**Meeting Minutes**

Davidson Creek Elementary School Council

**November 17, 2020 6:30pm**

**Zoom Video Conference Meeting**

**Board Members**

Melissa Presse, Chair | Sarah Anderson, Vice Chair | Karli Butler, Secretary

|Vacant - Communications

**DCE School Council Meeting MINUTES**

The Chair welcomed attendees and guests and gave a Treaty 6 Acknowledgment

**Attendance:**

Exec Committee: Melissa Presse, Chair, Sarah Anderson, Vice Chair, Karli Butler, Secretary,

Absent: Vacant - Communications

DCE Staff: Kaye Schindeler, Principal, Murray Howell, Assistant Principal,

Marlis Marler, Assistant Principal/Counselor, Michael Versteegt, Teacher, Heidi Nicks-Tambasco, Teacher, Becky Mitchell, Registrar

Parent Representatives: 9 parents/caregivers attended the Zoom meeting.

Invited Guest: Annette Hubick, EIPS Trustee

**Approval of Agenda:**

The Chair asked for changes in the Agenda no changes made.

**Approval of DCE SC Meeting Minutes of October 2020 (Zoom)**

\*October 2020 Minutes correction was noted

Motioned carried to approve October 2020 minutes/with correction

* Motion carried by: Sara A.
* Seconded by: Sara G.

**Kaye Schindeler, Principle Report**

Next Monday is the school results review – parents can participate. This includes approval of the existing Educational Plan. The plan has not change much from 2019 and is available online on the school website for review.

Kaye confirmed we have good data and positive results for the school when it came to overall proficiency in reading. DCE continues to promote a culture of literacy and numeracy.

Parents whose child comes into contact with a confirmed case of COVID will be informed fully with all the information they need to address the situation by email and or phone. Staff and student privacy will be protected if they are absent for health reasons.

A general notification to all parents, whose children are NOT affected by an active COVID case, will be issued if there is a positive case connected with the school.

Kaye thanked parents for supporting their children and the school in COVID prevention measures.

There will be an online Christmas concert. Parents will get a “link” to see just their child’s class performance before the Christmas break.

Question from Parent: Are the out-of-school kids and in-school kids aligning to have similar experiences with their learning? Kaye confirmed yes, for the most part the two groups are close. There are some things the out-of-school kids will not have quite the same access too. i.e. school library etc., but for the most part the classroom plans and work provided is the same.

**Annette Hubick: Trustee Report**

Annette reviewed the following report

She commented on EIPS COVID case counts overall; currently there are 56 confirmed student cases since the beginning of the school year out of 17,000 students across the school division- see report.

Annette asked about a question on the pillars of accountability questionnaire that goes out to Grade 4 student parents: How is your child being be prepared for the world of work?

* Discussion from parents/teachers ensued.

A parent asked about curriculum review by the province based on recent media reports and what is happening with that and what teachers are doing a review?

Parents were told the Minister of Education would announce some decisions/direction at first of the year and pilot projects would start in Sept 2021.



**Trustee Report for DCE School Council**

Annette Hubick

November 16, 2020

**2019-2020 EIPS Financial Results**

At the October 15 board meeting, trustees received reports on the **unaudited** financial statements for operations of the 2019-2020 school year as well as the accumulated surplus (a.k.a. reserves). The comprehensive report starts on page 44 of the board meeting package.

***Highlights***

* 2019-2020 deficit was $1,483,000. The board had planned on a $7.958 million deficit meaning the division was in a better financial position at August 31st than originally forecasted. Some reasons for the variance are:
* Not all Infrastructure Maintenance & Renewal (IMR) projects were completed to give precedence to projects funded by the “Capital Maintenance and Renewal” funding that the government announced in May 2020. The CMR funds had restricted spending timelines whereas the division can carry forward the IMR balance to this year.
* Lower expenses due to the March school closures due to decreased demand for substitute staff, utilities, professional development, travel, events, staff recruitment, transportation, FNMI programming, etc.

***Expense breakdown***

78% Instruction

12.3% Plan Operations & Maintenance

5.3% Transportation

3.6% Board and System Administration

0.6% External Services

***Accumulated Surplus***

EIPS has a total of $11,267,216 in operating reserves comprised of:

* $1.9 million in School Generated Funds (surpluses from vending machines, food services, etc.)
* $1.8 million = school and department surpluses over the 1% of budget that they are allowed to carry forward.
* $400,000 in division allocated funds (set aside for specific projects that will be completed this year).
* $7.9 million in division unallocated – this figure is almost $4 million more than anticipated and is what enabled the board to allocate funds on September 16th to address pandemic-related costs over and above the federal government grant.

The updated 2020-2021 budget will be presented at the board’s November board meeting.

**Junior High Honours Program Survey**

Over 1400 parents responded to the EIPS junior high honours program survey. The feedback will help inform the board of trustees as it considers if, how and where such a program is offered in the division.

