



F.R. Haythorne School Council Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

Wednesday, November 18, 2015 @ 6:30 pm

Members Present:

Brad C	Brandon S	Barb M	Courtney C
Khrysty G	Michelle D	Nick Y	Sherry B
Ryan S	Lisa C	Stephanie S	Karen T
Cecile P	Amy A	Rachael S	Laura C
Corleen K	Marilyn G	Carol R	Sherrilynn J
Teresa J	David R		

1. Call to Order & Introductions:

Michelle called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

2. Approval of November agenda:

A motion to approve the November agenda was made by Laura and seconded by Lisa.

CARRIED

3. Approval of October 2015 (draft) minutes:

A motion to approve the October minutes was made by Lisa and seconded by Laura.

CARRIED

4. TRUSTEE REPORT

2015–2016 ENROLMENT: As of Sept. 30, 2015, the division's enrolment is 16,866 students—an increase of 178 students from the 2014–2015 school year.

NOVEMBER EVENTS:

November 4 COSC Meeting
November 4 Take Our Kids to Work Day
November 9–13 Fall Break
November 10 Day-in-Lieu of Interviews
November 15–21 Bullying Awareness Week
November 17 Your Future: It's a Matter of Choice
November 20 National Child Day

NATIONAL BULLYING AWARENESS WEEK NOVEMBER 15-21, 2015:

Staff and students throughout Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) are planning a variety of activities to promote healthy relationships during this year's National Bullying Awareness Week (NBAW), which takes place November 15-21.

2016 EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING:

The Excellence in Teaching Awards program has been put on hold for the time being. The Government of Alberta is currently redesigning the program with a renewed focus on recognition for educators. Potential timelines and information about the new program will be communicated once determined.

GREAT KIDS AWARDS (COSC)

Nominations are now open for the 2016 Great Kids Awards. Launched in 1999, the program is a Government of Alberta initiative to celebrate children and youth who impact their communities in a positive way. The award is open to young people—between the ages of five and 18—who demonstrate determination, generosity, compassion, courage, and strong spirit. The deadline for nominations is November 27. More information about the awards program, and details on how to nominate someone, is available by visiting www.greatkids.alberta.ca.

MODULAR REQUEST 2016–2017

The Board directed Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) administration to request five new modular units and 10 replacement modular units from Alberta Education for the 2016–2017 school year. The modular will be used to accommodate the division's growing student population and replace older units in need of repair.

RESULTS REVIEW PROCESS (COSC)

The schedule for this year's Results Review Process is now available. Please review the schedule. The Results Review is a forum for schools and departments to share their individual school/department results, education plans, successes and challenges with trustees and school communities. All sessions will be held between November 6 and November 27th.

PROVINCIAL BUDGET 2015 – ALBERTA EDUCATION

- EIPS Board is pleased with the Education budget announced by the provincial government.

- The budget follows through on the commitments made by the provincial government this past May, and the budget announcement is what we were expecting.
- Our spring budget is based on projected enrolment, funding, and various initiatives. In the fall, the annual budget is updated to reflect actual September 30 enrolment, actual surplus/deficit carry-forward amounts, and any changes in funding.
- Our budgets are based on three key budget principles: equitable distribution of funds and programs, transparent and understandable allocations, and alignment with the EIPS Three-Year Education Plan priorities.
- The 2015-2016 EIPS Fall Budget will be approved by the Board at the November 26 Board Meeting.
- We are very happy the government is funding enrolment growth. We have 178 new students in EIPS this year, and it's important that we've received funding for them in order to assist us in providing all these new students will quality public education.
- The education budget also includes funding for the multitude of school capital projects that are underway.

5. COSC REPRESENTATIVE REPORT- Laura Comfort

- 1) 2015 Parent Survey is now open and is designed to offer all EIPS parents/guardians an opportunity to provide their feedback about the Division and their school. Previously it was only open to Grades 4,7&10 parents and students. Parents are encouraged to take a few minutes to complete the online survey- takes about three minutes and will help to supplement the Division's Accountability Pillar Survey data.
Visit the link at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/eipsparent15>. The survey is open until November 24, 2015.
- 2) Saffron is hosting an "Internet Awareness for Parents" seminar on Saturday, November 21 from 9:00-Noon at Trinity Baptist Church. This is for parents ONLY. Parents need to bring their cell phones with them.
- 3) School Facebook Pages- Alberta Education has created a Communication Protocol for all school groups to follow when creating a Facebook Page. FRH has a Facebook page, but only the administrator can post on the site, and it is used mainly to promote school projects.
- 4) Discussion was had regarding ways parents can be more involved in creating motivation for the students, and with increasing community connections. Parents stated that they loved the Hawks View weekly email administration sends out as it lets them know what is happening in the school.

