it’s anticipated we will incur another $3 million decrease. (When the Government introduced its new funding model, it allocated “bridge funds” to help divisions adapt to the new model, advising that next year, it would be cut by 50% and then phased out completely.)

**Letter to Minister Lagrange re: enrolment impact on budget**

EIPS’s enrolment is down by approximately 400 students from projected figures. Due to the government’s new education funding model that uses a “weighted moving average”, this will have a significant impact on the division’s budget this year and next. EIPS board chair sent a letter to Minister Lagrange to request that school divisions be “held harmless” in this scenario and that the allocation be made according to budgeted figures. Many other boards across the province are in a similar position, which points to emigration from Alberta being the reason for declining enrolment, and have also sent letters to the Minister.

**Results Reviews**

As a function of its accountability responsibilities, the EIPS Board of Trustees will be conducting results reviews this November. The purpose is to meet with central office departments and schools to hear about their 2019-2020 results and their 2020-2021 plans (and how last year’s results are informing this year’s plans). The information shared at the meetings also helps the board in its advocacy efforts by being able to uncover trends and the stories behind the numbers. School Council representatives will be invited to take part in these reviews.

**Melissa Presse, Chair Report**

* No much to report regarding our own parent school council right now
* Committee of School Councils (COSC) had a ZOOM meeting, Melissa updated what was discussed at the meeting. [added post DCE School Council meeting: <https://www.eips.ca/parents/committee-of-school-councils-cosc/meetings-agendas-minutes> ]
* Alberta School Council Association (ASCA) has an AGM meeting coming up, we will not have a representative this year. The meeting was on Oct 17, by zoom from 10:00am – 3:00pm. Further details can be found online: <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/>
	+ Melissa asked if anyone wanted to participate in the ASCA Task force on engagement. No volunteers stepped forward for this initiative.

**Committee Reports**

**Sara G. - Active Travel Committee (ATC)**

Last year’s poster challenge winners are up on the fence.

International Walk to School Day was last week, Wednesday, Oct 2nd, the trails were very busy that morning with many participants. Assistant Principal Howell said the bike racks were overflowing and there were 290 students who participated, just over 62% for that day!

Perhaps we can have another WOWW (Walk or Wheel Wednesday) in October, especially before the weather turns.

**Sara G. - Wellness Committee**

We had our meeting over Zoom on September 29th. There were 5 people in attendance plus Melissa (thank you Melissa for starting the meeting for us). We brainstormed ideas on how to support staff, students and parents.

To support staff, we are going to try and promote “Thank You Thursday” where we encourage students or parents to jot little notes in agendas for their teacher. Kaye will send out information.

It was also suggested the committee ask parents for money donation in lieu of an appreciation potluck meal for staff. Instead the money could buy a catered lunch/or meal. One parent at the meeting, a lunch supervisor, and said she would keep in mind what she sees as a need for teachers/students.

The Wellness committee, to support parents not on social media, would like a continued presence in the newsletter.

It was also suggested, with parents not being allowed in the school, if there could be a hallway video or pictures of class artwork shared via YouTube link and or added to newsletter for the parents to see.

The committee discussed how better to support indoor recesses? One mom’s son attends afterschool care with the Boys and Girls club. She would reach out to them for ideas on how they keep the kids active indoors. More ideas are being researched/suggested.

Do we need more board games donated? Is GoNoodle an option with COVID?

Next meeting is set tentatively for Wellness committee meeting is November 3rd at 6:30pm. All parents are invited to participate.

**New Business**

Staff lunch is being set up for this Thursday. It is a catered lunch, with sandwiches, soup and dessert for all the staff.

Attendees discussed that there is an unfilled opening on our school council executive for the communication position. We have advertised with parents, but haven’t had anyone step forward yet.

**Meeting Close**

* November 17, 2020 at 6:30pm will be the next DCE School meeting
* Meeting adjourned at 7:16pm -
	+ Heather L. motioned to adjourned meeting,
	+ Melissa P., Seconded