

## School Council Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2021

1. Called to order at 6:32 pm

Virtual Attendees: Cathy Giesbrecht, Monique Aultman, Suzanne Morton, Lori Beerwart, Michelle MacKay, Joan Crockett and Jeanet Moore.

2. Acknowledgement and Prayer

ESSMY acknowledges that it is gathering on the original lands of the Cree, those of Treaty 6 and on the homeland of the Métis Nation. Thank you, Creator.

3. Review of Agenda

4. Approval of the January 5, 2021 Minutes, as amended:

*Proposed by Lori Beerwart*

*Seconded by Suzanne Morton*

5. Chairperson Report - Suzanne Morton

I attended my first Council of Councils meeting last night. This is typically held twice per school year and a means to have all the schools report their news to a Board representative and in turn hear what is new in our Division. The turnout was excellent; every school in our division was represented which is a first.

6. Trustee Report – Joan Crockett

Good evening and thank you for being here to listen and share your thoughts and ideas. School Councils are grass roots government. Here decisions are being made that affect the most important resource in our school community – our students.

It was so wonderful to be part of the Council of Councils meeting with 17 chairs representing 17 of our schools to hear from the Superintendent, the Board chair but also from each other. The ideas shared last night were phenomenal. We heard repeatedly how much students loved being back at school, to be learning and sharing with their friends. Teachers want to be in school too, in front of their students facilitating their growth academically, physically, and spirituality. Teachers come with the DNA to teach, to be with students and it is teachers that are the lifeline of students returning to schools which allows parents to go off to work. But school staff need to remain safe while at school. It is with this in mind that the Board made a motion to direct Administration to draft letters to Premier Jason Kenney, Education Minister LaGrange, Minister of Health Tyler Shandro and Medical Officer of Health Deena Hinshaw advocating the prioritizing of school staff to receive the COVID – 19 vaccine.

### Government of Canada Safe Return to Class Fund

Minister LaGrange sent an email this week to share that the second allotment of Federal funds will be distributed to school boards this week. Our Division will receive approximately \$2 million which must be spent on staffing, adapting learning spaces, personal protective equipment, cleaning and safety considerations, support for special needs students, and online learning and teacher training.

### Policy Reviews

All policies are reviewed each year. During our last regular board meeting policies 7, 11, 13, and 15 were reviewed. Board Operations, Board Delegation of Authority, Appeals and Hearings Regarding Student Matters, School Closure/Transfer of Students

### Committee Reports

- Business Liaison: St Albert Chamber Report
- First Nations, Metis Inuit Report
- Alberta School Boards Association Zone 2/3 Report (ASBA)
- Alberta Catholic Trustees Association Report (ACSTA)

### Committees:

Established to assist the Board with work of an on-going nature: Policy Advisory, Negotiations: ATA, CUPE, UNIFOR, Capital Committee, Audit Committee, Board Planning. Recently an Ad Hoc Board Awards Committee was set up to review all Board Awards located in Board Policies and Administrative Procedures to enhance clarity and consistency. An AD Hoc Trustee Handbook is being developed to ensure continuity and smooth transition from one Board to another. Following the election, this will also assist new and existing trustees to locate information in one area.

### Reports from the Superintendent

These reports may be given by the Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, Secretary Treasurer, Communications Consultant, or the Assistant Superintendent in charge of Human Resources depending on their area of expertise.

### Inclusive Education Programming Update – Dr Nixon

- School Learning Teams: Each school has a school learning team that meets on a regular basis to review students' profiles and to determine whether the universal, targeted, and individual supports are making a positive impact in student learning. These teams also attend Curriculum PD in which differentiated instruction is emphasized. Last meeting Dr Nixon reviewed a 5-page document on the strategies

being used to ensure the Board that students' needs were being met with the resources present.

- School Results Reviews (SRR) – a one page document sharing each schools' priorities, results, faith component, service, and safety, and engaged learning categories.
- First Nations Metis Inuit – provides an update on our Truth and Reconciliation strategies in our Division's Three-Year Education Assurance Framework.
- Staff continue to work with our partners (ATA, Rupertsland Institute, Alexander First Nations' staff, Star of the North) to co-develop resources (e.g., lessons and literature, to share with all staff, students, families, and partners.
- Staff share their areas of comfort and growth, which informs professional learning goals.

#### School Authority Operations and Resources

Financial Report, School Facilities Utilization Report, Fee Waiver Report, Instructional Years Calendar Report.