6. STAFF REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – David Roper

- 1) Jazz band retreat to Circle Square Ranch was a success.
- 2) Lego Robotics is a new option this year. Pictures were shown of some projects.
- 3) Hearts for the Homeless- 44 backpacks have been filled and the school is accepting donations of winter wear, toothbrushes, deodorant, hand warmers, food, towels and blankets.
- 4) Operation Christmas Child- 120 shoe boxes were sent home to be filled.
- 5) Food Bank Drive- Begins Nov 23 until Dec 4.
- 6) Animal Rescue Club- The silent auction at the PTS Conferences was very successful.

- 7) All 4 volleyball teams are playing for Gold or Bronze on Nov 19.
- 8) Basketball Tryouts begin Saturday Nov 21.
- 9) Term 1 Awards Ceremony is on Dec 7, 2015.
- 10) Dec 18 is last day of school. School resumes on Jan 4, 2016
- 11) Jan 13 is the tentative Band Concert.
- 12) Jan 22 is Good Citizens Day.

7. KEYS REPORT – Brad Cooksley

KEYS will be hosting a suicide awareness presentation on Nov.26 for parents and caregivers of teens from 6:30-8:30pm in Meeting rooms 3&4 at the Community Centre. Ofelia Leon of the Grief Support Program at the Support Network will be the presenter. ***Please RSVP by calling 780-464-4044.***

8. PRINCIPAL Report - Brad Cooksley

1. Progress Reports are on November 27. Grades will not be printed out, they will be available on PowerSchool. Marks go live on November 23 and will stay on PowerSchool until Dec 11.
2. Bullying Awareness Week- Health classes of grade 7's will focus on healthy relationships. Grade 8's will focus on developing skills for healthy relationships, and grade 9's will focus on understanding and managing conflict. Hawk TV will also promote healthy relationships this week.
3. Photography Feedback- Administration will possibly send out a quick survey asking parents if they liked the new photographer this year, or if they preferred the old photographer from last year. Some parents advised that they preferred the inside photos, and that this year seemed to be better quality. The negative remarks were that the students had to pose in awkward positions for the photos, and that the photo backgrounds didn't match the feeder schools.
4. Gay Straight Alliance- Bill 10 passed that states if a student(s) request a Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) Club, the school is obligated to create a club. To date, there has been no such request, but it is expected that in the future there will be a request made, so altView has been invited to give a presentation on GSA for a greater understanding.
5. Transgender washrooms- FRH will be converting 2 washrooms to neutral gender washroom. The washroom doors will be painted grey with black trim and instead of have "girls" or "boys" washroom, it will just say "washroom". All school boards are to submit a Board policy to the Minister of Education regarding GSAs/LGBTQ by March 2016. The locker change rooms by the gymnasiums will remain the

same. Currently, transgender students are able to change in a washroom of their choice.

9. Gay Straight Alliance Presentation- Courtney & Nick from altView Foundation

The Mission of the altView Foundation- is to build pro-queer & pro-trans communities in Alberta through advocacy, education, empowerment, collaboration and the arts.

The Vision statement- Queer, trans and allied people live without fear in a society where they are included, recognized and celebrated.

Core Values- To welcome and include everyone, regardless of identity and orientation. That no one should have to leave their community to feel supported. To work genuinely and respectfully in the spirit of collaboration, and to lead by example, working fearless and joyfully.

Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) - What does it look like?

- 1) Students run the groups, with a teacher liaison present.
- 2) Gives students a safe place to hang out and allows them an opportunity to develop a sense of community and learn about gender identity.
- 3) Fosters inclusion in the school and demonstrates to staff and students that discrimination is not tolerated.
- 4) Teaches acceptance and inclusivity in the school and gradually extends into the community.
- 5) GSA's have a history of decreasing bullying in the school and decreases suicides.
- 6) The number of students attending does not matter.
- 7) Gender identity and sexual orientation does not matter. Everyone is welcome.

Questions Raised:

Q: Is it possible for a student to go to a GSA without their parents' knowledge?

A: Yes. Parents will be notified by administration when a GSA is formed at the school, but administration will not be notifying the specific parents of those students who choose to attend.

Q: What if a parent does not want their child to attend a GSA?

A: It would be up to the parent to be in communication with administration so it could be dealt with individually.

Q: Do people ever say "My kid was straight until they met gay people"?

A: GSA's allow students to learn about themselves, and allows for more complex conversations. GSA's are for both gay and straight students. It gives the students tools and language for how they were already feeling.

Q: What happens at a GSA?

A: GSA's are student run, so it's based on what the students want to do, and the GSA teacher liaison will follow suit. Teachers can use altView for resources.

Q: How do you set up a GSA?

A: If a student is interested in starting a GSA they can contact altView, and altView will contact the school.

altView Foundation contact information:

Courtney- clw@altview.ca Nick- arw@altview.ca phone# 780-666-LGBT

10. **Other Business-** none

11. **Adjournment-** The meeting was adjourned by Michelle @ 8:04 pm

Next meeting: January 20, 2016 @ 6:30 pm