



VCCHS Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday September 26th, 2023

6:00 PM

In Person

People & Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 territory and the traditional homeland of the Métis Nation. These are the meeting grounds, gathering place, and travelling route to the Cree, Nakota Sioux, Dene, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, and Métis. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

Attendance – Michelle Gladys, Sabrina Komarniski, Deniene Zaseybida, Randy Footz, Bryan Butler, Umutoni Sophie, Katie Perepeletza, Dana Ambrock, Suzanne Baumeister, Tara Dumont, Anatolil Zalensnyl, Ashley Rietveld, Anuy Bhatre, Brandon Salyzyn, Mandy Dumanski

Parents: Michelle, Deniene, Sabrina, Umutoni, Katie, Dana, Suzanne, Tara, Anatolil, Ashley, Anuy, Mandy

Staff: Brandon, Sabrina

Trustee: Randy Footz

Others: Minute taker is Michelle Gladys

1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Deniene called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm

2. Review and Approval of the Agenda

- no changes brought forward

Sabrina made a motion to approve the agenda. Katie seconded.

3. Approval of the Minutes – from June 13, 2023

Katie motioned to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Seconded by Sabrina.

4. Student Council Report – Branden Salyzyn

- Student Council is just getting up and running. Weren't ready to prepare a report.
- Cougar Council is students that are looking to be leaders in the school. Rely on them to plan things like welcome week and more. Students within the building that on those leadership roles and help the school out with things like that. Made up of students from all grades (7 through 12) with high school students taking the lead and major roles on the council.
- Put the call out to see who was interested...had over 30 kids at the interest meeting.
- Some of the ways Cougar Council has helped out already is the Welcome Week & Terry Fox Run.
- Have a couple of major events in the planning already



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5. Trustee Report – Randy Footz

- The Board held its annual organizational meeting on August 24, 2023. Trustee Cathy Allen was elected the Chair, and Trustee Susan Miller was elected the Vice-Chair. Out-going Chair, Trina Boymook stepped down after 10 years as Chair of the EIPS Board in her desire to seek the position of President of the Alberta School Boards Association. Superintendent Stoddard also introduced three new members of the EIPS Executive Team:
 - Ragan Johnson, the Associate Superintendent of Human Resources;
 - Ryan Marshall, the Associate Superintendent of Support for Students; and
 - Weylin Gilewich, the Director of Information Technologies.

- Elk Island Public Schools is Alberta's sixth largest school division serving nearly 17,500 students in 42 schools. EIPS is one of only a few urban-rural boards in the province.

- On September 18-19, trustees took part in a retreat to discuss the Board's direction, priorities and work plan for the 2023-24 school year—all in alignment with EIPS' Four-Year Education Plan.

- On September 20, the trustees met for the first time with Kyle Kasawski, a member of Alberta's legislative assembly for Sherwood Park. Overall, it was a productive meeting focused on shared concerns, advocacy areas, and ways to work together to ensure strong public education. The board plans to meet with MLA Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk who represents the constituency of Fort Saskatchewan- Vegreville and Nate Glubish, the MLA from Strathcona- Sherwood Park when their schedules permit. The Board approved the trustee remuneration for the 2023-24 school year. Rates will increase by 2 per cent, effective Sept. 1, 2023. The rate increase follows Section 12 of Board Policy 7: Board Operations. which states: "Trustees' compensation shall be adjusted September 1 annually. The methodology to be used is an average of the percent change in annual average index of Alberta Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the percent change in annual average earnings Alberta Average Weekly Earnings (AWE), not to exceed the increase given to Elk Island Public Schools classified staff and not less than zero.

- The Board also approved a motion to direct the Superintendent to conduct a trustee compensation review and present the report for information at the January Caucus meeting.

- Over the summer Facilities conducted their annual inspection of each school within the Division. VCHS underwent the following procedures in addition to the annual cleaning



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regime by the school's custodial staff:

- AC compressor replacement
 - Air Handling Units 7 & 8 replacement
 - Custodial Services - Annual Cleaning Regime
 - Dryer Duct Cleaning
 - Dust collector servicing and inspections
 - Electrical System Preventative Maintenance
 - Elevator Inspection & Maintenance
 - Gas detection inspection and calibration
 - Grease Trap cleaning
 - Grounds Maintenance
 - HVAC System Preventative Maintenance
 - Overhead Door Inspection
 - Sewer Line flushing
- Question: Did you discuss anything about the walk-out, in case that happened, around the Trans? Are there any policies on that kind of thing?
Response: the protest rally that was held in Sherwood Park was going on while meeting with MLA Kasawski. After the meeting was over, Randy drove to where the protest rally was taking place. They were marching from the mall towards Baseline Road, with the intent of ending at Salsbury Comp. They were warned by the RCMP that they were not to go onto the school grounds. And from what he understands, they benefited. There was one sign that made him pause and nod in agreement,
The school board adhere's to government policy. The division is committed to ensuring that all members of the school community are provided with welcoming, caring, safe, respectful learning environments that respect diversity and foster a sense of belonging. All individuals within the division have the right to learn within settings that promote equality of opportunity, dignity and respect regardless of race, age, ancestry, place of origin, colour, religious beliefs, gender, gender identity, gender expression, physical or mental disability, marital status, family status, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation.
Question: as a school, what are you doing?
Answer: As a school, as Randy said, we have a duty to create a safe, caring, respectful environment for everyone. If we ever breach that safe, caring, respectful environment, we deal with each circumstance as it arises. There is signage in the school about respectful workplaces. Talk to the students about how we treat each other matters.
- Randy motions to adopt the report as read

