Tuesday September 21, 2021  
6:30 PM Virtual

**People & Land Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 territory and the traditional homeland of the Métis Nation. These are the meeting grounds, gathering place, and travelling route to the Cree, Nakota Sioux, Dene, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, and Métis. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

**Attendance** – Randy Footz, Rod Leatherdale, Kelly Sawatzky, Sabrina Komarniski, Laurel Driedger, Deniene Zaseybida

**Parents**: Laurel, Deniene, Sabrina, Taneen Rudyk, Ashley Ziprick, Joanna Harrison , Lydiah Momanyi, Allison Palsitt, Erin Robert

**Staff**: Rod Leatherdale, Sabrina Komarniski, Kelly Sawatzky

**Trustee:** Randy Footz

**Others**: Minute taker is Deniene Zaseybida

1. **Call to Order**

Laurel called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm; seconded by ??? (I didn’t catch a 2nd-er, does the call to order have to be seconded?)

1. **Review of the Agenda**

Laurel motion to accept the agenda, Taneen Rudyk seconded.

1. **Approval of the Minutes**

Motion to accept minutes made by Laurel; seconded by Deniene.

**4. Principal Report** – Rod Leatherdale

* Things going smoothly and still going through enrolment
* Quite a bit of renovations completed over the summer and on time
* Library renovation is also on time and is still shaping up with shelving to be completed still
* New automated door and concrete rap access was done by the end of summer
* School education plan-this year’s goals: 1. Literacy 2. Numeracy 3. Maintaining connections with parents and students
* 1. Learning gaps funding-Literacy section. 2 new leads in numeracy. Got all STAR testing done and is now completed. We have 2 Language Arts teachers working with literacy leads at Elk Island. School used their funding to top up second position
* 2. Numeracy-building capacity with teachers. Met with districts leads for both Literacy and Numeracy
* Social emotional funding is being used towards mental health supports and ensures students and staff needs are identified and met
* Will be using trauma informed model and using PD Day Oct. 18th to focus on staff training on that
* Will be working with district consultant and connecting to additional resources available in the community to work as a team moving forward
* **Athletics:**
* able to run with some restrictions, everyone is excited and both junior and senior teams in Volleyball are running
* Football is running and one game has been done already
* Cross country is also running
* Some challenges with restrictions such as no tournaments in September
* **Cafeteria**:
* has done a soft opening; open this week to High School students to help develop routines
* Is also running for junior high students with food delivery—running more like a hot lunch
* **Mental health piece:**
* Making connections to community supports, how to identify them and bring awareness to community
* Starting conversation on community supports and identifying gaps; look at what the school role is; school has offered support and will have availability to students and families
* Last year we did have a series of 3 presentations—2 were cancelled for lack of attendance; have to work on how to get that out to parents
* **Cougar Council:**
* First meeting is Thursday or Monday; President was identified- Kalyna Palsitt. 10 students have stepped up to fill that role
* They have a designated space for the council now
* September 30th is a school closure date; September 29th there will be a program in the school where all students can participate. Still in the planning stage.

**5. Trustee report**- Randy Footz

* June board meeting nominated Dow Chemical Canada for 2021 Friends of Education Award. They are in Fort Saskatchewan, and makes significant contributions to Elk Island Schools. Made $50,000 donation to partners in Education; collectively they continue to do things. At Fort High they created an outdoor learning centre.
* From August 18th meeting—opening program plan involved masking and was contentious and revisited quickly and Sept. 2nd it was altered and 2 options were available.
* Randy had received a variety of phone calls to discuss masking issue; if you called him and he hung up on you (by accident) please call him back and is happy to continue the masking policy discussion.
* The masking policy will be continuously monitored.
* Sept 16t meeting: reading week will be October 4 to 8th.
* Trustee remuneration will be reviewed and pay schedule will remain the same as past years.
* Sept 20th to Oct. 25th volunteers will be required to provide proof of vaccination or negative COVID test to be in the school.
* Special Board meeting yesterday: $325,000 will go to transportation costs, as there is a shortfall with increased overhead expenses due to cleaning, etc.
* Calgary Catholic school board—there are 389 school age children tested positive; 40 schools have reached 10% threshold or “outbreak status”

***Question:***

Taneen asked about enrolment numbers at two schools?

Rod replied that we are at 350 students approximately at VCHS—final count is coming—it is a bit floating now; AL Horton numbers not known

1. **Student Council Report**

Tabled until next meeting.

1. **Teacher Report**:

Tabled until next meeting.

Rod introduced Kelly Sawatzky—acting Assistant Principle and half time Counsellor this year.

1. **Student Council Report**

Tabled until next meeting; but again first meeting over the next week; 10 students signed up; representation at each grade. Junior high is included and the council will work with the Junior High.

1. **New Business:**

* Adding new PAC positions; elections in October for PAC and meeting invite will be sent out
* Needed are: PAC Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, COSC Representative (Committee of school councils) Representative that networks between councils and brings back to school updates—can be done virtually and will reach out to AL Horton to have a COSC partner with Veg Comp and Parent fundraising table—funding as most things, has become more refined and there is a high level of accountability and transparency. Looking for a group that would oversee fund raising (band, sports, student, library) that would be a hub, that groups can approach that table with requests as this should not be under the Principle.
* We have a number of businesses in community that have donated funds to the school and Rod would like to see this come to a “table”.
* Grad costs were refunded last year, due to fundraising.
* Looking at Casino and we would need volunteers for that.
* Laurel-there are some funds currently available and we need someone in place that can help facilitate what we currently have --would be helpful.
* Former Vice Chair: Dawn has stepped down

1. **Next Meeting(s):**

* General meetings, every second month. Need an October date, and invite will be sent out, as October is PAC election month. November 16th will be next meeting date after that.
* It was noted that Mundare meetings are on Tuesdays, so we will revisit and pick a date.

1. **Adjourn:** Meeting closed 6:59 pm.

Laurel motion to adjourn-seconded by Sabrina.