**Fultonvale School Council Minutes**

October 13th, 2021 @ 7:00pm via Google Meet

**Attendees:** Jim Seutter, Mark Wever, Michelle Uytterhagen, Jeff Spady, Krista Scott, Michelle Stevenson

1. **Meeting called to order at 7:01**
2. **Welcome and Introductions**
3. **Treaty 6**

Treaty Six was Acknowledged

1. **Additions to and approval of agenda**

Addition to the agenda – New Business a. Operational Procedures

Motion to approve the amended agenda - Krista Scott

1. **Approval of minutes from September 15, 2021**

Tabled until November’s meeting.

1. **COSC Report – Michelle Uytterhagen**

The first COSC meeting of the year was held on October 6. The meeting started off the elections of the executive – Lesley Bowman from Pine Street was Acclaimed to the Chair Position, Devon Marshall from SCA Elementary was Acclaimed to the Vice-Chair position and Michelle Uytterhagen, from Fultonvale, was Acclaimed to the Secretary Position.

Trina Boymook, Board Chair, provided a brief update on what the board worked on over the summer and first part of the school year. They have had numerous board meetings, planned and special meeting, to deal with the COVID situation and budgets and to amend the school calendar. High level topics of discussion for the Board was the 2021/2022 COVID Operational Procedures, the budget, the approval of the September 30 school closure day to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and a transportation shortfall of $325,000 which was due to reduced ridership.

Grade two and three assessment have been completed and submitted to the province. The board is hoping to access some funding to address the learning gap due to COVID.

She briefly discussed the report the district sent to the province regarding the Draft Curriculum. The district has indicated that there is a large amount of work that needs to be done before the curriculum is released to classroom and the stance of the board is to delay the rollout. The response from the Minister is she is appreciative of the detail the district provided with their feedback.

Krista and Jacquie provided a brief update on ASCA.

Mark gave a quick update on the COVID-19 situation in the district. The main issue the board/district has been trying to manage is expectations. To help with this, they created and are constantly reviewing the 2021-2022 Operational Procedures. Mark views this as a living document and will be updated as the COVID-19 situation changes. The district has been diligent with keeping families up-to-date and are appreciative of our patience, as quite often, they are finding things out from the province at the same time we are.

As of the September 30, the entire district has had 234 identified positive cases. In one month, the district has exceeded the number of positive cases in school compared to the number of positive cases in school for the entire last school year.

The province is now reporting if a school is in alter or outbreak status. To see the updated definitions or the list, please visit <https://www.eips.ca/school-operations-2021-22/reported-covid19-cases>. There is a link there that will take you to the school status list. I encourage everyone to please read their emails as the district releases updates. The goal of the district to keep everyone in school, keep kids learning and keep everyone as healthy and safe as possible.

The Board also did an exercise to collect feedback on the Draft Curriculum

The next COSC meeting is on November 3 at 6:30 via Zoom. All parents are invited to attend.

1. **Admin Report – Jeff Spady**

Dates and Events - Some events have happened in September and October to date are Orange Shirt, Terry Fox, National Day of Reconciliation, Reading Week, Volleyball and Cross-Country Events - Fultonvale placing 1st overall in the small schools division in the EIPS Cross-Country Event.

Events this week include Fire and Bus drills, the book fair, the Zombie and Freddy Fire Bird fun runs.

Student Parent Teacher Interviews are taking place virtually in October, with 3B postponed until after November break.

Upcoming events are:

* Halloween – dress up on the 29th, Classes will remain in Cohorts – this year individually packaged food allowed.
* November 3rd Decade/Era Day
* November 5th Remembrance Day Program
* November Break
* November 18 Hot Lunch 24 Pizza Day
* November – Report Card

Covid 19 – September and October were a bit more challenging due to COVID protocol. In the month of September alone, Fultonvale had six positive cases, which was more than all the previous year. Staff absences were also considerably higher than normal as well.

Currently, contact is up to Mr. Spady and Mr. Wever and a class is only notified if a parent informs them if their child tests positive. Only the student who tests positive must isolate, close contacts no longer must isolate. The province will be taking over contract tracing in November. The Alberta Government will update a central website if a school goes into Alert or Outbreak Status.

Budget – Budget for this school year was submitted on September 29. We submitted for a student count of 477, although we have funding for 470 students. We are hoping to receive funding for the addition seven student.

Fees - Fees have been posted to the parent portal and are due by October 29.

Student Teachers – There are five student teachers joins our school until December 17.

Student Voice – This is a new initiative spearheaded by Mr. Wever. He will be meeting with two students from each class to get feedback on what are we doing well and not well, and what they want to start doing. He will also be incorporating social and emotional wellness. He will be starting with the Jr. Highs, then moving to Div 2 and then to Div 1. This will be an ongoing initiative throughout the year and will be a standing School Council Agenda item.

1. **Trustee Report – Jim Seutter**

Jim gave a brief outline of the board meetings that have been taken place to address budgetary items. A special board meeting was called to address a transportation shortfall. The board approved $325,000 be moved from reserves. That board is also concerned as the budget needs to be revised due to lower enrollment. EIPS has a student count of 16,836 students but saw a 56 student loss. Jim indicated that the Superintendent is concerned if students are leaving the district, but no formal research has been done to find out why student left.

**Question***:* Why were so few questions asked of the director of transportation as to why there was a shortfall? Could the reasons be covid or fee structure change, or could it be due to ridership decrease.

