

Pine Street School Council Meeting

May 12th, 2020

The regular meeting of Pine Street School Council was duly called and held on May 12th, 2020 virtually via Google Meets. Quorum was present.

In Attendance:

Executive: Lesley Bowman (Chair), Cara Kern (Vice-Chair), Lorena Ellsworth (Secretary)

Administration: Shelby Hines (Principal), Kerri Remeika (Assistant Principal), Lorna Magnan (Teacher Liaison)

Parents: Jordana Moorhouse, Nasreen Banman, Victoria Doucette, Stefanie Tindoy, Matt Bradley, Trina Loucraft, Marie Beliveau, Dawn Van de Ligt, Erin Jong, Jamie Wells, Razel Lumenario, Christine Robinson*, Jackie Neave*, Tracie MacDonald*, Tracey Nielsen*, Ma Elena Villalobos

Community: Trina Boymook (Board Trustee)*

Absent with Regrets: Nate Glubish (MLA), Jordan Walker (MLA)

* Denotes partial attendance.

1. Chair, Lesley Bowman, calls to order at 7:06pm.
2. Welcome & Treaty Six Acknowledgement – Lesley Bowman.
3. Attendance and introductions.
4. Additions to agenda
 - a. None.MOTION: Cara Kern motions to accept agenda, Trina Loucraft seconds.
IN FAVOUR: 11
NON-VOTING: 10
CARRIED
5. Adoption of March Minutes.
MOTION: Cara Kern motions to accept March minutes, Cara Kern seconds.
IN FAVOUR: 11
NON-VOTING: 11
CARRIED

6. Trustee Report – Trina Boymook

- a. The Board is currently in the middle of its budgeting process. This budgeting period has been challenging with the introduction of a new funding framework and government investment into education being frozen at the 2018-19 level. The Board and Superintendent have been looking closely at our overall operations and have explored a number of measures needed to stabilize learning in the classroom over the next three years. The Board approved budget allocations to schools and departments at its April 23 meeting. Allocations to schools have reduced by 2.9% while allocations to central departments have been reduced by 20.3%
- b. The Board has set the 2020-21 administrative and transportation fees. Fees for eligible riders (within 2.4km and attending designated school) will be \$100, while those students who are not eligible riders (less than 2.4km or attending school / program of choice) will be charged \$325. Six-month payment plan will be available for families as a payment option.
- c. All Board meetings will now be held via Zoom while social distancing is required. These meetings will be livestreamed through EIPS YouTube account. Details is on the website under Trustee Agenda and Minutes page. Our next public meeting is May 25.
- d. The Board has worked with the Superintendent to establish the guiding principles for fee refunds. Timelines have not been determined.
- e. Last day of classes will be June 19. The following week will focus on returning textbooks and devices to the school. Details on how that will be done will come out close to the end of classes date.
- f. Board has been participating in the stakeholder engagement on the Alberta Education re-entry plan. The plan will focus around three scenarios. Boards will be expected to develop plans for each of the scenarios. A parent survey will be going out in the coming weeks to gather your thoughts on different elements that we will need to consider in building our plan. The results will inform the direction that will be taken. Please take time to complete the survey and encourage others to do the same.
- g. Questions/comments
 - i. None.

7. Administration Report – Shelby Hines

- a. Welcome & thank you for coming!
- b. Kudos
 - i. Thank you to Amanda Gibbons for handling all things Hot Lunch, including communicating cancellations with our families and ensuring refunds were given.
 - ii. Kudos to Kathy Berger for putting up the writing continuum & helping set up our Book Fair.
 - iii. A big shout out goes to Leah Brown for completing the labelling of our EQUALS kit so it is ready to go.
 - iv. Thank you so much to Lorena for coordinating the Art Cards again this year!