The majority of respondents stated:

* A junior high honours program should be available.
* Entry requirements should be rigorous and standardized across the division.
* The program should be available at multiple sites, not one or two central sites.
* The program should offer accelerated pace and challenge, not a program such as Pre-International Baccalaureate or Pre-Advanced Placement.

A complete report and recommendations will be presented to the board at its December meeting. This is so that any programming decisions made by schools will be completed prior to the 2021-22 school registration process.

**COVID-19 Case Reporting**

Thank you to all the parents and staff who have personally advised EIPS of a positive COVID-19 test result. This has enabled the division and school to act promptly to inform close contacts and school communities and implement cleaning protocols as soon as possible. To date, the division has been advised of 56 confirmed cases. Please continue to do your part to lower community spread so that our schools can remain open.

**ASBA Fall General Meeting (Nov 16 & 17)**

* Minister’s address
	+ No compensation for boards for the time costs associated with performing contact tracing because boards aren’t being mandated to do so. However, with increasing delays with AHS contact tracing, boards are put in a position of it being necessary.
	+ What’s the tipping point to move to Scenario 2? No recommendation from the CMOH at this point.
	+ A decision on diploma exams for the remainder of the year is coming soon.
* Passed several advocacy positions and three professional development sessions. Peter Mansbridge, John Dinner on effective governance and Andy Hargreaves on changes in the educational landscape.

**Results Reviews**

Trustees have completed results reviews for all central office departments. A common theme in all reports was “pivot” as staff had to shift focus and the way they delivered services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was inspiring to hear about how staff adopted a problem-solving mindset. Also worrisome due to the incredible increase in workload pressures that staff were and are under.

The results reviews for schools will take place November 18, 19, 23 and 24. One challenge in terms of evaluating strategy effectiveness is that there is no PAT or diploma exam data to measure results. At this time, the plan is for EIPS to go ahead with PATs for grade 6s and 9s. Out of school learners will have the option of coming to the school to write the exams.

**My Question for Parents**

In terms of Accountability Pillar results, one common area of challenge, especially in elementary schools, is the lower number of parents who agree that students are taught attitudes and behaviours that will make them successful in the world of work. This begs the questions:

1. What does “attitudes and behaviours that will make them successful in the world of work” mean to you?
2. What evidence would you need to see to be assured that this was being taught?

\*Feel free to email your thoughts to me: Annette.Hubick@eips.ca.

**Melissa Presse, Chair Report**

In October we provided a staff appreciation lunch during parent teacher phone interviews. Feedback was that it was a success and appreciated. The Parent Council and the Fundraising committee will do another catered dinner in February for the next parent teacher interviews.

Sara Anderson contacted “Santa” and “Mrs. Claus” requesting if they would do a holiday video recording for the students – maybe supporting the wreath decorating contest. The video will be made available to all the kids in December.

**Committee Reports**

**Sara G. - Active Travel Committee (ATC)**

* We had an October WOWW day, about 47% participation, but it was a cold day.
* We had another one after that, on a nicer day, with closer to 60%+ participation

**Sara G. - Wellness Committee**

* November’s meeting had a technical Zoom glitch and the group was unable to meet; so, there little to report.
* We are planning a meeting is scheduled for the first of the New Year.
* Sara G. reminded parents about the Thankful Thursday’s program

**New Business**

We are still going to try and do wreath decorating event in December. Discussion ensued. Melissa suggested ways to have the wreaths possibly judged to entice a competition.

Kaye thought maybe they could show the wreaths through the library window.

A possible wreath decorating prize was discussed. Kaye confirmed it would be okay to do individually wrapped treats (commercially made), which could be given to students.

Meeting participants discussed which teachers needed a wreath and or wreath decorating supplies. Kaye will check the school storage to see what was left over from last year and let School Council know what should be replenished.

Kaye/Melissa will continue to plan for this event. Melissa will update Knick Knack shack if teachers need anything.

Meeting participants discussed what the school might to do in the way of activities in the Spring. Melissa brought forward the idea of a bike rodeo in late spring. This would be an outside activity and would have to meet any pandemic regulations/restrictions. Kaye would take under consideration.

Kaye would like the parents and staff to consider a Track and Field day as a possible outdoor activity in the Spring. Depending on pandemic restrictions, the school could even spread the event over a few days – something to consider.

Melissa asked if Carnival would be an option this year. Kaye said she would discuss with staff as to how that could become a possibility. There are logistics that would need to be considered.

Melissa opened the floor to both possible agenda items for January and any other ideas for the New Year. Nothing was shared at the time, but Melissa can be reached by email.

**Meeting Close**

* January 12, 2020 at 6:30pm will be the next DCE School meeting
* Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm - Next Meeting January 12, 2021