



**Fort Saskatchewan Elementary  
Parent Council  
MINUTES – November 17, 2021**

---

Attendance: Shelley Carter Schofield, Pamela Erickson (Assistant Principal), Shelby Labrecque (Principal), Ella Mikulecky (Teacher), Renee Sadownyk (Teacher), Ralph Sorochan (School Trustee Liaison), Lauren Taubenheim, Nicole Way, Caitlyn Zabrick

Call to Order at 5:36 pm – meeting chaired by Caitlyn Zabrick

1. Introductions
2. Motion to approve the Agenda – moved by Lauren, seconded by Nicole carried
3. Motion to approve the Minutes of October 12, 2021 – moved by Lauren, seconded by Caitlyn, carried
4. Reports
  - a. School Trustee's Report – Ralph Sorochan gave his trustee report- he extended an invitation to contact him at anytime [ralph.sorochan@eips.ca](mailto:ralph.sorochan@eips.ca) 1) THANK-YOU to everyone for coming out, tonight, as your work is critical to the success of our students. 2) A NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES was sworn in on October 28. The Board elected the Chair (Trina Boymook) and Vice Chair (Collen Holowaychuk) at the Organizational meeting. Jacqueline Shotbolt and I represent Fort Saskatchewan. A full list of the Board of Trustees is available at eips.ca. 3) MODULAR CLASSROOM REQUEST: The Board directed EIPS administration to request funding from Alberta Education to address needed changes to several modular classroom units in the 2022-23 school year. If approved, the Division will: • relocate three modular classroom units to SouthPointe School from Fultonvale Elementary Junior High—to accommodate its growing student population; • replace three modular classroom units at James Mowat Elementary with four new modular units—to address ageing infrastructure and the growing student population; and • demolish three modular classroom units at Uncas Elementary. EIPS expects a decision from the province in early 2022. 4) LEARNING DISRUPTION FUNDING - The Board has been approved for \$792K as part of the \$45 million Learning Disruption Funding that the Minister recently announced. The funds that we received will provide 12 to 16 weeks of targeted programming for 1616 identified students in Grades 2 and 3 to deal with literacy and numeracy learning loss due to the disruption to learning as result of the pandemic. We will be making an application to access funds from this program for identified Grade 1 students. Approval of the funds are expected in the new year. 5) UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT - The Board received for information the Unaudited Financial Report for the 2020-21 school year—

September 1 to August 31. The Division ended the 2020-21 school year with an overall operating surplus of \$6.11 million, which the Division has carried forward to the 2021-22 school year. The full report is available at eips.ca. 6) ASSURANCE REVIEWS - The Board is entering Assurance Reviews this month. We have already met with the Departments on November 1 and 2. School Assurance Reviews will start on November 25. FSE Assurance Review is being held on November 29th at 1:00 PM. I invite each of you to participate. Assurance Reviews will be conducted via Zoom. 7) REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE – On behalf of the Board, I attended the Fort Saskatchewan Remembrance Day Service hosted by the Fort Saskatchewan Legion. A wreath was placed on the cenotaph on behalf of the Board, our staff, and students. 8) BULLYING AWARENESS WEEK NOVEMBER 15-19 is always during the 3rd week in November. It promotes awareness and understanding of bullying and its impacts. Schools throughout the Division are engaged in different activities to take part in this important initiative. There are also great resources and links provided on eips.ca. 9) ALBERTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION FALL GENERAL MEETING – I attended this conference on November 15 and 16. Trustees from across the province came together to discuss educational issues and receive professional development. 10) A BOARD RETREAT is being planned for December 6 and 7. The Retreat will focus on setting the priorities for the Board's work, moving forward. 11) BOARD MEETINGS – The next public Board Meetings are scheduled for November 25 and December 16. They are broadcast live on YouTube. I encourage you to engage. 12) DIPLOMA EXAMS - diploma exams written in November 2021, January 2022, April 2022, June 2022, and August 2022 will be weighted at 10%. Diploma exams will not be cancelled by the ministry, in order to maintain standards. The reduction in weighting is to support the learning disruptions caused by Covid. 13) PROVINCIAL ACHIEVEMENT TESTS - in Grades 6 and 9 will also be mandatory, as a means of maintaining standards. Teachers are not required to use PAT scores in the calculation of student final grades. 14) THE STUDENTS FIRST ACT - received first reading in the legislature, on Nov. 16. If passed, the Students First Act would provide parents with additional confidence in their children's safety while at school, bringing Alberta in line with other provinces, and streamline disciplinary processes for the teaching profession in Alberta, ensuring that disciplinary matters are responded to in a timely way. Students First - Government News Release 15) ROLE OF THE TRUSTEE – What exactly is the role of an elected school trustee? (Summarized by Nicole) Trustees are advocates for children & education, goal setters for the school system, planners, evaluators, financial planners, policy makers, legislators, communicators, adjudicators, lobbyists, and politicians.

