

# **(DRAFT) Heritage Hills Elementary School Council**

## **Monday, March 8, 2021 6:30 pm. Regular Meeting**

Submitted by: Michelle Beck, Parent Volunteer

### **Attendees:**

Families represented: Jocelyn Coulter (Chair), Sarah Witholt (Vice Chair) Michelle Beck, Lisa Solamillo, Richelle McLean, Erin Kipps, Jodi Lakevold, Nicole Doherty, Karen deMontarnal, Lori Tootosis-Friesen, Andrea Kardal, Charlene Zachary, Celina Cousins, School Trustee: Jim Seutter

School Staff: Stacey Carruthers, Theresa Wells-Taylor, Erin Clarke, Suzanne Cleet

School Administration: Bill Schlacht, Kyle Samaratunga

### 1.0 Welcome and Call to Order at 6:32 pm by Jocelyn Coulter, Chair

#### 1.1 Review of the Agenda

- One change to the agenda noted, moving up open call for Secretary to 1.3

#### 1.2 Approval of minutes from previous meeting. All approved.

#### 1.3 Call out for Secretary position

- Michelle Beck has provided written notice of resignation as per the operating procedures. Notice accepted by Chair and Admin.
- J. Coulter made an open call out for a volunteer for the Secretary position. Richelle McLean would like the role. No other volunteer. Richelle McLean voted in as Secretary for HHE School Council by acclamation.

### 2.0 Updates for parents

#### 2.1 School Trustee Update. Jim Seutter.

- Provincial budget dropped on February 25th with \$8.3B overall funding for all K-12 school divisions. Confirmed that the weighted moving average allocation for enrolment will hold schools harmless - schools with lower enrolments will be in a neutral funding position. EIPS allocation of the \$8.3B and then each school allocation will come later in the month or into April.
- Last year additional federal funding of \$6.1M was provided to schools and is not expected again. However, funding letters for KG, ECS PUF funding is expected by the end of March (\$40M for the province overall).
- Transportation funding is held intact.
- April 22nd is the date the school budgets are approved by the school boards. May 31st is the deadline for submission to the Government of Alberta.
- For capital projects. There will be 14 capital projects approved (new and renovations), still hoping that Sherwood Heights replacement is approved. (Note of interest: subsequent to school council meeting - confirmed that Sherwood Heights is not approved this year)
- School technology fees may be held off for the year. Waiting to see how the bottom line budget will look.
- K- 4 new curriculum is a year and half away.
- Covid cases trending down in schools. Still not opening school teams and sports due to safety procedures. If this changes, it will be in September.

#### 2.2 Principal's Update. Mr. Schlacht. Key points noted:

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- PD day included a mental health presentation for all staff. Maker Space update (although much of this can't be used by the children at this time). Collaboration afternoon which enables staff engagement. Also an EIPS PD day for classified staff which was well received.
  - Associate Superintendent Sandra Stoddard came to visit the school. Biggest item of note is that the staff are exhausted with a challenging year underway. No adjustments to the calendar have been considered to accommodate breaks for both staff and children as the instructional hours requirement is still in place. Noted that all staff have the access to employee support programs.
  - Admin asks parents to continue to send notes of appreciation to the staff as an easy uplifting message for teachers.
  - Registration is complete. 471 students registered for 21/22 year, summer months may see change (current registration is 477). 21/22 year includes 317 English and 154 French; with 7 students from out of boundary.
  - Funding for HHE will come later in April, and final school budget is required to be sent back to EIPS by May 1st. 96% of costs will be for Staff.
  - On Thursday, emergency drills were completed as a school - evacuation drills as a class, emergency preparedness drills. EIPS scenarios can be found at this link <https://www.eips.ca/download/40824>. There are many scenarios the school must be ready for.
  - School Fees: Final review of school fees after much consultation both at School Council, via surveys and 1;1 discussion with parents. Summary: Holding field trip costs at \$60 and will choose the trips next year as the covid situation is better understood. French immersion will have one additional trip for additional cost (Canoe Volant), supported by families. Supervision costs will increase to \$115. There will be no swimming, no ski trip. The school is getting excellent use of the skating rink, sledding hills, snowshoes, broomball, walking trails - all close and all free. Motion to approve the school fees: Supported and approved. Motioned Sarah Witholt, second Richelle Mclean. All agreed. **See attached spreadsheet.**
- 2.3 School Technology. Key points noted
- Internet safety: teachers check browser history to see if the searches are related to the work in the classroom. In Elementary the searches are not that sophisticated.
  - If a student account is compromised, IT flags any untoward issues - for example a student in an older grade sent a blank ppt to 3 random people from another student's Chromebook. IT picked this up and the teacher investigated. In this situation, as a first offence, the student in question would lose the privilege of technology.
  - There are mandatory safeguards - blocked sites, blocked web content.
  - Teachers are educating students about proper use of technology, give students the benefit of the doubt 'teach them to fish'

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- A teacher shared that the children in class when they search add 'for kids' at the end of the search as yet another safeguard.
- Further, research sites are preloaded into bright spaces in advance for students in many instances
- If parents are having concerns/issues, speak to the teacher first.
- Admin will look to invite John Thomas to do another parent session (similar to the one at Wye) that helps parents know what the school is using tech for and information sharing.

### 3.0 Parent Liaison Updates:

#### 3.1 Distance Learning Rep: Sue Shwaga absent.

- At this point, EIPS will not offer distance learning for 21/22 year. However, budget working meetings with the school board may see changes once funding is understood.

#### 3.2 Staff Appreciation Rep: Richelle Mclean.

- Various activities planned over the remaining 3 months to thank staff/teachers. Coffee cards included. Teacher appreciation week in May. Parents invited to send ideas to Richelle or HHE council email.

#### 3.3 HHE Fundraising: Lisa Solamillo.

- Parents raised funds for 28 Chromebooks, 64 snowshoes and started fundraising for outdoor classroom downstairs. Pizza days coming in April.

### 4.0 HHESC Executive Update

#### 4.1 Council of School Councils (COSC) Information. S. Witholt.

- ASCA resolutions are coming up and required before the conference. Sarah will solicit time from a few parents to run through the resolutions for HHE.

### 5.0 Adjourn meeting at 8:13 by J. Coulter.

Next Meeting at 6:30 pm: Monday April 12th, May 10th, AGM June 7th