



Heritage Hills Elementary School Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting was held Thursday January 26, 2022
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Attendees: Kelly Annesty (Student Council Chair), Michelle Beck, Jodi Lakevold, Lisa McDonnell, Lisa Solamillo, Susan Shwaga, Lori Tootoosis-Friesen, Sarah Witholt, Charlene Zacharuk.

School Trustee: Jim Seutter

School Staff: Stacey Carruthers, Suzanne Cleet, Maureen Wert, Theresa Wells-Taylor

School Administration: Bill Schlacht, Kyle Samaratunga

1. Welcome and Call to order at 6:33pm by Kelly Annesty, Chair.
 - 1.1 Review of the Agenda – There was no changes or additions made to the agenda.
 - 1.2 Approval of minutes from the previous meeting. All approved.

2. Updates for Parents:

- 2.1 School Trustee Update Jim Seutter, School Trustee

Many issues to deal with including COVID Elk Island. Elk Island is working on trying to keep the students and learning environments safe. They have been going through the K-6 curriculum implementation which has been revised and delayed by Minister LaGrange. The division calendar surveys results were presented to the Board of Trustees and they had over 2,100 responses and the draft templates were presented to be a guideline for the upcoming school year and there was a decision to keep a traditional calendar in place for the 2022-2023 school year. This involves 181 instructional days which is the same as this current year and 5 PD days as well as November and December breaks. The 2022-2023 Calendar is on the Elk Island Website. Student registration is opening on February 1, 2022 and can be done on the Power School Portal.

There was a question asked about early out Wednesdays and whether or not they were going to continue and currently there is not going to be any changes to the early out Wednesday for this upcoming school year.

Question was asked around the diversity of the Elk Island Calendar and in that the Edmonton Public Calendar has supported not necessarily time off but the ethnic diverse holidays and it was asked if the Board of Trustees will be having a conversation that would support these additional holidays. The response was that it did not come up at the Board of Trustees meeting however it will be followed up on.

Bus cancellations were discussed in there were late notifications going out or no notifications at all to the parents. It was noted that on one of the bus cancellation days there were issues with the phone system at Elk Island and that since has been repaired.

COVID-19 tracing was discussed in that the families are no longer being notified with respect to close contacts and parents are finding out from their children as to who was missing from school and that they may have been in contact with COVID-19 in that manner and that it is frustrating for parents. Rapid tests have been given to the students and each student received one package that had 5 tests which did not seem like a lot. They will be receiving another shipment at the school of rapid tests which will be sent home with the students once they are received in the schools. The rapid tests take a bit of time to hand out as the go to Central Office then they are divided up for each school and then the school divides them out among their students.

2.2 School Update Bill Schlacht & Team

Welcome back since the winter break. The weather has been a bit of a challenge since getting back into school as the school grounds have been very slippery and it is due to this that it was decided to keep the students inside for recess and lunch.

Yearbook update – The yearbook has been checked again and has gone to print and should be arriving at the school soon. The yearbook for 2021-2022 has already been started and the teachers are working on the class lists.

COVID-19 Update – Once the rapid tests are received, they will be sent home with students. As far as allowing volunteers and parents into the schools it seems like all the schools are in different places. There was only 1 day where they were not able to have a substitute teacher from the roster, but the school was able to shift around who was in the school and they have not had to cancel any classes as a result. The COVID number are up this week compared to last week.

School fees – currently planning for the 2022-2023 school fees and they are looking for feedback from families and a survey will go out to all the parents. The school fees are determined over March and April. In January they begin planning for the next year and the staff present an intention form for what they would like to do for the upcoming year. By the end of February once student registration is closed that is when they are able to start going through the school fees. The school fees are regulated by both Elk Island and the Government of Alberta. The money from the previous years school fees is not able to be rolled over to the next year if it is not used, it has to be returned to the families. The money has to be strictly utilized for the particular field trip that it was meant to go towards and can not be repurposed for another field trip. The school looks at the what the costs are for registration for the venue, the type of field trip and the online payment charges when determining the school fees. Once the school fees are set then they are not allowed to increase them during that school year. Then for the following year they are not allowed to request an increase greater than 5%. The field trip has to be tied to the school curriculum. Some schools are currently doing field trips while other schools are not. Typical cost for fieldtrip fees are between \$50-\$80. Everyone in the school takes part in noon hour supervision as part of their duties.

It was asked if there could be a cost association, staffing costs and breakdown of the staff and how many people are doing noon hour supervision so that Student Council knows who and what is involved. It will be brought to the next meeting.

It was asked what the students are doing during noon hour supervision as some of the students are saying that they are watching videos during the lunch hour and others are not. It was asked for clarity and what the expectations are during the noon hour.

2.3 Call out for Vice Chair and Secretary No volunteers for either position.

2.4 Helmet discussion Kelly Annesty & Michelle Beck

There was quite the discussion on the Heritage Hills Parents Facebook page with respect to helmets and the students going out on the ice surfaces at the school. Some teachers were saying that some helmets were approved while others were saying that the same type of helmet was not approved. This left a lot of the students not being able to partake in the activities and parents being very concerned as their children were being excluded from the gym classes. The parent group would like to help out with this whether it be providing equipment or seeing how we can go about so that none of the students are left sitting out and not able to partake.

Mr. Mazur and Ms. Carruthers did a fair amount of research into what types of helmets that were required for the student's safety and the communication went out to the families a bit later than they liked and after the student's were already out on the ice surfaces. Since this happened helmets have been borrowed from another school and yes, perhaps the school might have to fundraise for some equipment so that none of the students are left out. Helmets would be the first ask for about 12-20 of the smaller sizes and 12-20 of the larger helmets. Student council just really does not want to see any of the students left out and that is where the concern is coming from along with the parents who spoke up on the Facebook page.

3. Updates:

4.1 HHESC Chair Update (Kelly)

Since our last meeting in December as we are all aware COVID has changed what we are doing again. Now with Omicron and the number of people who are getting sick both in staff and students and with the potential of going back to virtual and online learning. Rapid tests and masks were sent home with the children on January 14, 2022. There was the EIPS Secondary French Immersion Information that was held on Teams on Tuesday January 18, 2022. For those families who will be going into secondary education.

4.2 Council of School Councils (COSC) Information (Sarah)

Sarah had to leave the meeting but stated that Jim covered what she was going to cover.

4.3 Staff Appreciation Representative (Susan/Michelle)

There will be a staff appreciation around Valentines Day which will be something small and cute for the staff. There also will be a year end staff appreciation. So far to date there have been 2 staff appreciations.

4.4 Fundraising Association (Lisa). Will give an update at their meeting which is following this meeting.

4. Adjournment of meeting at 7:58pm.

5. Next meeting will be on Wednesday March 9, 2022, at 6:30pm and it will be held virtually on MS Teams.

Meeting Minutes by Kelly Annesty Student Council Chair.