

MINUTES

EPC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

CALLED TO ORDER @ 19:07

Sept 11, 2023

Meeting called to order by Nicole Schweer

In Attendance

Kathleen Butler, Michelle Purdy-Hemmons, Andrea Bickerstaff, Janelle Duplessis, Nicole Schweer, Annie Karczmarczyk, Dora L'Heureux, Serena Henderson, Jaime Minns, Joleen LeSage, Hadla Assaf, Elizabeth Siemens, Samantha Hoots, Ryan Mann, Stacey Mabey, Laurie Kiselyk, Carman Allen, Susan Nolan, Cindi Sawchuk, Alyanna Eherer, Bryan Hall

Approval of Minutes from May 8 2023

Approved by Kathy Butler, Second Michelle Purdy-Hemmons. All in favour.

School Council Chair Report by Nicole Schweer

- Introduction by Nicole. She introduced the Terms of Reference draft which is still under review. Briefly went over the School Council Annual Report which summarized the years engagement opportunities, goals and future goals of the council.

EPC Administration Report by Stacey Mabey

EPC School Administration report:

- Introduction by Stacey- has grown up visiting our community in the summers, had the opportunity to finally move with her family to Athabasca following 23 years in EPS (Edmonton Public Schools). Has 2 children which attend WHPS and EPC.
- Goals: "Create Community"- which she found was an underlying theme when speaking with staff at EPC.
- Expectations: "Dreaming Stage" - give the students and staff a voice. Collaboration with council. Provide equity within the school. Open forum to create relationships.
- Lots of opportunities to build community- such as the scavenger hunt and pizza party the first week of school, plus the Welcome BBQ this week.

Aspen View Public School Board Trustee Report

School Board Trustee report:

- They have a board meeting on Thursday. Will continue to advocate for our division.

Fundraising Society Report by Michelle Purdy-Hemmons

Fundraising committee report:

- Next casino will be 3rd quarter of 2024

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- 2 positions will be open at the AGM: Secretary and Treasurer
 - Looking to add a non-casino fundraiser for money not tied to AGLC use of proceeds.
 - Next meeting: Sept 25th. AGM 7pm
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Student Feedback / Parent Feedback

- None at this time

Round Table/ New Business

- Terms of Reference- has been created and is up for amendments or additions prior to being uploaded onto the website. Planning to have this completed before the AGM.
- Monthly Meeting- discussed that with such a large school and spanning 5 grades, meetings every 2 months was not allowing for timely discussion and action. Michelle Purdy-Hemmons motioned meetings be held Monthly instead of every 2 months, Kathy Butler seconded. All in favor.
- Master Volunteer list- was created last year as a pool for requesting help at school dances, science fair etc. Discussion on ideas to increase this pool such as using an app or webpage such as “volunteer sign-up”. Noted that we could potentially send out notice to all parents- first through the Swift text and follow-up email with the specific volunteer ask. Nicole states this needs to be a priority but tabled for now.
- Budget for school is “underfunded”, how do we help? Anne points out that we need to have a specific “ask” in regards to what is underfunded. The board is advocating for our schools on many different topics to the Education Minister. Discussed that if we have a specific area which is underfunded then we would have some direction. The school is currently short 2.5 teachers. Trustees will continue job fairs at multiple universities to attract new grad teachers to Aspenview. Need to attract and retain the teachers we do have.
- New Superintendent- Discussed whether to invite him to a meet and greet at the school or perhaps a “Soup with the Super” similar to other schools. Potentially invite him to a School Council Meeting in the future. Nicole to email Tammy and see about his potential availability.
- Splitting Jr High and Sr. High activities- Stacey states in some instances, that can certainly happen to allow each of those smaller communities within the larger EPC community. To discuss further with students to see where/when this would fit best.
- Tabled for next meeting: possibility for volunteers to assist students one on one as needed by the school.
- A parent brought up concerns regarding bussing from outside of the catchment area but was informed by Anne that this wouldn’t be discussed at the meeting as transportation falls outside of council roles. This matter was already discussed with the parent at the appropriate level and would not be debated in this space.