

EPC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - MAY 6, 2019

Meeting commenced @ 6:30p.m.

Attendance: Irene Fitzsimmons, Jamie Dreger, Carmen Jensen-Tebb, Marilyn Holt,

Mirella Popowich, Sean Morrison, Dennis MacNeil

Review/Acceptance of: (i) Agenda of tonight's meeting and (ii) Minutes of previous meeting:

Agenda (May 6) and Minutes of the previous meeting (Mar 4) distributed prior to meeting for review.

Motion to accept/approve - Carmen Jensen- Tebb; Seconded - Marilyn Holt.

School Council Chair report: Irene Fitzsimmons

*"Go Girls" - Irene distributed information about the "Go Girls" community support programming offered by Lisa Stocking and operating out of EPC. Lisa had contacted Irene in March and was referred to Brenna Liddell/Admin to discuss further with program running since late Spring.

*Alberta School Council Association Conference: Jamie provided a briefing of the Building Bridges ASCA Conference she attended on behalf of EPC SC at the end of April.

Attended 3 sessions: 1) Safe and Caring Schools - survey is a very easy way to show how your staff, parents and students feel regarding feeling safe, cared for, respected and welcomed in our school.

2) Student Coding System: dyslexia, dysgraphia and autism spectrum disorders discussed, among others; there are many resources available, however most are focused out of the major centres i.e. Edmonton.

3) Charing Meetings - tips and policies that help keep the conversations to the point and with the focus remaining on the best interest of our students, parents and Admin. The School Council is an advisory committee to the administration of the school on behalf of the parents.

Jamie was delighted to see so many enthusiastic educators and parents. The keynote speakers were both very dedicated to building real relationships as well as showing our children how we should respect and care for our educators. Awareness of technology and its pros and cons and how very early in life technology is a part of our children's lives.

Jamie felt that the venue and food for the weekend were both fantastic as well as the various exhibits making up the resource gallery. She thanked Aspen View School Division for the opportunity to attend.

EPC School Administration Report: Sean Morrison

*Parking - Parking Passes have been implemented for staff, students and out of school services (i.e. Derko's Catering). It has been a great help to organize the parking lot and maintain the safety and accountability for those entering our school. Principal Des Nolan would like to continue this system for

the next year. People have been very polite when it comes to the front parking lot turnabout as well displaying patience when leaving school premises with the buses.

*School Trips - The Montreal trip is a go ahead for the end of May; the Gr. 7 Jasper trip will go at the beginning of June. There is no Gr 9 French Immersion ('graduation') trip to Quebec this year.

*Land Based Learning – The time of year for this experience has been changed from Fall to June with the Land Based Learning curriculum at Camp Wright set to start beginning of June. The number of days has been shortened with a day of 'cross-over' (from different schools within the Division) at mid-week with a traditional Feast celebration to be planned and participated in by all.

*Registration - The registration for Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 classes will happen in mid-June which will help determine staffing needs for the 2019/2020 year. To date, there is an estimated 114 students to graduate in 2020. Given the absence of Dianne Schmidtke (career counselling) students are encouraged to meet with Vice Principals Sean Morrison or Mr. Kerr for assistance and questions about post-secondary and application processes for both University/Colleges and Trades.

School Board Trustee Report: Dennis MacNeil

Building Bridges ASCA Conference - Dennis MacNeil and Annie Karczmarczyk also attended the conference.

Dennis discussed being very intrigued by Phil McRae's technology presentation, with his advice on how to maintain a positive balance with technology in the home and school. He found Jody Carrington also very interesting, real and enthusiastic about taking care of our teachers as "they are taking care of our babies" and helping in shaping futures.

Dennis attended a session based around "Together For Students", about the idea of one school system with one curriculum that encompasses all School Boards across Alberta (including Public, Catholic and other Faith-Based, Private, Francophone).

Board Trustees: Dennis discussed the importance of maintaining relationships with Board Trustees as it helps them to understand better what is needed at the school level.

Also mentioned was the importance of the schools being able to partner with/utilize resources such as Ages and Stages questionnaires, local agencies working with pre-school and school age children/families such as FCSS, HFHF and participation in early education fairs, etc. Early education is a recognized steppingstone for children to have success in their education journey.

Newly elected UPC government. Gay-Straight Alliances (GSA's) – The Trustees are confident and positive that the new government is not intending to eliminate Alliances that the students have operational or that it is their intention to make curriculum changes that are not in the best interest of the students. These are early days.

Fundraising Committee Chair Report: Carmen Jensen-Tebb

*Fuel Amount for 2019/2020 was 'pre-approved' earlier tonight so that there would be no disruption of program planning for early Fall, 2019.

*EPC would like to do a decorative "living wall" in 2019/2020.

*AGM (elections of new Committee positions) will be held on September 09th, 2019 @ 5:30 in Rm 109F, followed by the first regular Fundraising Committee meeting of the year.

New Business:

There are very preliminary discussions happening (through St. Gabriel's Catholic Church) re: any interest in a Catholic school in Athabasca. The connection is with the School Board in Lac La Biche (Catholic schools in Lac La Biche and Westlock). Dennis mentioned some concerns for student enrollment, staffing and transportation if attempting to support multiple school systems. As this initial meeting is a first to be held to get a sense of interest, more information will come forward if/when there is a move to a next meeting stage.

Round Table:

Meeting adjourned @ 7:30pm.

***SCHOOL COUNCIL AGM (election of Committee positions) will be held on September 09th, 2019 @ 6:30 in Rm 109F with the regular first SC meeting of the school year to follow.**

Note: At the Sept, 2019 AGM, the AGM minutes of Sept, 2018 will be formally reviewed and approved.

At the SC meeting that follows, these May 06, 2019 meeting minutes will be formally reviewed and approved.