- v. A huge thank you to all our parent/caregiver volunteers who have helped out in so many ways in our school this year! You make Pine Street an excellent place to be!
- c. School Events
- i. Kindergarten Information Night was cancelled due to the restrictions placed on gatherings by the Chief Medical Officer. In place of this night, we sent an email out to all families sharing important information in the form of documentation, a slideshow and a video of 'a day in the life of kindergarten'. We are planning on adjusting our staggered entry week to include some time at the beginning for caregivers and students to meet in the library and be introduced, in person, to Mrs. Appleby, our kindergarten teacher. Then families will go to the kindergarten room, at which time, caregivers will leave allowing time for students to make connections with other students and staff.
 - ii. Grade 6 Year End: Obviously our grade six year end field trip has been cancelled. We will be meeting with our grade six staff tomorrow (May 12, 2020) to discuss what course of action we will take in terms of some sort of grade six year end closure, always keeping student and staff safety as our top priority. More information will come in mid-June.
 - iii. Every year we have a Results Review with members of our Board of Trustees, Administrators and School Council representatives. This allows us an opportunity to reflect upon our practices, gain insights and understandings, as well as have conversations around how we can strive to continuously improve. In light of our unusual circumstances, this year these meetings have been cancelled. Instead we have completed a high level overview for our [2020-21 School Education Plan](#). We intend to use this new template when we engage in the Results Review process in November 2020.
 - iv. EIPS Pine Street Elementary School Parent Survey - [Review](#)
 - 1. 63 respondents (last year we had 91)
 - a. PALS, ECS, Div. 1 = 39 (last year 51)
 - b. Div. 2 = 24 (last year 40)
 - 2. Do you regularly make use of the following to keep up to date on school activities, programs, etc.? Check all that apply.
 - a. Email from school: 88% (78% last year)
 - b. Email from teachers: 72% (83% last year)
 - c. School Council Meetings: 28% (30% last year)
 - d. School website: 76% (65% last year)
 - e. Social media channels: 28% (36% last year)
 - f. School newsletter: 62% (51% last year)
 - g. Phone conversations with school/teachers: 19% (36% last year)
 - h. Correspondence sent home with your child: 88% (78% last year)
 - 3. What is your most preferred method of communication from the school & Division?
 - a. Email: 76% (76% last year)
 - b. Automated phone message: 2% (0% last year)

- c. Correspondence sent home with your child:12% (19% last year)
- d. Website: 10% (3% last year)
- e. Electronic Newsletter: 0% (1% last year)
- f. Social media posts: 0% (1% last year)

Question	Strongly Agree / Agree	Last year Strongly Agree / Agree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree	Last year Disagree/ Strongly Disagree	Don't know	Last year Don't know
My child is demonstrating growth in literacy	90%	93%	8%	5%	2%	2%
My child is demonstrating growth in numeracy	92%	92%	5%	6%	3%	2%
My child has an understanding of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit culture and history	67%	71%	10%	5%	22%	24%
The school staff care about my child	95%	96%	3%	0%	2%	4%
The school keeps me informed about my child's progress and achievement	86%	92%	14%	6%	0%	1%
What is your impression of the communication you receive from your child's school?	81%	79%	17%	20%	2%	1%

- v. Write-On Stationery supply lists are now on our [website](#). This is an optional service for our families and a fundraiser for the Pine Street Volunteer Parent Society.
- vi. The gymnasium has been painted. A logo decal will be added during the second week of June as there is a minimum time to wait prior to applying the decal. The decal will be on the wall opposite to the stage.



- vii. Ukuleles - We will be having storage hooks installed in the music room over the summer. The timeline for this has not been determined yet. We are also in the process of getting some baffles installed in the music room, as well as an area carpet to reduce sound reverberation that has increased since a new floor was put in over the Christmas break.
- viii. The Christmas concert date has been confirmed with The Park Church. The date is Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 7 p.m. The Park Church has shared that the rental cost of their facility will remain at \$1225. The school has provided a \$200 deposit. Thank you to the Pine Street Volunteer Parent Society for funding this important event!
- ix. The surface renovation of the staff room has occurred. This included a fresh coat of paint and new countertops, cabinets and cupboards.