- b. COSC (Committee of School Councils) Report – Caitlyn attended and stated there was a surplus of information and the meeting was very interesting. Key Points were: -that no school calendar for the 2022/2023 school year has yet been approved. There is also no mention when it will be brought forward to the board. -National Day for Truth and Reconciliation will be annual. -Covid-19 update: full vaccination is required for staff and school volunteers. Must isolate 10 days if test

positive. Close contacts with no symptoms do not need to isolate. They still prefer school council meeting to be virtual. However, things regarding Covid-19 are constantly changing. -School Grant of \$500 to be used for education of board members. To be discussed in January should it go to COSC or straight to each individual school council.

c. Admin Report

- Welcome! - Welcome to our new Elk Island Public Schools trustee liaison, Ralph Sorochan! We are very much looking forward to working with you this year.
- Kudos! - Thank you to our School Council/Society for organizing the Dieleman's fundraiser which ended in October! We are very much looking forward to having our Hot Lunch program again this year, starting on Friday, November 19! Thank you for organizing the vendors, volunteers, and payments for our families! We know we would not be able to offer our Hot Lunch program without your tremendous support!
- Budget - We recently learned about the details of the learning disruption funding that the Government of Alberta is going to provide to schools for grade 2 and 3 students who fell below the 25th percentile according to the Numeracy Screener Assessment and STAR assessment. These funds will be used to provide a minimum of 12 weeks of targeted intervention programming for these students by a certificated staff member. We are currently working out the specific details of how we are using this funding at Fort Saskatchewan Elementary and will provide an update at our next meeting.
- Library - Ms. Statham, our school librarian, put on our virtual Book Fair in October which sold 33 books. The money raised from the sale of these books will be put towards purchasing more books for our school library.
- Literacy - To date we have purchased \$860.48 worth of new books, thanks to the funds that the Parent Society allocated at the last meeting for this purchase. We are looking forward to having these delivered and in the hands of students shortly. Staff are continuing to collect feedback from students and colleagues to determine the next selection of books to be purchased. Our Kindergarten to grade three staff continue to participate in professional learning

opportunities provided through our year long Divisional literacy pilot project. This initiative supports staff by teaching them about best instructional practices related to literacy skill development.

- Numeracy - Barb Percy, the Elk Island Public School elementary math consultant, has been working with all certificated staff in grades 1 to 6 to demonstrate the new math benchmarking kit. This will assist in identifying specific data which will inform teachers in terms of their instructional practices. As well, our Building Fact Fluency kit has arrived and was used by Barb Percy in our 2P classroom to demonstrate the ways in which it can be used to build students' numeracy skills.
- Other - The first Fort Saskatchewan Elementary Food Drive of the year brought in 251 pounds of food and a \$5 cash donation. We are looking forward to another food drive likely in February 2022.
- Our virtual Remembrance Day assembly was held on November 5 and included touching remarks from speaker Martin Mattews from the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #27, as well as students reading the poem, In Flanders Field, and singing I Wish for Peace. It was a very heartfelt and touching assembly. We also partnered up with Fort Christian to create our Hallway of Peace which was visited by three veterans as a way to let them know that we would always remember the sacrifices made for our freedoms.
- The lunch recess time now comes first, followed by lunch eating time. We are trying this because as a staff we thought it would be helpful for students in terms of being consistent with our Hot Lunch days.
- Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week is this week and we will be using the lens of the Seven Sacred Grandfather Teachings, specifically courage. Each day has a different focus whereby students will learn more about ways they can show courage to prevent bullying and extend kindness. Some examples include discussing buddy benches, peer role playing and reviewing online etiquette. Staff will read stories demonstrating how characters show courage to stand up for what is right, as well as use NED's Mindset Mission to

spark further discussions around the topic of bullying awareness and prevention.

- Our November School Community virtual assembly was held today and again highlighted the Seven Sacred Grandfather Teaching of courage. It is also Métis Week this week so students and staff will be learning more about Métis culture, the significance of the flag, uses of the Métis sash, as well as Métis music and dance.
- Our grade six students have come up with theme days, including the dates and themes. November 19 - Odd Sock Day, December 21 - PJ Day, January 28 - Favourite Sport Day (Jersey Day), February 14 - Red/White/Pink Day, March 24 - Crazy Hair Day, March (date to be determined) - During the Battle of the Books - Dress Like Your Favorite Book Character, April 29 - Colour Day (Dress in your favorite colour), May 27 - Tacky Tourist Day, June 17 - "Not a Backpack" Day - bring something other than a backpack to school
- Report cards will be available in PowerSchool on Friday, November 26 at 3 p.m. with the exception of Ms. Thompson's kindergarten class which will be sent home on Thursday, November 25.
- Our Assurance Review (formerly known as Results Review) with the Board of Trustees and senior Central Office administration will be on Monday, November 29 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. As a division we want to continually strive for improvement. The Assurance Review is an annual opportunity for schools to reflect upon and account for their School Education Plans, as well as, the subsequent results over the past year. It also allows schools to identify specific ways in which they will adjust strategies and practices in order to maintain alignment with the goal of striving for continuous improvement. This year we will be grouped with Bruderheim, James Mowat, École Parc, and Win Ferguson. School Council chairs are also invited to attend.
- Planning is underway for our virtual Christmas concert. More details will be coming to families in December.
- Starting in January, Kristi Wahl from Family and Community Support Services will be offering a Girls Club for a select group of 10 to 12 grade 5 and 6 students who may benefit

from support in terms of understanding, navigating, and maintaining friendships. This club will run once a week for six weeks during both lunch eating and recess time. Students will eat their lunch during this time. Ms. Wahl will be looking at following this up with a Boys Club later in the year.

- d. Treasurer's Report (Breakfast Program)
    - bank balance -\$1330.32
  - e. Breakfast Program Report (fundraising) – No update
- 
- 5. Business Arising from the Minutes – None
  - 6. New Business - None
  - 7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 19 at 5:30
  - 8. Meeting Adjourned at 6:17