
School Council Meeting Minutes

Abraham Erb Public School

April 21 , 2021 - Google Meet, 7:00pm

Members Present: Amy L. (minutes), Danielle G. (moderator), Farhad H., Jennifer K., Lee R., Leena S., Megha B., Melinda H., Mitra D., Tamara C., Tracy M., Vera J, Masoomah R.

Absent: Farzana D., Hanan S., Julia M., Vashti H., Vaidhehi K.

Guests (signed in only): Carolyn M., Oghenebrume I.

Agenda item: Welcome

Presenter: Jennifer K.

Discussion:

- Territorial and Land Acknowledgement delivered by JK.
- DG motioned to approve March minutes. FH seconded. All in favour - yes. Approved.

Agenda item: Principal's Report

Presenter: Pam K.

Discussion:

- Land Acknowledgement - Trying to bring a different lens to this and a better understanding of the indigenous community. The University of Alberta offers a course called Indigenous Canada through Coursera. Can be taken for free. PK is taking the course.
- School is back to full remote learning. Had a staff meeting Monday morning. Expectations for staff are clear for synchronous and asynchronous learning requirements along with what supports are available.
- Staff was asked to review the feedback given in January and to it keep in mind during this distance learning session.
- Distance learning expectations:
 - Teacher's to provide synchronous and asynchronous learning every day.
 - The school day is expected to be the same as an in-person school day.
 - Guidelines
 - Kindergarten: 180 minutes
 - Grades 1-8: 225 minutes
 - Children are not expected to keep the camera on.
 - Asynchronous can be done at the child's own pace.
 - JK: Are there any expectations for physical activity?
 - PK: Based on curriculum. Will find exact expectations.
 - Children are marked as present if the teacher makes at least one contact with the child.
 - Eg. Submission of assignment, google meet, notice from the parent.
 - EA, CYW, Spec. Ed. and any other non-home-room staff are expected to support the teachers and children as usual.
 - Please reach out, call, or email PK to discuss further.
- All requests for technology have been taken care of.

- Student census information has been sent out. Census is open April 19 - 30th. Staff is expected to support the completion of the survey during class time. There is only one required question (Will you participate - yes/no).
- LM - Will the results be shared?
 - PK - Expect the results will be aggregated and shared (similar to the employee census).

Action Items:

- PK - Physical activity expectations for remote learning.
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Agenda item: Water Bottle Purchase

Presenter: Jennifer K.

Discussion:

- An issue was raised at the last meeting that some students did not have their own water bottle.
 - Needed about 24 water bottles to distribute to those students in need.
 - Branded bottles would take a while and the subcommittee wanted to get bottles distributed as soon as possible to those in need.
 - The bottles were purchased and distributed last month.
 - JK - Motion to approve water bottle purchase for students in need (\$150). LR - Seconded. All in favour - Yes. Motion passed.
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Agenda item: Water Bottle Subcommittee Update

Presenter: Megha B.

Discussion:

- Survey sent to council members. Results to circulated via email to council members.
 - 59% are in favour of the purchase, 24% are not, and 18% are unsure.
 - Most are in favour of a budget between \$3-5K (53%).
 - \$5-7 wholesale cost/bottle for an estimated quantity of 600 (includes students and staff). Not insulated.
 - FH - Concerned this budget range is not high enough.
- CM - Screw off tops might not be good given germs. Easy flip-up tops would be best
- MHE - There were not a lot of flip-up top options available.
- FH - \$21K in council accounts
- Chat Comment - Spend the money because children who it was raised for are ageing out of the school.
- JK - We have lots of ideas for the council to spend - eg. pinnies, wall mural, buddy bench, scientist in the classroom. Council decided to hold all projects/spending last year so as not to put pressure on teachers, the board, etc. Is the council really interested in water bottles or is everyone simply excited about the first idea that was put forth, forgetting we have other things we want to do?
- PK - We are now all in distance learning and context has changed.
- AL - Agree with JK. Is there something more long-lasting we can do for the school?
- LR - Will be in pandemic mode for a while. This would be a nice "something". Doesn't need to be a water bottle, but a nice "something" would be good.

- CM - We fundraise every year. There will be money coming in again. This would be a nice thing to do in an unprecedented year. Would not support it in a “normal” year, but this year, yes.
- MB - Agree with CM. Can fundraise in the future.
- PK - This year is unprecedented. This is a small way to boost morale. This is a small way of saying “you’re doing good”. Would never ask this in a “normal” year. This year is very unusual and this is the spirit of the request.
- JK - Consider what might be on the list if we had started from scratch and not from water bottles? If we started again from “We need to build spirit and build community”. Does that translate into a water bottle or is it something else? If we started with spirit, what would be on the list?
- LM - Needs to be coupled with something else - something more than a “thing”. There needs to be a message. A bottle or “thing” on its own is insufficient. It’s not going to boost morale for very long unless it’s coupled with a message.
- JK - How strongly do people feel it should be a water bottle? Are people supporting that it’s a water bottle or more supportive of a spirit item?
- DG - Waterbottle is in front of us and moving to something else would take a longer time.
- FH - Having something before the end of the year would help with pride in the school and before families move away over the summer.
- LM - The tie to water bottles is not strong, but there does seem to be a strong interest in a spirit booster. Would more people be willing to help out to get it out before June? What amount of money would we be okay with?
- MHE - Turn around was fairly quick.
- CM - Before purchasing, please let her know and as she has a contact for making branded items.
- JK - If we did go ahead and approve an item to give away, what are everyone’s thoughts on how that would play out? How would it be positioned?
- PK - No idea how long the stay-at-home / school closure will last. Need to consider this for the logistics of distributing an item.
- JK - Send out a survey with dollar amounts to see what budget people would be comfortable with for a spirit/community building activity. Add members to the sub-committee to work through the details.
- JK - Does the council approve an offline form to approve the budget? All agreed to a google form to vote for the budget. Will give the committee the power to make plans based on the approved budget. Next meeting the committee will bring plans for a vote.

Action Items:

- JK - Will send out a survey to approve a budget for spirit program.
- Spirit Subcommittee - Bring plans for spirit program to the next meeting.

Next meeting: May 19th

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40 pm

APPENDIX #1: Log of Open Action Items

Noted: Closed items are only noted here if the item was in open status at the beginning of the meeting

Action	Person Responsible	Deadline	Status	Meeting Raised
Send current JK registration number. ->26 Registrations to date.	PK	April 2021	Closed	March 17, 2021
The water bottle committee will meet to come up with options.	JK	April 2021	Closed	March 17, 2021
Physical activity expectations for remote learning.	PK	May 2021	OPEN	April 21, 2021
Send out a survey to approve a budget for spirit program.	JK	April 22, 2021	OPEN	April 21, 2021
Plan for spirit program.	Spirit Subcommittee	May 2021	OPEN	April 21, 2021