



## VCHS Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday March 19, 2024

6:00 PM

In Person & Virtual

### 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, Saukteaux, Blackfoot, and Métis. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

**Attendance** – (in person) Sabrina Komarniski, Randy Footz, Brandon Salyzyn, Sandy Johnson, Deniene Zaseybida, Michelle Gladys, Viola Conner

**Parents:** Michelle, Sabrina, Deniene

**Staff:** Brandon, Sandy, Sabrina

**Trustee:** Randy Footz

**Others:** Minute taker is Michelle Gladys

#### 1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Brandon called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm

#### 2. Review and Approval of the Agenda

- no changes brought forward

Sabrina made a motion to approve the agenda. Deniene seconded. Approved.

#### 3. Approval of the Minutes – from January 23, 2024

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

#### 4. Student Council Report –

- Focussing mostly on theme days. Trying to fill in a lot of days with theme days.
  - Last Friday was Green Day for St. Patric's day. Foods teacher handed out green Rice Krispies.
  - This Thursday is PJ day. Throughout the week had Easter scavenger hunt going on...which are very popular with the Jr. High students.
  - Pie day – made a bunch of pie tarts, one/student. Also had Pie throwing – students could buy a pie for \$2 to throw at a teacher (all teachers volunteered)
  - Recently had a "Rhyme without Reason" day which was very well received.
- Pink Shirt Day/Kindness Week – ordered cookies for everyone
- Looking at having a school dance this spring. Potentially have a Jr High Dance earlier in the day and a Sr. High Dance after school hours.
- Trying to get more students involved in Student Council as well as getting the students to share more of their ideas.
- Grilled cheese day on April 15. Looking at the foods department making grilled cheese for all the



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students.

### 5. Trustee Report – Randy Footz

- School Fees: The Board approved the school fee parameters for the 2024-25 school year. Optional-courses fees, Noon-supervision fees, Activity fees, Extracurricular fees, Non-curricular travel fees and Non-curricular goods and services fees each may increase by the five per cent allowable increase—food related courses may be increased by up to 7 per cent  
\*\* Schools must set all fees on a cost-recovery basis.
- COSC Conference and AGM: The 2024 Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) School Council Conference and Annual General Meeting is scheduled for April 26-28. To encourage participation, the Board has set aside \$5,000 for the registration of up to 10 individuals (1 per school). To qualify, those applying must be part of a school council with an active ASCA membership. The registration deadline is April 8, 2024.
- School Status Report: Each year, a School Status Report is prepared to present enrolment numbers, school utilization rates and per-student cost within the Division. In 2022-23, the average per EIPS student cost was \$7,097—down by \$44 from the previous year. 20 Division schools operated above that average—the highest being the now-closed Andrew School, operating at more than \$14,000 per student.
  - ALH is 18 th in the division at a cost of \$7,444 per student.
  - VCHS is 9 th at a cost of \$8,132 per student.
  - Pleasant Ridge Colony is the 4 th most expensive at a cost of \$9,449 per student.Costs include the cost of operation and maintenance of the building as well as the cost of student instruction. In 2022-23, EIPS' utilization rate rose to 76 per cent—rising two per cent from the previous year.
- Leveraging Student Achievement: During spring budget, the Board of Trustees directed senior administration to put any school reserve above 1% into what is called the Leveraging Student Achievement Reserves. This fund currently has a balance of \$101,000 and will be used to support initiatives that focus on student learning needs and equity of student programming.
  - Most of the Learning Student Achievement initiatives planned focus will be on literacy and numeracy—areas where the Division still sees the highest level of learning loss since the pandemic. The Division intends to hire two lead teachers—one for literacy and one for numeracy—to support EIPS' schools, working directly with struggling students and with teachers to help address learning loss.
- French Immersion: The Board approved a solution to best address EIPS' secondary French Immersion program, grades 7-12, and senior high enrolment concerns in Sherwood Park:
  - relocate EIPS' senior high French Immersion program, grades 10-12, to Salisbury Composite High



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- Lakeland Ridge to be redesignated to Bev Facey Community High— these will be effective when the new Sherwood Park replacement school opens, expected in the 2026-27 school year;
- adjust the French Immersion junior high attendance boundaries for Cambrian Crossing, to be redesignated to Sherwood Heights Junior High—effective in the 2024-25 school year.

The Board approved the Division's borrowing resolution to meet expenditures during the 2023-24 school year. Annually, the Division submits a borrowing resolution to the Bank of Montreal to support its credit-facility agreements in place. For 2023-24, no changes have been made to EIPS' credit facilities or borrowing resolution.

