

Minutes for Elizabeth Barrett School Council
Wednesday, March 15th, 2023
Learning Commons

1) Attendance

Gerry Gaudet
Fiona Gilbert
Chantelle .R.
Karen .F.
Bri .L.
Eddie .S.
Jakki .M.
Colette .B.
Renata .L. (Secretary)
Natalia P. (Co-Chair)

Regrets: Elisa Korver
Michelle .B.

2) Meeting called to order at 6:33pm

3) Adoption of Agenda – Bri .L. motioned to amend with addition of art card fundraiser information to Old Business. Chantelle .R. seconded amendment, motion carried.

4) Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 2023 – Chantelle .R. motioned to approve, Renata .L. seconded, motion carried.

5) Administration Update – Gerry Gaudet

- French culture week was fun and successful. Activities included bingo draws, gym activities, etc.
- Highlighting trischool partnership – high school students are coming in weekly to do reading and other school work with the kids
- No school Friday, March 17th or Monday, March 20th – Friday is a self-directed day for teachers to do their own professional learning tied to their own plans, Monday is a partnership with Elbow Valley and EB staff will go there this time. Talking about new Rocky View assessment and instruction guide.
- Grade 2 concert next Thursday, March 23rd.

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- Retirement announcement – Jo Ann Barron is retiring around Easter time. Her Administrative Assistant position is posted. She started at EB as a Learning Assistant about 20 years ago and moved into the office about 6 years ago.
- Student-Led Conferences March 28th and 30th with registration having opened on Monday.
The EB Fundraising Association approved a generous sound and light system order. Lights should be here for the concert next week. A big thank you to the EBFA.
- Class photos the week after Easter break.
- School Plan/Workbook discussion – talked about this in the fall and would like to revisit it again. Gather group feedback tonight. School Council Co-chair to sign off on it next week.
 - Innovators by Design: Prototype and Plans: Strategies:
 - Student Engagement – community engagement activities (ie. Cochrane Activettes, Stuff the Turkey, Christmas Pajama drive, Truth & Reconciliation Action, EB Buddy Board)
 - Instructional Design – data-informed instruction, learning disruption funding program
 - Making Learning Visible – myBluePrint and PowerSchool Parent Engagement, Telling Our Story-grade concerts, Terry Fox run, book fairs, SL Conferencess hii

6) School Board Update – Fiona Gilbert

- Powell Street Engagement – hopefully you provide feedback on the online survey deadline March 23rd – of the 5 scenarios, 2 directly impact EB. Friday, March 17th is the deadline sign up to do a presentation to the board next week. April 27th the decision will be made by the board.
- Budget is the name of the game for the board right now. Budget was tabled at the end of February - not a bad news budget - increasing some funding to school boards.
- Funding – some increases to grants, transportation, operations and maintenance, little increase in actual instructional dollars. New funding formula has “bridge funding” allocated out to school boards and has been brought in but counting it as new dollars when we have actually been receiving it for a few years. \$5,000,000 for teacher settlement (5% teacher increase), complex
- Not getting funded for new kids (375ish) entering the system – weighed moving average penalizes growing school boards and disadvantages these boards.
- Big increase in transportation grant – gov’t has changed rules about who we need to provide service to. More kids will be eligible for transportation funding. Currently 2.4km or more – Rocky View Schools provides enhanced service from

- 1.5km in elementary and 2.0km
- Kids in grades K-6 who are 1km or more away and grades 7-12 who are 2km or more away will be eligible for transportation. Additional funding anticipates more kids will be bused but is just an estimate at this point. Won't know full transportation allocation until later in the fall. We are short bus drivers, and it takes approx. 18-24 months to get a new bus.

Questions and Conversation from the Floor:

Gerry .G. – Is the increase in the grant going to cover existing students or will it create a greater deficit because there are more new students than funding?

Fiona .G. – We don't know yet.

- Transportation - for out-of-town students accessing programs of choice.
- Capital announcements – we have not allocated construction funding for any of our schools, except for \$2 million in design funding for an Airdrie school.
- Planning and pre-planning dollars – awarded planning for high school in Airdrie and pre-planning dollars for Chestermere and Cochrane schools. We will continue to strive for construction funding for Rocky View Schools.
- Eddie .S. – Have you ever pulled reserves to get architectural drawings/design to get started on construction plans? Spend the dollars and then request the promised funding? Fiona .G.– We will need to start getting to the point of preplanning but haven't yet because we don't want to get ahead of ourselves if we don't own the process (it's a risk). Awarded design funding for k-9 in Airdrie, so this design could be used for other schools in the future to move the process along.
- Jakki .M.– Did any other region get construction funding? Fiona .G. – Calgary and Edmonton each got one (public and catholic, so 4 in total) and approval for a few rural modernizations.
- Gerry .G.– Any eta on the request for 32 portables (4 for Cochrane)? Fiona .G.– No news yet but they are of limited supply.

7) Update from EB Fundraising Committee (Jakki .M.)

- We are just tying up the Read-a-thon – 250 flyers handed in, which is more than half of what was handed out. \$7,309 profit. 3 prizes per classroom. Everything went well in the classrooms.
- We did receive a few big donations from some parents and Costen Insurance, gift certificates from Great Things in Store, families donated some prizes, SLRF donated day passes, Cochrane Movie House donated passes

8) Old Business

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Updates from EBSC Representatives:

Hot Lunch Coordinator (Collette .B.)

- Fan-out exposure helped to get new people trickling in
- Only 4 spots left to fill – none of them the same day (end of May and beginning of June, both spots left for the last day of school)

Volunteer Coordinator (Chantelle .R.)

Need Breakfast Club and library volunteers. Maybe a paper flyer sent out to parents?

- SL Conferences on March 28 & 30 – plan to do a staff appreciation dinner
- Not a lot of volunteers in the past month
- Classroom math kit prep – at home volunteer opportunity (Gerry)

Art Cards (Bri .L.)

- We can book now for the fall and will get perks if we book early, so please put this out to the staff.
 - Gerry .G. – Yes, we should do it again. Pick dates with enough lead time and Bri to book.

9) New Business

- School Council positions open for 2023-2024 school year.

10) Meeting Schedule for remainder of 2022/2023 school year:

- April 19th, 2023 (in-person)
- May 17th, 2023 (AGM) (in-person)

11) Adjournment at 7:34pm, Natalia .P. moved to adjourn