

Meeting Minutes

Davidson Creek Elementary School Council

May 13 2023, 6:30 PM

360 Davenport Drive, Sherwood Park

Board Members

Lynn Walker, Chair; Karli Butler, Vice-Chair; Breanne Sweeney, Secretary

DCE Council Minutes

Chair welcomes attendees and gave a Treaty 6 Land acknowledgement.

Attendance

Board Members: Lynn Walker, Karli Butler and Breanne Sweeney

Staff Members: Helene Hewitt, Dina Douzman, Kyla Harding, Christa Gawron, Amy Rice

Parent attendance: 8 Parents joined the meeting in person

Trina Boymook joined by MS Teams

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Stacey moved to approve last meetings minutes, seconded by Heidi
- Minutes approved

Public Trustee Report, Trina Boymook

- April 13 EIPS held a French Immersion engagement session. An option was developed to generate a robust discussion among stakeholders that will inform the best path forward that will enhance the program, increase retention at the junior high and senior high levels, address anticipated enrolment pressures in Ardrossan and balance enrolment at the elementary level. Senior Administration is currently complying feedback

received, which will inform next steps.

- The Board has been busy over the last month working on our budget for 2023-24.

Although there are specific areas of the budget that has experienced an increase it has come as result of repurposing funding from other areas. Due to the introduction of reserve caps, the Board is on track to deplete a large portion of our operating reserves in this current year in order to stay under the cap. There will be limited use of reserves in building next year's budget. The Board approved allocations to schools at a special meeting held on April 27. The Board will be approving the final budget at our May 25 Board meeting.

- The Board will be moving forward with optional implementation of the new eligibility mileage for student transportation. (Elementary 1Km or more to designated school. Jr/Sr 2Km or more to designated school) For the 2023-24 we will remain with walking distance and will have our software adjusted to calculate shortest driving distance in time for mandatory implementation in 2024-25. The Board has approved student transportation fees at the April 27 Special Board meeting. School and program of choice remains as an enhanced service as this is still not considered a mandatory service that Board is required to provide. Parents will be notified of their eligibility standing and fees that will be associated with that.

- The Board will be holding information nights on May 31 and June 6 5:30-7:30 to share the designs for the Sherwood Heights/Ecole Campbelltown replacement school.

Chair Report, Lynn Walker and Karli Butler

- **Communication** – School Council Facebook page saw an increase in 27 members and the Fundraising page saw an increase in one member. The twitter handle saw a decrease in one member.

- **COSC** – Last meeting was held in May. Superintendent Ligori is retiring, and Assistant Superintendent Sandra will be stepping up to the role.

- **ASCA** – A few resolutions came out of the AGM for next year. One is that the \$500 per year school councils can apply for will have the restrictions dropped for next year, making it easier to request the money.
- Caregiver education series by AHS continues, there is a mailing list that delivers updates once a month.
- Annual reports are due. DC School council has these reports completed
- SCEG summary to use by end of year. A few councils combined theirs to pay for a speaker David Irving. 26 people showed up
- Spring budget as described by Trina. A reserve cap will be implemented where unspent funds can be retracted by the government. Payout/child will now be a rolling average, and the \$8 million to bridge this transition will be gone next year. Budget changes will be on EIPS website as well as their 3 year plan. This includes the changes with the targeted funds laid out by the government.
- Also, Strathcona Food Bank needs boxes
- ASCA conference at Delta South this year included seminars, and may have been part of the AGM. 2 funded spots went unused by EIPS. Next year the council will try to investigate and advertise this event as useful information is delivered here. In the mean time resources and self directed modules on ASCA website can be used for learning.
- Motion by Lynn Walker for funding requests
- \$500 increase in the approved \$3000 budget for the summer sizzler due to inflation. Approved by Heidi, seconded by Karli.
- \$600 for Grade 6 grad. Approved by Heidi, seconded by Karli
- Open council positions include Communications Liason and Wellness Committee Chair. Candice Abraham. Approved by Stacey, seconded by Heidi.

Administration Report, Helene Hewitt

- Survey results coming. DCE rated high or improving for most entries
- **School Education Plan 2023/2024** - This describes the focus as a school. It currently includes
 1. Literacy
 2. Numeracy
 3. Wellness

- Parent discussion will be welcome to make sure goals align and to refine what these goals will look like. ASCA has resources on how to improve parent involvement, and social/learning events will be set to help with connections and creating a parent network.

- Advocating for kids is important. Parents should know they can contact teachers at anytime through emails or other forms of contact, not just during interviews.

- Examples for high quality literacy with goals to inspire include; enjoying a book; journaling; improving resources to older kids same as younger and how kids are being taught to support them at home; local author night; public library teaching such as how to pick books and books recommended by students.

- Numeracy has many curriculum changes and support for learning would be a good resource.

- **Budget 23/24** – as described above there are changes in grants and assigned money which results in a decrease in overall funding.
 - Enrollment is up to 637 kids next year
 - Standard cost per teacher increased to 2.9%
 - Classified staff increased 2% as well
 - The school is allowed 1% surplus and not more than 96% for staffing
 - It includes some priorities such as collaboration for staff and support for students (5 grade 2 classrooms and maintaining a full time counsellor)
 - Total budget is \$4 million, with \$3.8 million spent on 25 teachers
 - The remainder includes 70 desks ordered, money to reappropriate a classroom and new gym equipment.
 - Future plans for money include \$1400 for chromebooks, \$2700 for a high jump mat and \$1340 for pancake breakfast. As the fundraising committee has a Casino event next year possibly some requests could be made through that channel.

- **Open House/Meet the Staff**- This will occur the day before the first day of school around 5:30, time to be confirmed. This will allow families to see the classroom, lockers and introduce themselves to the teacher. Next years teacher assignments will be in the last report card of the year. This will be announced in the mustang memo prior, to encourage families to open the report cards. DCE usually has a high % of viewing, last year was around 89%.
 - There may be School Council and/or Fundraising Committee tables to recruit new members/parents to get involved

Next meeting will be June 13. This is the AGM, and the Communications Liason and Secretary positions will be open for voting.

Adjourned at 8:16 PM