- Overdraft Lending Facility  
To assist with daily operating cash requirements.  
Set at \$5,000,000 – no money was used from this fund in the past year.
- Corporate MasterCard  
To finance all expenses eligible under the EIPS purchasing card program. Set at \$4,000,000. --  
The average monthly spending was \$467,000. No interest charges are incurred as the Division pays the bill in full each month.
- Direct Electronic Funds Transfer (DEFT)  
DEFT for payroll, bill payments or other cash management services.  
This credit facility is required by BMO. It is in place to protect the bank if insufficient funds were available at EIPS. The Division cannot draw on this facility as part of a cash management strategy. Set at \$8,500,000 – no money was used from this fund in the past year.
- Borrowing Resolution Total ~~~~~ \$17,500,000  
The Board has meetings scheduled with the Town Council of Vegreville and the County of Minburn Council in near future.

### 6. Principal/Teacher's Report – Principal Brandon Salyzyn

- Introduced new assistant principal, Sandy Johnson
- Cougar Council leadership has been amazing, trying to change the culture of the school, encouraging students to get involved with the school
- Band group that has had some concerts going on. Also participated in the Wendy Brook Festival
- Teachers doing some unique things in the classroom, bringing in guest speakers. For ex., construction brought in former graduate that works at Vantage Builders to talk about what his career looks like in the home building industry. Part of Foundation of Industry class talk about things like, Ferrier and what it's like to be a ferrier. Receive a bunch of professional credentials through this class, like First Aid, WHMIS, etc.
- Other opportunities – 4 students from our school attended the Reperate Summit in Canmore, where they learned about wildlife & forestry industry. Learned a lot of things they didn't realized about the industry.



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- Our foods teacher took students to a High School Culinary Challenge in Edmonton. Working with top chefs in Edmonton to create a 3-course meal, get evaluated on a RUBRIC. Food was served at an awards ceremony. Kids helped serve the food.
- Random Acts of Kindness – what are some things we can do to bring joy to someone’s life
- Had people come in to present on Resilience and mental health at beginning of February, including former teacher Reid Alol and Justin Laurence, a Grey Cup winner from Montreal Allouettes and Johnathan Rosary from Winnipeg Blue Bombers.
- Athletics:
  - basketball has come to a close. Had 2 teams attend zones.
  - Curling team went to provincials this year.
  - Badminton is starting up
- Into registration season now, where looking ahead to next year while at the same time ensuring we finish this year strong.
- High school students attended the Town of Vegreville Career Fair. EIPS was at the career fair showing job opportunities in the education world.
- Working on a couple field trips....grade 7 and 8 going to A.L. Horton for a presenter that does song writing, around resilience and mental health. High school students – town is trying to bring in one of the Humbolt Broncos survivors to hear about his journey.
- Summer school registration opened on March 15

### 8. Fundraising Foundation Report – Sabrina Komarniski

*Casino account: \$12,052.72 General account: \$5,546.69*

- Elks donated \$880 to the curling program....they write the cheque to the foundation and the foundation writes a cheque to the school, so that amount still needs to come out of the general account.
- The Little Caesars fundraiser raised \$1392, we owe them just over \$1,000 and that cheque amount has not yet come out of the general account.
- We applied to work the Fair Beer Gardens again
- No other fundraisers planned at this time

### 9. COSC Representative Report

#### KEY AGENDA TOPICS

- Board Report
- ATA Report
- Caregiver Education Series
- Canadian Parents for French – Alberta
- EIPS Annual Feedback Survey: For Parents and Caregivers
- What ASCA does for school councils and resolutions for the AGM



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- Board-sponsored Registration Attendees

### **BOARD REPORT**

- EIPS Board Chair Cathy Allen presented the Board Report. From March 3-5, the Board of Trustees attended the Rural Education Symposium and had a lively discussion about the strengths, challenges and opportunities present in rural education. She also spoke about the Board Mythbusters campaign, sharing a [post from February](#). Stay tuned for more Board Mythbusters on EIPS' [Facebook](#) and [X, formerly known as Twitter](#).

