**Fultonvale School Council Minutes**

September 15, 2021, 7:00 pm

Virtual Meeting Via Google Meets

**Attendees:** Elizabeth Buzenus, Jeff Spady, Jim Seutter, Joanne Emter, Krista Scott, Mark Wever, Michelle Uytterhagen

1. **Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm**
2. **Welcome and Introductions**
3. **Treaty 6 was Acknowledged**
4. **Additions to and approval of agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda as is - Elizabeth Buzenus

Seconded - Joanne Emter

1. **Approval of minutes from April 14, 2021**

Motion to approve the minutes as is - Elizabeth Buzenus

Seconded - Krista Scott

1. **Introduction of School Council**

Executive Introductions – Michelle Uytterhagen, Chair; Krista Scott, Vice Chair; Michelle Stevenson, Secretary

What is school council

School Council is a collective association of parents, teachers, principals, staff and community representatives who work together to effectively support and enhance student learning. School council provide one means for members of the school community to provide advice and consult with principal and to advise the school board.

The School Act states… “ the school council may, at it’s discretion, advise the principal and the board respecting any matter relating to the school,” and “the majority of a school council shall be parents enrolled in the school.”

Each school council must consist of:

* School principal
* Teacher(s)
* Parents of students enrolled in the school
* Student(s) – high school only

Chair’s relationship with the principal

The chair’s role is the key to the success of the school council. One important responsibility is regular and ongoing communication with the school principal. This is a relationship of mutual trust and respect is mindful of the common goals for the learning community.

Where Advising Meets Decision Making

The advisory role is intended to involve parents, high school students and the community in school-based decision making for which the principal is responsible. It is important for us to respect authority and legal accountability. The principal has authority for instructional leadership and school management. The school board has authority for governing the school jurisdiction.

What school councils do

* Decide on which matters to advise by choosing goals, setting plans and organizing activities to support the school council’s purpose
* Create operating procedures to carry out its functions
* Create a safe and respectful place to have productive discussions, bring up collective concerns, and communicate information that is important to parents and community members.

What school council are not

It is important to be mindful that, as we are partners in education, there are limits to the work that can be done. Roles that are not to be taken on by a school council are:

* School governance
* Employment issues. These issues should be addressed on an individual level directly with the school principal.
* School management
* Listening to complaints.

1. **Admin Report – Jeff Spady**
   * Acknowledged and thanked student council members for their time
   * Report – Start up went well with class lists. A lot of vaccine vs not vaccine decisions and masking decisions. Thank you to Jim for leadership regarding these decisions. Press conference with the announcements from the AB Government and will be followed by information from EIPS with how this will affect the schools. Enrollment 477 students – 458 at end of June, budgeted for 470. September 30 is the final count for the budget purposes and discussing extra dollars.
   * Posting School fees September 23, this year they will be charged for the full year at this time. Payments due 30 days after
   * National Truth & Reconciliation – September 30 is a school closure day. Orange Shirt Day will be recognized on September 29.
   * Terry Fox run –September 28
   * Kyle Hazelhurst created an online school clothing website, open year-round and you can order directly from the site and it's shipped to you. Info in Fire Wire
   * Security Cameras were installed over the summer – inside halls, gathering, and entrances and outside. Added a new intercom system.
   * Turkey Trot – Cancelled
   * Learning Gap Process – Late spring the government announced additional funds due to learning loss in Grades 1-3 in literacy and numeracy. To receive money, they needed to provide data – Star results were used. Numeracy feedback was provided with the Mippi – Alberta Government doesn’t accept this data. Division is looking at numeracy data for the government. Numeracy assessment was given for grades 2 and 3, and data is due back on Friday. At the end of the year data is provided again to see data results, unaware what the amounts will be.

There was conversation and questions asked to Jeff on the split classes and if it will be a long-term thing. Jeff indicated that Fultonvale has seen a slight increase in enrollment, but the trend is Fultonvale is currently not a school with large growth. Combined classes aren't the best but are sometimes the reality of schools.

The combined class discussion changed to enrollment and utilization rates. Michelle U. asked if there was a possibility of new boundaries to address the declining enrollment. Jim Seutter said he will be in a meeting tomorrow discussing utilization rates and it was asked for Jim to provide feedback at that meeting that Fultonvale is seeing a trend that our enrollment is decreasing. Jim Seutter also noted that Ardrossan Elementary is over utilized. Krista S commented that Fultonvale’s modernization was completed with the possibility to house 700 students and asked, what is Fultonvale’s utilization rate. Jim Seutter figured that Fultonvale was currently at 70 percent of the utilization rate and some schools in the district were as low as 50 percent.