#### Public Engagements by Trustees:

- Meeting with the Town of Morinville - January 28
- Council of Council Meeting – February 1
- Meeting with Town of Legal – February 18
- Religious Education Congress February 19 – 21
- Board Planning Session – April 15 – 16
- Joint City/School Board Annual Meeting – May 13

#### Have you considered being a Catholic School Board Trustee?

With a local election coming in October 18, it is time to think about who will shape local education for the next 4 years. I feel that the work that I do is very important, so important that I would encourage people with an interest in children and a vision for local education to think about putting their name forward as a candidate for trustee. We have 7 trustees on our board, 4 from the St Albert ward, 2 from Morinville and 1 from Legal. The Board is responsible for approximately 5000 students and 500 staff with an annual budget of \$68 million.

- There are 62 boards in Alberta, 24 of which are Catholic. There are only three provinces with publicly funded Catholic schools: AB, SK and ON. Catholic schools in Alberta continue to grow at a rate of 9.5% with the full development of a child in mind: physical, emotional, and spiritual.
- What do I have to offer? Each one of us brings many gifts to the table. Each of us have different strengths: strategic thinking, relationship building, positivity, analytical skills and many more.

- Information for Candidates can be found on our website, ASBA, ACSTA and ATA.
- ASBA often hosts workshops which are very good.
- Think about it, attend a virtual meeting, do some research, or talk to a trustee.

Upcoming Board Meetings:

Committee of the Whole: February 8, 7:00 pm.

Regular Board Meeting: February 22, 3:30 pm

7. Administrator Report – Cathy Giesbrecht

Lunchtime:

- We have changed our lunchtime routines in the last two weeks. We have created some stations within the school and the classes rotate through those stations in their cohorts. While half the classes eat, the other half of the classes are in a station. At 12:35, the groups switch.
- In order to make this successful, we had to hire Mme Jo as a lunchtime supervisor. We hope to be able to stop this after Spring Break - as we did not actually collect a lunchtime supervision fee this year.
- When our groups switch, we have protocols in place to be able to sanitize the surroundings and switch equipment.
- Students seem to like it, and we hope that by the time our students tire of the stations, we will be able to send them back outside, hopefully with some reduced restrictions.
- This was partly a result of the fact that we were facing a sharp drop in temperature and we did not want students to be confined to their classrooms all day. Also, we were noticing that upon our return from Christmas break that students are experiencing some COVID restriction fatigue. This keeps them in their cohorts - which is not always what they want, but we know that it is safer than mixing cohorts at this time.

Virtual Open House:

- We are working on our Virtual Open House that will take place on March 4th at 7:00. Current families are welcome to attend. We have two parent sessions planned through Google Meets - one for the parents of grade 6 students at EMP and one for EFJ. We will also be meeting with those grade 6 students during the same week as the parent meetings. We will be sending swag bags over to those schools in an effort to transition our students for next year.

#### Shrove Tuesday/Ash Wednesday:

- At this time, we have had to cancel our Shrove Tuesday event, as we normally invited the EMP students for pancakes. We hope to be able to do something to replace this community building event later in the year. We will however still be doing an Ash Wednesday Celebration.

#### Fête de la Francophonie - March 10<sup>th</sup>:

- We are looking at celebrating the Fete de la Francophonie this year. This will be a virtual event with online cultural sessions. We are pleased to have the ACFA (Association Canadienne-Française de l'Alberta) bring us "La tire" which is a traditional maple syrup taffy. The treat will surely be a hit with our students!

#### Faith Retreats:

- We are also planning faith retreats for all our students because we just do not think that students will be able to have a rich experience online. We will be doing them in-person, so we do not plan to mix cohorts. We have some guests lined up and the students will be creating some artifacts. We believe that this hands-on day will be a great faith-building experience. We also intend to order pizza lunch for the kids. The pizzas will be individually wrapped with each student's name on it. All COVID friendly.

#### Yearbook update:

- Thank you for the valuable feedback regarding our yearbook. You will have all received the message informing parents that we will be going to a 40-page hardcover book - that was the will of this group in our last meeting. The teachers involved agreed and said that this is more in line with other junior highs anyway. We will continue with this format and re-evaluate in a year or two. This keeps the cost of the yearbook under \$30 - which was expressed as a priority.

#### School Fees:

- We have done an in-depth examination of our school fees - looking to reduce them in every area possible.
- In looking at the last few years, we have found areas that can be cut back.

#### Option Fees:

- We have compared all our fees from the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years.  
2019-20 was a semester year.  
2020-21 was a COVID year.

So, we are estimating to get our costs as accurately as possible to fit a trimester and to ensure that all the funds are gone at the end of each term.  
School fees are to be used on consumable items that are used by those students during that term.

ESSMY Student Code of Conduct in a Safe and Caring School:

- We reviewed our ESSMY policy last year on May 5, 2020.
- Extensive work was done on it in the last two years. We do not propose any changes at this time as we feel the plan is very comprehensive and clear. It also abides by all Alberta Education and GSACRD guidelines as per the Education Act.

8. Unfinished/ Business Arising

9. Next Meeting: March 2, 2021 at 6:30 pm

10. Adjourned at 7:46 pm