### **ATA REPORT**

- ATA Local No. 28 President Deneen Zielke presented the ATA Report, highlighting the North Central Teachers' Convention, meeting of ATA Local Presidents and the ATA's Political Engagement Seminar. She also spoke about the provincial budget and provided several statistics:
- In advance of the provincial budget, the ATA released their pulse survey results in regards to class size and supports, as well as [Statistics Canada information](#) that found education in Alberta is the lowest funded in the country. Alberta needs \$1.2 billion to reach the Canadian average and \$600 million to reach mid-level.
- \$394 million announced to operational spending; however, won't notice it as enrolment growth this year was up 3.6 per cent at 28,000 students.
- \$246 million increase of 3.6 per cent to instructional funding, but assumption is there will be an offset of decreases in grants to fund it. Albertans won't know until the funding manual is released.
- 4.4 per cent overall increase to funding with 15 per cent increase to private school funding.
- 43 new school and school modernizations—12 get construction funding, 15 get design funding, 10 get planning funding, and don't know about the other 10.
- Real spending per pupil is down 13 per cent over 6 years.
- **CAREGIVER EDUCATION SERIES: March**  
Alberta Health Services hosts a series of virtual caregiver information sessions focused on ways to support students' mental health. The sessions are free and geared toward parents, caregivers, teachers and community members who want to learn more about challenges impacting children and adolescents. Session topics include anxiety, depression and technology, while teaching leadership skills, communication, resiliency and more. [Learn more](#)

### **CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH – ALBERTA**

- COSC Chair Kendra Roemer discussed [Canadian Parents for French – Alberta](#)—a non-profit organization that furthers bilingualism by promoting opportunities to learn and use French for all those who call Canada home. On the website, you can find events, programs and resources geared to students, families and educators.



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### **EIPS ANNUAL FEEDBACK SURVEY: For Parents and Caregivers**

- EIPS Associate Superintendent Ryan Marshall asked for COSC members help with promoting the [EIPS Annual Feedback Survey: For Parents and Caregivers](#). He encouraged members to talk about the survey at school council meetings, parent-teacher interviews and other relevant events. A PDF of the survey questions and a survey QR code poster are available in the [March COSC meeting package](#). If you're looking for physical copies of the questions or posters, there are some left over from the meeting. If you'd like to pick some up from EIPS Central Services, contact [Emma Small](#).

### **WHAT ASCA DOES FOR SCHOOL COUNCILS AND RESOLUTIONS FOR THE AGM**

- Representatives from the [Alberta School Councils' Association](#) (ASCA) presented at the meeting. ASCA Executive Director Wendy Keiver discussed what ASCA offers to school councils, including learning opportunities, support services, resources and more. Brandi Rai, President of the ASCA Board of Directors, spoke about ASCA's advocacy efforts and the [resolutions](#) that will be voted on at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). A [recording](#) of the presentation is available for all COSC members unavailable to attend. The presentation was invaluable and a highly recommended watch for those looking to understand ASCA's role.

### **BOARD-SPONSORED REGISTRATION ATTENDEES**

- The Board-sponsored registration for the ASCA Conference and AGM is full for 2024. The nine attendees are:
  - Amy Prenc-Perry, Clover Bar Junior High
  - Andrea Brown, École Campbelltown
  - April Childs, Lakeland Ridge
  - Christan Rasmussen, Westboro Elementary
  - Jordana Feist, James Mowat Elementary
  - Kendra Roemer, Mills Haven Elementary
  - Kim Scott, Sherwood Heights Junior High
  - Krystal Gibson, Salisbury Composite High
  - Tawnia McQueen, Wes Hosford Elementary
- On **March 15**, EIPS administration will take care of registering these nine individuals for the conference and AGM. If something has changed, contact [Emma Small](#) before this date.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES**

- **March 11-15:** [Substitute Appreciation Week](#)
- **March 11-15:** [Week of Inspirational Math](#)
- **March 15:** [EIPS Round Dance](#)



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- **March 22:** School Closure Day (schools closed)
- **March 25-29:** Spring break (schools closed)
- **March 29:** Good Friday (Central Services closed)
- **April 1:** Easter Monday (schools and Central Services closed)
- **April 3:** Early Dismissal

### 10. Old Business

- Don't forget to log in and review your Power School Parent Portal for school fees that may be added throughout the year for such things as field trips, class projects or extra-curriculars, etc.

### 11. New Business

- Reminder that Alberta Health Services website [www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca/resources](http://www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca/resources) has many valuable resources that are free that include Virtual mental health education for caregivers, adults, youth. Includes videos, handouts and an education resource library
- If parents are interested in promoting and supporting French bilingualism, you can join the Canadian Parents for French group. There is a membership fee and some online resources that do cost minimal amounts. Further to that, MetaLingo has some free French Language learning resources available.

### 12. Next Meeting – May 21 @6pm – hybrid model

### 13. Motion to adjourn meeting:

Meeting adjourned at 6:47pm