Here is the before:



Here is the after:



- d. Literacy
 - i. Our grade six and grade two supplemental Lucy Calkins literacy resources have arrived. These resources are specifically related to non-fiction reading materials in grade six, as well as phonics skill development in grade two.
 - ii. Six iPads and Apple pencils have arrived to support the pilot project we are conducting related to assessment and instructional strategies and using the Notability app in select classrooms next year.
 - iii. Pine Street Elementary has been invited to participate in a collaborative, multi-school literacy professional development opportunity centered around reading for the 2020-21 school year. It is based on the work of University of Alberta researcher, Dr. George Georgiou and will focus on screening tools, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension. To minimize the impact on our budget for next year, staff will be attending hour and a half sessions over the next six weeks in preparation to put this learning into practice during the 2020-21 school year.
- e. Numeracy
 - i. A reminder that there are some helpful [Math videos on the Pine Street School website](#) meant to support numeracy at home created in February 2019.
 - ii. Jo Boaler is a world-renowned math education researcher who inspires our Elk Island Public Schools 'Week of Inspirational Math' each March. She has

some [helpful ideas to support students](#) and families at home during these unusual times.

f. Report Cards

- i. PALS (Pre-kindergarten): Teachers will be completing a final update and review of each student's Individual Support Plan (ISP) with parents.
- ii. Kindergarten to grade 6: Teachers will be getting professional development training Friday, May 15 to use PowerTeacherPro (PTP), a teacher reporting tool in PowerSchool, to report final grades. Final report cards will be accessible through PowerSchool. One grade will be reported for each subject.
 1. Kindergarten will use evidence gathered from all three terms, where possible, to determine a final grade in Early Literacy and Early Numeracy. For all other subjects the term 1 and 2 report cards serve as the final grade for the student and therefore will not be reported on in term 3.
- iii. Grades 1 to 6
 1. For English Language Arts and Math, the final grade is determined by using evidence gathered from all three terms, where possible.
 2. For Grades 1 to 3, the final grade for Science and Social will be determined by gathering evidence from term 1 and 2.
 3. For Grades 4 to 6, the final grade for Science and Social will be determined by gathering evidence from all three terms, where possible.
 4. For all other subjects, the term 1 and 2 report cards serve as the final grades for the students in Grades 1 to 6 and therefore will not be reported on in term 3.
- iv. The same achievement scale will be used as in past report cards.
- v. Learner Attributes will not be reported on.
- vi. Online alternative learning will continue until the end of day on Friday, June 19. The following week, June 22 to 26, will be used to collect materials that were lent out, such as Chromebooks and textbooks. More details to follow.

g. Fee Credit/Refunds Due to School Closures

- i. An email was sent to Elk Island Public School families about school and transportation fees to advise EIPS would calculate amounts owing once we became aware of the school cancellation timeline was announced by our provincial government. Now that it has been announced that we will not be going back this school year the process has begun to determine amounts owed. This will be reflected in families' PowerSchool account balances. Thank you in advance for your patience during this time. Further communication in this regard will be coming out shortly.

h. Budget

- i. Due to the government taking back some of the funds from this year's budget we have had to take steps to ensure we are being fiscally responsible and follow the requirements as set out by the government. This has resulted in laying off many Pine Street Elementary School staff members. This included Amanda Bonneteau, one of our PALS teachers. As well, the following classified staff were either laid off or had their temporary contracts expire:

Diane Antoniuk, Ramona Blank, Denise Conrad, Darlene DeMarco, Keltie Herzog, Sandra Prior, Cheryl Reyburn, Amanda Roberts, Nikki Rufenack, Leah Snaterse, Louise Wall, and Devyn Willis. Some of these layoffs were temporary, others were not.

- ii. In attempting to prepare for the next school year I have submitted our 2020-21 school budgets for review and approval. This was an extremely challenging budget as we had a decrease of around 12%. The result is some class sizes being larger than in past years and less support. We have had to reduce our staff next school year by the equivalent of 3 teachers and 6 educational assistants compared with the current school year.
- iii. There are many factors that go into creating class configurations and as such these are fluid and can change greatly between now and the beginning of the school year. However, I will share what the current class configuration projections are as of this moment:

1. As of May 12, 2020 our ECS to Gr. 6 enrollment is 292 which is down from 308 around the same time last year. (This does not include our PALS students as these students continue to apply throughout the summer.)

- a. Projected Class Configurations (as of May 12, 2020) not including PALS:

- i. ECS = 20 / 20
- ii. Gr. 1 = 25
- iii. Gr. 1/2 = 25 (11 gr. 1 & 14 gr. 2)
- iv. Gr. 2 = 27
- v. Gr. 3 = 26
- vi. Gr. 3/4 = 27 (13 gr. 3 & 14 gr. 4)
- vii. Gr. 4 = 27
- viii. Gr. 5 = 32
- ix. Gr. 5/6 = 31 (18 gr. 5 & 13 gr. 6)
- x. Gr. 6 = 32
- xi. As always, these numbers and configurations may change between now and the beginning of the 2020-21 school year.