6. Principal Report – Principal Brandon Salyzyn

- School Start PD Day
 - Worked with the staff on our School Education Plan (SEP) and reviewed out goals for this coming year.



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- What are we doing to work towards our goals, what new things do we want to try to make gains towards our goals, what support is needed to achieve these goals.
- New assessment goal added to the SEP so we discussed district assessment administrative procedures.
 - Discussion about assessment practice and how we collect a body of evidence to inform assessment decisions.
- Time for reflection on our discussion around the SEP and assessment to inform teachers professional development and growth plans.
- School Activities
 - Welcome Week – goal of having students feel connected to the school and each other through school spirit, activities, and conversation.
 - Freezy Day
 - School Spirit Day
 - Find a Prize (School scavenger hunt)
 - Free Pizza lunch for all students
- Terry Fox Run
 - Great day to be running/walking outside bringing awareness and raising money for cancer research.
- Truth and Reconciliation
 - Week of activities bringing awareness to Truth and Reconciliation
 - Activities for teachers to use this week but can be used throughout the year.
 - Lunchtime video sessions for interested students.
 - Orange Shirt Day for Awareness of Truth and Reconciliation
- Read in Week (Upcoming Oct 2-5)
- Picture Retake Day (Upcoming Oct 19)
- Educational Liaison Association of Alberta Event (Upcoming Oct 27)
 - <https://ela.ab.ca/>
 - Post Secondary Information Night
- Enrollment
 - Vegreville Composite High School is sitting between 370-375 down slightly from the predicted 380.
- Athletics
 - Volleyball tryouts have happened, and teams made. League and tournament play has begun for the year.
 - Golf team members have already been to a zone event.
 - X-Country is in the process of searching for athletes willing to participate.
 - Football is being run as a club rather than a team to gain interest to hopefully rejuvenate the team in future years.
- Emergency Preparedness



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- We have had 2 successful fire drills.
- Our Bus Evacuation Drill is on Thursday, Sept 28, 2023
- Staffing
 - Wishing Adrienne Mills all the best as she pursues a new job in BC but it is sad to see her leave. Welcoming Mr. Carothers who will be taking over her classes for this semester.
 - Tracey Eleniak our registrar has moved on to new adventures. Wishing her all the best.

Questions throughout report: Does the school have an elder coming in for Truth & Reconciliation Day? Response: No elder coming in this year. Working with the FNMI lead in the district and how to use our in-house person to grow this in future years. Our in-house person wants to ensure that when doing activities/events around Truth & Reconciliation Day, that we are honoring traditions versus doing it for tokenism.

Question about grade 9's ability to play high school football and if it would affect their ability to play in grade 12. Response: Rules are governed by ASAA. Principal will look into it and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

Question about student assessments. Response: Teachers are trying to use all evidence to grade the student, not just test results. Assessments are typically done in class.

Question about upcoming open houses for post secondary....is there a list to send to parents? Response: yes, will put together a package as they receive info from post secondary and put it on the Grad page of the website. Recommend to go to open houses as it is very difficult to navigate the University website to figure out where/how to register. ELAA event is coming up on Oct. 27th. Details still being figured out. Will be hosted at Veg Comp.

Question about options for free food like CALS did last year. CALS has not received funding for this (at this time), so not able to offer that program. But the school does have food options (breakfast club, etc), student can go to the office to inquire.

Katie motions to adopt report as read. Sabrina seconds

7. Teacher/Athletics Report – no report at this time

8. Fundraising Foundation Report – Sabrina Komarniski

Casino account: \$10, 477.48 General account: \$2, 738.69

- Just received the cheque for working the Vegreville Fair Beer gardens for \$1,040
- Next Casino is in 2026. Bought some items that were requested from teachers.
- No fundraising activities planned at this time
- Looking for board members including a President

Question about possibility of getting another microwave in the cafeteria for students to warm up lunch, as the line ups can be quite long and reduce the amount of time the students have to eat.

Katie motions to adopt report as read. Deniene seconds



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9. COSC Representative Report – Tara Dumont

- Nothing to report at this time

10. Round Table

- Grad meeting coming up in October. Working on a date for the meeting that doesn't interfere with other activities and events.
- Looking into co-hosting the basketball provincials with St. Mary's

11. Next Meeting – November 21 @ 6pm. Hybrid model

12. Motion to adjourn meeting:

Deniene made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:16pm