1. **Trustee Report – Jim Seutter**

* Current enrollment in EIPS is over 16,000 students for the 2021/2022 school year
* Covid-19 - Masking and Vaccinations Regulations. They have been a moving target and very controversial and EIPS is hoping to operate as close to normal as possible. For information see EIPS Operating Guidelines 2021-22 and EIPS FAQs: School Operations 2021-22
* K-6 Draft Curriculum- Has implementation issues and controversy. A working group of 60 EIPS teachers and consultants studied the scope and sequences from July 5-9, 2021. The plan is to use the PD days to prepare staff for implementation of the curriculum in September 2022. The many concerns are noted in the Board minutes of Sept 2, 2021. The EIPS recommendation is to implement only K/1 curriculum for September 2022 but the EIPS is still waiting to hear back from the Province.
* National Day for Truth and Reconciliation was approved for Thursday, September 30 (federal holiday - no school)
* School Trustee/Municipal Election day will be on October 18, 2021 with the Nomination Deadline Day on September 20, 2021.

1. **New Business**
2. **COVID Operational Procedures 2021/2022**

Proceeding as normal as possible. Athletics moving ahead, Volleyball starting tomorrow. No tournament in September and will re-evaluate the coming months. Cross Country is moving ahead. No spectators will be allowed for athletics for the time being, but spectators will be able view via livestream. Masking rules for athletics - if you are not playing you must be masked. Once playing they can take their mask off. Elementary Cross Country is not taking place.

* Welcome Week and the Fultonvale 500 to continue
* Planning to run fieldtrips – Skating and swimming are being planned for. Kindergartens have a trip planned next week
* Volunteers and Visitors – will be asked when there is a need for volunteers and all volunteers must wear masks
* Hot lunch is continuing. BBQ was cancelled for safety reasons, possibly taking place in the Spring
* Parent Student Conferences – one day in person (if able) and then one virtual night
* Christmas Concert – plan for a virtual event, if things change then maybe something in person can be planned for.
* Feedback around meet the teacher – Staff sent welcome emails early this year. What are the thoughts for next year – should it be formal or informal with the welcome BBQ mixed in. Do the other grades need a virtual meet the teacher for younger children's grades.
* Communication Expectations – consistent feedback regarding parents wanting to have increased regular communication. Monthly communication home from Jr Highs at a per grade google document and monthly communication from each elementary homeroom. Jeff and Mark will follow up on this again in a few months.
* Any communication from EIPS, Jeff will summarize to parents in the Firewire or direct email and Michelle U will post to the Parents Facebook group.

1. **Old Business**
2. **Meetings Dates and Times**

Until further notice, our meetings will be taking place in the evening via Google Meets. This year meeting dates are as follows:

* + October 13, 2021
  + November 17, 2021
  + January 19, 2022
  + February 16, 2022
  + March 16, 2022
  + April 13, 2022
  + May 11, 2022 – AGM

1. **ASCA Update**

Trying to make important decisions with loss of grant. To bridge the loss of funding, ASCA changed the membership fee structures. ASCA has put together a school council political engagement package, with resources, questions and guides. Sharing an opportunity with Truth and Reconciliation week - 5 days of activities through the ASCA website. Survey opportunity to give feedback on their bylaws for the direction of conversations surrounding bylaws.

1. **COSC**

Michelle U will be the representative of Fultonvale, welcome to any parent. The first COSC meeting of the year is on October 6, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

1. **Community Event**

The Strathcona County Child and Youth Coalition is inviting Strathcona County Youth to participate in a Back to School Bash.

* + - When: Friday, September 17, 2021
    - Time: 6:30pm to 10:30 pm
    - Where: Ardrossan Regional Park

This is a free event and will feature live entertainment, swag, snacks and an outdoor movie. For more details or information on future events, check out [strathcona.ca/youthconnect](http://strathcona.ca/youthconnect?fbclid=IwAR2os0IWrHuqxqUEvbDxh6RKKwm1021EPJGEiIMguBl6CmqlLmlUNL8Hy_s).

1. **Next Meeting Date October 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm**
2. **Meeting Adjournment – 8:14 PM**