**Answer:** Research questions and information to parents regarding the bussing should be explored.

A letter has been sent to minister of education from the EIPS board outlining their concerns with the draft curriculum and a recommendation implementation be delayed until 2022.

Michelle Uytterhagen thanked Jim for serving as our Trustee for the last four years and wished him luck in the upcoming election.

1. **New Business**
   1. **Operational Procedure Update**

Michelle put forward a recommendation to update the School Council Operating Procedures to ensure they stay relevant.

Background: There was a question from a parent regarding our email list. We have not kept an updated email list as we have been doing online meetings and have not collected them through traditional sign up. Minutes have been distributed through Facebook and Mr. Spady, graciously distributes them in the Firewire and posts them on the Fultonvale Website.

Currently under Section 9, item C, *unless otherwise delegated, the Secretary of the School council Will:*

*Ensure all materials relating to the school council including resources (Alberta School Council Resource Manual), all meeting minutes and any relevant documents are available to the public in an accessible location in the school.*

To ensure parents are given different options to review the minutes and since drop-in’s to the school are not encouraged right now, Michelle proposes the following changes to the operating procedures:

*Ensure all materials relating to the school council including resources (Alberta School Council Resource Manual), all meeting minutes and any relevant documents are available to the public either on the school website and/or in an accessible location in the school.*

Krista Scott motions to approve the updated wording to the operational procedures as outlined.

Michelle Stevenson Seconded

Motion Carried

Michelle Uytterhagen will update the School Council Operating Procedures and distribute via electronically for signatures.

* 1. **School Education Plan**

Mr. Spady reviewed the School’s goals and went over assurance survey and parent data. He said that upon reviewing the goals and discussion with Mark they will be keeping their current goals, but will be updating Goal 2 to remove numeracy as there is not adequate funding to make it a focus. The focus for Goal 2 will be Literacy.

He then went through the Assurance Survey data. Overall, parents and student felt the school is improving according to the Assurance Survey. Data indicated 89% felt the school is improving. What puzzled them though is according the EIPS parent survey on 61% felt the school is improving while 27% felt there was a decline. The Assurance Survey is only sent to Grade 4 and 7 parents vs. the EIPS parent survey is completed by everyone. For responses, for the Assurance survey, only 4 parents submitted for Grade 4 and 18 parents submitted for grade 7. Mr. Spady and Mr. Wever both found the data confusing and will keep Goal 1 in place for now but will review next year after reviewing next year’s data.

Student learning continues to improve for numeracy and literacy. Most grades have increased their reading levels by 2 grade years. Current Grade 9 and 6 haven’t seen as much of an increase, but the work and growth continue. EIPS data is also showing similar growth and Mr. Spady said he can share the results in November.

Students and parents see correlation between school and if they are ready for the workplace – Parent Survey 80% agreed

Another area that showed confusing data is the Assurance Survey question - your child is learning what they need to know. 56% of parents who responded to the Assurance Survey agreed versus 85% of parents who responded to the EIPS parent survey. Mr. Spady and Mr. Wever will be also be working on this and will see what next years results are.

* 1. **School Council 4-year plan – Year 4 of 4**

Michelle was reviewing the school council four-year plan and we are currently in year 4 of 4. When these goals were set, we were not in the current situation we are in due to COVID, we have new administration and a new executive for school council. She found the goals and strategies, as they are currently written, to be outdated.

For school councils goals to be attainable and strong, we need to first decide what parents want to see from their school council. School councils’ goals are tied to the school goals, but she wants to ensure that our goals will help support our school and can be met and understood by our community. She also wants to ensure there is a way for us to determine if we successfully met our goals.

She asked everyone around the table what school council means to them and what they want to see accomplished through school council. She will also post these questions to the Facebook page.

* 1. **Draft Curriculum Parental Engagement**

The draft curriculum is due to be released September 2022. The board will be participating in several engagement sessions with the province to gather feedback on the curriculum. One of the exercises that has been requested is parental engagement. COSC members participated in this exercise last week and the board asked for us to continue this exercise with our school councils, gather the feedback and report it back to them. They will the use this feedback in the engagement session.

There are two questions that they are asking input on. In keeping with the theme of the exercise from last week, I will ask the two questions and I want everyone to write down what first comes to mind. I will give you about a minute to think about it and write down what you think.

1. What would you like to see in the new draft curriculum?
2. What are your hopes that the new curriculum would provide for your children?

Michelle gathered the input from the few parents and will post the questions on Facebook to gather more feedback. She will submit the responses to the Board Chair.

* 1. **Trustee Election – October 18, 2021**

There is a municipal election coming up on October 18, 2021 and we have candidates in our Ward running. Information can be found on the EIPS website at https://www.eips.ca/trustees/election-2021/candidate-list and a website hosted <https://www.elkislandelections.ca/>

1. **Old Business**
   1. **Community Events**

The Strathcona County Child and Youth Coalition is inviting Strathcona County Youth to participate in a Youth Painting Party. This is open to Youth’s from grade 7 to 9 .

When: November 5, 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the BGC CanTeen Youth Hub

November 10, 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Ardrossan Rec Centre

This is a free event. For more details, to register or information on future events, check out [strathcona.ca/youthconnect](http://strathcona.ca/youthconnect?fbclid=IwAR2os0IWrHuqxqUEvbDxh6RKKwm1021EPJGEiIMguBl6CmqlLmlUNL8Hy_s).

1. **Next Meeting Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 7:00pm via Google Meets**
2. **Meeting Adjourned at 8:56 PM**