

Minutes for Elizabeth Barrett School Council
Wednesday, September 21st, 2022
Learning Commons – Elizabeth Barrett Elementary School

1) Attendance

Gerry Gaudet
Elisa Korver
Fiona Gilbert
Karen .F.
Alison .W.
Eddie .S.
Rebecca .S.
Colette .B.
Chantelle .R.
Renata .L. (Secretary)
Natalia .P. (Co-Chair)

Regrets: Michelle .B.

2) Meeting called to order at 6:31pm

3) Adoption of Agenda – Natalia .P. motioned to adopt, Renata .L. seconded, motion carried.

4) Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 2022 – Natalia .P. motioned to approve, Chantelle .R. seconded, motion carried.

5) Introductions from Attendees

6) Administration Update – Gerry Gaudet and Elisa Korver

- A big thank you to everyone for making time to join us
- Recap: Staggered entry September 1st and 2nd was successful as far as reducing traffic congestions, building teacher/student relationships, less stress on children, etc.
- Open House on August 31st – great to see so many people out and everyone seemed happy to be able to reconnect with other parents in the community

- Meet the Teacher – 6:00pm and 6:45pm on September 22nd
- Demographics – 4 new registrations this week, 480 students (K04) in 22 classes. Lower Kindergarten numbers than last year. Grade 1&2 classes are higher than last year and higher than projected. Grade 3&4 class numbers are static. Recommended class sizes are K-1 (19-23); Grades 2-3 (23-27); and Grade 4 (25-29). We've got Grade 2 English classes at 30 and 29 and a Grade 1 class at 24. Everyone else falls within the guidelines. French Immersion is at 43% and English is at 57%.
- Welcome to new staff – Mr. Lawson-Grade 1, Mrs. Sargent-Grade 2, Mrs. Spooner-Grade 3&4, Mrs. Harvey-music teacher (part-time).
- Farewell to Mrs. Chrome who moved away
- In the process of hiring learning assistants
- Terry Fox Run on Friday, September 23rd – 9:30-10:00am – families welcome to join students and classes, please do not bring small children, dogs or strollers
- Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th – no classes. EB will recognize this day with students on September 29th with “orange shirt day”. Truth & Reconciliation committee to plan events throughout the week, there is also a community event walk at 11:00am starting at McDougall to Morley
- First concert of the year will be for Grade 3 on October 27th
- Implementing new curriculum – work in embedded collaborative time, divisional professional learning, etc.
- Year 4 of RVSD 4-year plan – focus on: 1. student engagement, 2. inclusion, 3. instructional practices, 4. make learning visible
- September 29th – parent engagement sessions at 9:30am with reminder sent out in the Friday Fan-out
- Literacy tutors – this will be starting up soon and parent volunteers are welcome. Contact Maxine Wilton for further information.
- Canadian Parents for French – Monday, September 26th 6:30-8:00pm

7) School Board Update – Fiona Gilbert

- The Boards is committed to having trustee come to school council meetings and listen to parents. Provide updates from a divisional level.
- School council is a legislative role, and every school must have one. They act in an advisory capacity to admin. and the board. School Council executive board meetings, October 6th - council chair and board, - anyone interested can attend. Membership in ASCA (Alberta School Councils' Association) is paid for.
- Positivity in the schools is great to see. No real covid protocols in place anymore has been a positive change. End of August welcome back breakfast for school staff.
- Some classes a bit bigger than we like them to be for various reasons. Some schools (not EB) are at capacity around 4% growth - finding space can be a challenge.

- Buildings and facilities and maintenance/operations staff busy during the summer. Taking big spaces and splitting into 2 or more smaller spaces (densification).
- Short school bus drivers, we continue to work with Southland to get more drivers. Parents encouraged to check the app. to make sure the bus is on time.
- Looking ahead - school council chair orientation on October 6th (online), strategic planning engagement survey info. Gathered in May, data has been worked through and reporting back on results in October. 2 weeks to provide feedback.
- October 27th -Joint Board School Council meeting in person in Airdrie.
- In 2026 RVSD will be over 100% capacity in all schools, so space is an issue (85% capacity is where you want to be).
- Provincial - survey from ministry of education on professional code of conduct for teachers. New curriculum K-3 in place, 4-6 in progress. Still a chance to give feedback on this. 2024 expected to be in place. <https://www.alberta.ca/new-teacher-code-of-conduct-engagement.aspx>
- New premier in October, possibly new education minister. Hopefully public education is a top list priority.

Question from the Floor:

Fiona .G. - What are your thoughts on staggered entry?

K.F.-I am for it. C.R.-It was nice to have smaller groups and less traffic. C.B.-It was nice to avoid traffic congestion. A.W.-Was left scrambling to find childcare for the other day. A bit chaotic and don't really understand why. Made sense during Covid but not as much now. More advance notice would be nice. Doesn't make as much sense for kids in after school care, as it threw off the routine. R.S.-increased anxiety knowing friends wouldn't be attending on their staggered entry day. E.S.-see benefit in smaller class sizes. R.L.-Appreciate the "gentler" entry for the kids. N.P.-liked staggered entry as a parent and a teacher. Gentle entry is calmer, smaller group for bonding, calming and order. Helped decompress kids before going into a full week. Nice introduction before routine begins.

8) Update from EB Fundraising Committee (Gerry .G. on behalf of Jakki .M.)

- We (Jakki and Gerry) met last Friday and discussed the summer casino - will find out \$ amount in November and will figure out what to spend \$ on. Looking at outdoor space (esp. west side of school) to upgrade, playground still good for at least 5 years, feedback from grounds crew is that the playground is well maintained and in good condition. The funds need to be spent within 2 years from casino date.

Question from the Floor: A.W.-Will playground accessibility be a concern the next time it's replaced? Gerry .G.-Yes, this is the trend for sure.

- Next EBSFA meeting is on September 28th

9) Old Business

Updates from EBSC Representatives:

- Hot Lunch Program (Collette .B.)
 - Dropping Mucho Burrito due to lack of interest. Rocky Shawarma and Donair and Booster Juice are the possible replacements. Currently trying to decide between the two.
 - Joanne has advised that smoothies may not be well received by teachers (messy) but wraps might be better. We are hoping for an October 14th start date but not guaranteed.
 - Chopped leaf and Taco Time are also options. Colette will call tomorrow and hoping to have it locked down by the end of the week. Boston Pizza, Subway and Panago Pizza are all still in the program.

Comments from the Floor: Elisa .K. – Our new organics program promotes less waste, so hot lunch program should consider this too. Gerry .G. – Sorting extra products with wrap/smoothie combos would be more time consuming.

- Volunteer Coordinator (Chantelle .R.)
 - 206 parents have been entered into the volunteer list. To date, there have been 3 parent volunteers for picture day and 11 parent volunteers for the Terry Fox run.
 - Ice baggies - 36 spots and 27 are filled for the year.
 - Sent out library helper email tonight. Already 6 spaces filled up to January.
 - Classroom reps: 12 classes out of 22 represented.
 - Check with Shelley at front office re: police check expiry.

10) New Business

- None

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

Note: Meetings will follow the blended format as listed below, unless notified otherwise.

- October 19th, 2022 (in-person)
- November 16th, 2022 (in-person)
- January 18th, 2023 (video conference)
- February 15th, 2023 (video conference)
- March 15th, 2023 (in-person)
- April 19th, 2023 (in-person)
- May 17th, 2023 (AGM) (in-person)

12) Adjournment at 7:33pm, Natalia .P. moved to adjourn