

(DRAFT) Heritage Hills School Council

Monday, October 26, 2020 6:30 pm. Regular Meeting

Submitted by: Michelle Beck, Secretary HHE School Council 2020/21

Attendees:

Families represented: Jocelyn Coulter (Chair), Sarah Witholt (Vice Chair) Michelle Beck (Secretary), Jodi Lakevold, Sue Shwaga, Lisa Solamillo, Andrea Kardal, Lori Tootosis-Friesen, Kyle Saranchuk, Cheryl Treasure, Heather Theriault
School Trustee: Jim Seutter
School Staff: Stacey Carruthers, Theresa Wells-Taylor
School Administration: Bill Schlacht, Kyle Samaratunga

- 1.0 Call to Order at 6:30 pm by Joceyln Coulter, Chair
 - Meeting opened with comments of gratitude from the HHESC Chair in support of the school, teachers and parents in a difficult pandemic environment.
 - Review of agenda
- 2.0 Approval of Previous Minutes: Approved, with one small grammatical error corrected.
Motioned: S. Witholt, Lori Tootosis-Friesen
- 3.0 Updates for Parents
 - 3.1 School Trustee Update.
 - Federal funding provided to all districts to support shortfall at schools due to Covid. EIPS received \$6.1M. Of this amount \$3M was allocated directly to the schools in the district, other uses of the funding by EIPS include janitorial costs/sanitizer; online learning; student transportation support. In the Principals update Mr Schlacht speaks to how HHE leveraged the new funding received from this federal funding. Link here to see the details of the EIPS use of funding. [EIPS federal funding](#)
 - PAT's. EIPS is planning to go ahead with PATs as they are considered a valuable tool to track student progress. Diploma exams are now optional.
 - Sherwood Heights School capital project is still a high priority. Board has done scoping discussions with feeder schools and Sherwood Heights to inform next steps.
 - Athletics are confirmed as not a priority in a pandemic situation.
 - Brightspace issues have been rampant, and issues are being resolved.
 - Boundary changes are not a priority at present and no new discussion has occurred.
 - 3.2 Principals Update. Mr. Schlacht. Key points noted:
 - Pandemic has changed the landscape at the school and HHE admin and teachers are working hard to support the learning experience for the students in an constantly changing environment.
 - New school experience is very good, but many areas can not be used due to the pandemic concerns. Cohorts are now fully understood and the students seem to be managing.

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- Parent Newsletter goes out Sunday evening usually (Monday on a holiday). Mrs Wert does it on her personal time to allow parents to get ahead of the week. Feedback welcomed from parents. Note that anything important for the Monday following will actually be noted in the previous week's newsletter.
 - Staff: All staff practices have changed, Staff are required to do supervision during lunch break which does not allow for much down time for teachers themselves. School is working to adjust this and enable better working days.
 - Federal additional funding has been received. HHE used this funds to add more staff as class sizes are large. An additional teacher for grade 1 will allow for lower class sizes in grade 1 and 2, as the grade1 / 2 split will be unravelled. Parent communication to come shortly. Also, funding will be used for additional grade 3/5/6 help for literacy and numeracy in large class sizes that are high 20's.
 - Events/traditions: HHE is a new school and every option is on the table, once the pandemic allows for events to continue. Currently events are limited to online/virtual. For example, Carnivale is a great event the school will look forward to when the time is right. Other parent recommended events will also be evaluated when the environment allows for it.
 - Budget: \$2,929,304 for HHE with 95% of this being staff dollars which includes staff, substitutes, PD days, sick days; the remaining 5% or \$155k is for 10 months of the year to run the school for non staff funding - photocopier, library, textbooks, paper, school supplied, chrome books etc.
 - Funding: UCP government changed the funding model. The funding model used to be per student, it isn't any longer. Starting this year, all schools are allocated a set amount of funding based on a 3 year average (Last year, This year expectation, future year expectation), this funding goes to the EIPS district. EIPS will in turn choose to 'allocate' the funds to each school based on district allocation rules. If there are new children that come to the school, no new funding is allocated; however, if the school loses student numbers then there is a 'give back' process where funding is pulled. The new funding model is something the school lives within and has no control over
 - Playground is open and used by cohort groups in a particular schedule.
 - Online learning: All teachers for the district work out of HHE. Connection for communication for online families can be Mrs Wert - for example the HPV vaccination was not communicated well to online families (43 english students and 13 french students). In the future, Mrs Wert can be a good point of contact.
- 4.0 Request for parent liaison/representatives:
- Distance Learning Rep - S. Shwaga offered to take one role. **Continue to look for French Immersion Distance Learning Rep.**
 - **Staff Appreciation Rep - open, will bring forward next month**

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- Culture Liaison - hold this position until pandemic environment allows for this, parents like this idea to have a rep around a wide array of cultures - indigenous, french, english, etc.
- Communication Specialist - agreed this is not required given support from social media and ability to connect communication streams.

5.0 Open discussion with parents

- Parents asked to support the integration of the school with the neighborhood, for example providing postcards that students can colour and parents can help deliver as Christmas approached. School admin will consider how to make this work.
- Parents asked for the school to consider virtual ways of parent volunteering to help the staff out. School admin will consider options.
- Will there be a grand opening of the playground? Parents put a lot of time and funding to support the playground and we would like to see a light/relevant/pandemic friendly grand opening as a consideration of that. School admin will consider.
- Online, distance learning is very bumpy around communication and learning content. School admin agrees that the communication point person can be Mrs. Wert for things that are relevant to the school.

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6.0 HHESC Chair Update

6.1 Frequency of meetings. Will be monthly and dates are set in the HHE calendar online, please subscribe to the calendar.

6.2 Council of School Councils (COSC) update by Sarah Witholt:

- EIPS School Board meetings are not open to the public due to the pandemic but can be streamed
- Caregiver education sessions have commenced, see EIPS site for information
- EIPS district has 11% (1800) students doing online learning, mostly in high school
- Students who are sick are required to have homework from the school when its a longer term sickness over a week. Parents are encouraged to connect with their teacher for homework.
- Consistency of mask use across the division is being looked at, some schools seem to be more relaxed on the mask use
- Of the 2500 schools in Alberta, 400 have covid cases. Safety is #1 priority

6.3 HHE Operating Procedures. These will be in draft for the next meeting for parent discussion.

6.4 Date and time of fundraising meeting. Virtual Nov 6th at 1:00pm. Jocelyn will attend on behalf of the Council.

7.0 Adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday November 16th at 6:30 to 8:30 pm, virtual