

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020 – 7:15 p.m.

Via Google Meet

Present: Jim Seutter, Leah Schmidt, Heidi Peters, Kimberly and Jeremy Teeuwsen, Raelyn Mellick, Devon Marshall, Elaine Reed, Sarah Dyck, Shannon Anderson, Heather Lewis, Leah Unrau, Jaime Peters, and Francis Poole

Devotional: Leah Schmidt on the fruit of Love

Previous Minutes: Leah Unrau

Reporting:

Chair

- **Approval of Minutes** from last meeting- Raelyn and seconded by Elaine.

Amendment of current agenda by Heather and seconded by Heidi.

- **Budget/Accounting – Leah Schmidt**

We currently have \$14 770 as current balance. \$3 931 for care and compassion, \$10,838 in our account and approx. \$9 000 for hot lunch which leaves us about \$1 600 in our actual budget.

- **COSC** –EIPS is down 400 students this year which impacts the Weighted Moving Average (how Govt figures out funding for the next 3 years to school districts), they've requested the government to use EIPS' ESTIMATES as their actuals for funding over the next 3 years ("be held harmless" clause)
 - EIPS looking into Honors Programs and the future of them...do they put all Honors programs at one school? Start Honors programs in Grade 8? 310 EIPS parents completed the online survey and feedback was heavily for keeping Honors Programs.
 - COVID costs, keeping an eye on them for 2021 budget

-Teachers are having limited contact and interaction this year compared to what they are used to, they miss interacting with colleagues, parents, volunteers, etc

-Discussed remote P/T Interviews

-As a teacher, they appreciate the efficiency of phone call interviews, but in elementary, they miss being able to show parents their child's work or being able to model/explain what they need to work on

Covid - 4 cases at Fort High, 2 at Mundare, 3 at SCS, 1 at Brentwood (10 active cases now), 43 in total, 33 have recovered

-EIPS is slowly starting to open things up as transmission stays low, i.e. libraries, locker rooms

-Transmission is happening in families and outside of school, not in school

-Parents would love to see what a typical day at school looks like now...video?

Information Items:

1) **Principal's Report**

- **COVID-19 Update** We had one confirmed case at our school. But it was over fall break and so they were not in the school. Admin has big protocols to follow with cases and they are always refining and changing it. Mr. Poole mentioned there is definitely a covid fatigue in staff and parents. It's also hard on the teachers as they have more supervision required.

We had 8 or 9 kids return at the re-entry date and still have 20 online. No kids went from school to online/out of school.

- **School Education Plan Update** Literacy and numeracy goals remain the same but the third changed from missions to safe and caring school community. Devon sent out documents for us to review. These changes and this plan will be updated online by Mr. Poole.

- **SERR** School Education Results Review - Meeting on Monday with superintendents, trustees and 4 other schools. They will be focusing conversation on how March to June went and how this year's start up is going. Also, what PATs will look like this year with so many different learners. (in school, on-line etc.)

- **Hot Lunch/Chip Day** It's a GO! Pizza day is on Dec.4 and Chip day starts on Dec.16. Mr. Poole wants us to promote it so parents don't

forget. It's fun for the kids and hopefully a highlight for them too.

- **Remembrance Day** Pastor Cooke headed this up and sent out a video as well.
- **Staff Videos** Videos were sent out by homeroom teachers. It was well received. They plan to do this again in late January/early Feb.
- **Parent/Teacher Interviews** This is a new journey for the school this year. Teachers were welcoming of the idea to do them online as it helps to make a good connection. They will be held next week Wednesday and Thursday evening.
- **Brightspace** Over the past month, teachers have been inservicing to bring them up to speed. It's not currently being used in the classroom on a regular basis but it is being introduced to students should it need to be used. The district also sends out updates and the teachers are keeping up with these demands too.

2) Parents in Partnership We have been updated with a few families in need within our two schools, currently working on connecting with them.