- i. FNMI

- i. Jeremy Albert has been hired as our First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Advisor. He joined EIPS on May 4, 2020. Pine Street Elementary would like to publicly thank Elder Wilson for his wisdom, support and guidance over the last few years and wish him well in his future endeavours. We are very much looking forward to working with Jeremy in the near future.
- ii. As we continue to strive for excellence, we are meeting with Jeremy Albert and Cheryl Devin, our EIPS First Nations, Métis and Inuit consultant, tomorrow (May 13, 2020) to explore the idea of creating a Truth and Reconciliation Garden in the courtyard that is visible and accessible through our main hallway. This space is currently used by students and staff for various activities so it would be wonderful to make it even more meaningful

and continue to support our ways of learning and knowing as it relates to First Nation, Métis and Inuit education.

- j. School Photos
 - i. The last time we met we reflected upon our first year with our Infinite Eye, the company who took school photos. At that time, I asked parents/guardians to take a look at the 2020-21 school calendar and consider dates for next year as I feel it is extremely important to consult with families as much as possible in order to get feedback prior to making decisions. Note: we will be requesting that photos occur in the morning only to attempt to capture the 'photo ready student' instead of the 'after recess student' look. Here are the proposed dates for next year:
 - 1. October 5, 2020 - Picture Day (ECS Group A and Grades 1-6)
 - 2. October 29, 2020 - Picture Retake Day (ECS Group B, PALS and Grades 1-6)
 - 3. April 27, 2021 - Class Photos (ECS Group B and Grades 1-6); School Groups/Clubs/Team Photos
 - 4. April 28, 2021 - Class Photos (ECS Group A and PALS); Sibling Photos; Whole School Photo Questions/comments
 - k. Questions/comments
 - i. None.
8. Teacher Liaison Report – Lorna Magnan
- a. Thank you from all the teachers to all the parents for all their work with online learning. We are all learning: staff, parents and students!
 - b. Questions/comments
 - i. None.
9. Chair Report – Lesley Bowman
- a. I want to begin by thanking the staff for their work on the volunteer appreciation cards, video, and sign. It was a lot of effort and we appreciate it and thank you to all the parents who volunteer in any capacity; you make Pine Street a great place to be for all our students and staff.
 - b. I will begin with a summary of our April and May Committee of School Councils meetings.
 - i. We continued our discussion of the Operating Procedures and were able to pass them at our virtual meeting in May. As there are no more in-person school council meetings, we reviewed the updated ASCA service model. They are hosting 'Meeting Mondays' and 'Webinar Wednesdays' to continue their support to councils across the province.
 - ii. Board Chair Trina Boymook presented her report as did ATA Local President Deneen Zielke.
 - iii. Associate Superintendent Stoddart reviewed the Alternative Learning Toolkit on the EIPS website that offers support to caregivers guiding their students from home. The blog contains all archived posts and resources are identified by grade level and subject. Please check it out if you are looking for additional

resources. There are links to Alberta curriculum and outcome expectations for students at each grade level. There is also great information to support alternative learners.

- iv. Superintendent Liguori presented on the budget for 2020/2021. As we've already discussed and you've no doubt assumed, it is not looking rosy for Education. From this year to next year there will be another \$7 million shortfall that the Board no longer has the discretion or the money to subsidize. This funding will be further eroded by a reduction in bridge funding that will disappear over the next three years. Additionally, changes to the funding model make it very difficult to move dollars around to areas of need. In the past, boards had some flexibility in moving money from one funding 'bucket' to another, but the new funding structure ties their hands. PUF funding will see significant cuts as well as supports for students – so occupational therapists, speech pathologists, and the like will be reduced.
- v. Associate Superintendent Stoddart also presented on assessment during COVID-19 and outlined the learner expectations from EIPS during this time of distance learning. Students on track to pass will do so, however there needs to be observation of student learning between now and the end of the year. There is an understanding that teachers cannot cover the entire curriculum in this format, and so have identified key outcomes, ways to engage, and encouraging participation to reduce the gaps in learning that can happen in this situation. Teachers will use their professional judgement to assess learning.
- c. I attended an ATA 'Budgets & Beers' event in Sherwood Park along with another School Council Chair from EIPS. Thank you to our ATA Local President Deneen Zielke for the invitation. It was interesting to hear the perspective of teachers; especially from different levels like Junior High and High school. Education Critic and Edmonton MLA Sarah Hoffman was there, and it was also informative to hear her critique of the current government and how the opposition tries to hold them to account.
- d. I also had the pleasure of spending the morning of Thursday April 2, 2020 in a virtual meeting facilitated by the Alberta School Council Association where Education Minister Lagrange answered questions from Alberta parents. This was immediately after the announcement of the diversion of funding from Education to 'frontline' COVID response and the meeting was quite heated. The minister stuck to her talking points and offered little insight into what the future held for reinstating the funding come fall.
- e. On Sunday April 26, 2020 I attended the ASCA Virtual AGM. The Board decided to defer voting on the Advocacy Resolutions until the fall when we will try to have an in-person AGM. There is a deep value to the debates and discourse surrounding these resolutions that is tough to capture in a virtual setting. We did vote to amend the bylaws to allow for virtual meetings and virtual voting. Additionally, we voted in new Board members including our new President, Brandi Rai and Vice President Shelley Odishaw. We voted in new Directors to two-year terms: Richard Haggarty a parent in Parkland County, Hollie Tarasewich, from Lethbridge, Shelia Hobday from Calgary,

and two representatives from EIPS Jacquie Surgenor and Krista Scott. It really is a wonderful board of dedicated and passionate parent advocates for public education in Alberta and we are lucky to have them representing us.

- f. ASCA Survey to Members regarding 2020-21 School Re-entry Planning
 - i. Are you in favor of a return to school plan for K-12 students in September?
 - 1. In favor, but it's a balancing act. Everyone's social networks are different, someone who contacts with someone at risk may have stricter rules than someone who is not.
 - 2. Worries on social distancing rules if/when school gets back
 - 3. Absolutely in favor, understanding that it will be fluid.
 - 4. I want kids to go back but I worry that kids won't be able to follow the rules especially with 31 kids in a class. How do you contain kids within social distancing when everyone's rules at home are different vs what staff will have to enforce at school?
 - 5. In favor of returning in September
 - 6. Agree with going back but everyone has different thoughts on what they read, feel, some people social distance "better" than others. It is still four months away, we cannot know what the rules will be and what people will be feeling. It is different with school, work, sports, etc.
 - 7. I am in favor, willing to have them start early. Completely flexible. I am most interested in the possibility of them attending two days a week
 - 8. I think it's important that they go back, but at this point in time it's hard to say what September will look like, we still haven't opened up to phase two yet.
 - ii. Are you in favor of a modified school calendar?
 - 1. I don't think we can give a firm answer on opinion for modified calendar without clear comments about the PPE, etc
 - 2. With a modified school calendar another consideration/concern is child care if parents/families are also returning to original work settings and are no longer at home
 - 3. Even if the classes were split and half attended AM/PM...can you social distance with 15/16 in the room, plus the teacher?
 - iii. Do you think regular assessment should continue for students in the 2020-21 school?
 - 1. Yes.
 - iv. Please fill out the online survey by May 14 to have your voices heard. Responses are confidential.
<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/the-parent-voice/survey>
- g. I am very pleased that we were able to host this meeting in this format and thank Shelby and Kerri for facilitating this. Additionally, thanks to Lorena and Cara for the extra work that it takes to support a meeting in this format.
- h. Questions/comments

- i. Great to see so many people here. Are people in attendance due to virtual format? Or is it because the meeting isn't conflicting with "normal" evening activities?
 1. This format works for some as they cannot be in-person, cannot leave kids at home
 2. Could be challenging to do an in-person meeting alongside a virtual meeting
- ii. Note that meetings for 2020/21 school year will likely start at 6:00pm rather than 6:30

10. Adjourned by Chair, Lesley Bowman at 8:28pm.

The next regular meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 9th, 2020 at 6:30pm via Google Meets. Note this is the Annual General Meeting, elections will be held.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by:

Lorena Ellsworth, Secretary

Adopted by Council in the meeting of June 9th, 2020

Lesley Bowman
Chair