3) Society Update - Finances

- Fees - planning has started on the fees scenarios. This involves engaging the different stakeholders with parents targeted in the new year.
- Capital Projects
 - Cabling – EIPS has completed wiring drawings to provide to the vendors. Meetings are being set up for the next two weeks with vendors to obtain up-to-date quotes.
 - North Gym Refurbishment – Quotes have been obtained. Final project scope and timelines will be submitted by the end of the month.
 - Commons (SCAS library) – flooring is in the process of being replaced.
 - Interior Access Doors – Meeting happening on November 25 to discuss logistics and design criteria
 - Elementary playground – planning meeting is scheduled for next week. The grant application is being worked on.
- Monitoring plan – monitors how the Christian Component is being deployed. This work is being kicked off right now.

4) EIPS Trustee Report There have been more funding cuts. ASCA (Alberta School Council Association) who is a huge support has also had

their funding cut.

We currently have 17 000 students and 41 schools. We are down in student numbers which will be really bad for funding next year. Junior high honors surveys are out. It looks favourable to continue with the honors programming. This will be discussed at the next board meeting in mid Dec.

A proposal for Sherwood Heights has been presented to the government.

The Logos programming is under review.

On Nov. 26th the budget for next year will be released. Also the Ab school board association is meeting and will discuss PUFF grants and diploma issues.

Action Items:

1) Hoodies – Shannon Anderson/Jaime Peters We sold 302 hoodies to students and families. We will be sending out the orders soon with a turn around date of about 2 weeks. Approx. 4 council members will be needed for a few hours to sort, bag and label the hoodies. Email Shannon if you would like to help. A surplus of a few hundred dollars will go towards council funds. Thanks for all your time and energy on this Shannon and Jamie!

2) Parent Ambassador – Raelyn Mellick Nothing new to report. Near the end of Jan an email will be sent out to follow up with families.

3) Hospitality Ambassador – Aileen Bozic
• **Staff Retirement Gift/Guidelines** We approved the spending of \$200 for Mrs Freelend's retirement gift. What a wonderful blessing we are able to gift her as we were able to get \$250 in Salisbury Greenhouse gift cards for that \$200 during their sale.

Devon also proposed we set a framework on set prices for teacher and retirement gifts. This should help keep things consistent and be helpful for council in years to come. This will be drafted and sent out for us to review.

4) Playground Update – Jaime/Heidi/Kim

The playground is continuing to move forward. The committee is continuing to work hard to make this happen. Jamie shared the proposed plans and imaging of the expansion and update. The total cost is \$ 261 450. We are currently working on grants too.

Special thanks to Jamie and Heidi for all your hard work on this!

Call to action: Council members are all asked to write letters and encourage others to write letters ASAP. Heidi will be sending out all the info we need to do this. As well, the email to share with others to send these completed letters to.

5) Bylaws – Devon Marshal We have decided to pause this until after the letters for the proposal have been completed. Then after Dec.11 this will resume and the bylaws will be prepared for the meeting in Jan.

6) Facebook Update – Sarah Dyck Sarah has created the Introduce Council thread. Please do this if you have not yet done so. Also, please do your best to interact more on the page as a council member.

7) Christmas Literacy Advent – Heather Lewis Focusing on keeping the parent council connected with the school. Parents are encouraged to take part in an advent style book unwrap. Each day they can unwrap and read the book as a family. This will be initially announced on the facebook page. Heather will share a blurb and some pictures for inspiration. To encourage parents and families to participate, a prize will be given to one of the families who participated.

8) Teacher blessings proposed by Devon, motioned by Leah U and seconded by Kim. Approx \$100/month. \$800-\$900 in total to bless our teachers. Each month a small gift/note of encouragement will be given to all teachers. Devon will start it off with cookies and we will brainstorm more ideas as a council for the following months gifts.

Closing

- 1) Bible Memory. Leah U and heather with rapid bible memory recall.
- 2) Prayer Jim Seutter.

Next meeting: Jan 13th 2021