

# Lorne Akins Junior High School

## School Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday December 20, 2016, 7:00pm

**Attendance:** Heather Jeffery, Dan Wiles, Sue Havertape, Cheryl Dumont, Roger Scott, Al Nichol

**Regrets:** Graham Jackson, Donna Nilsson

- 1.0 Approval of the Agenda: Motion-Dan Wiles, second-Sue Havertape
- 2.0 Adoption of the November 8, 2016 minutes: Motion-Roger Scott, second-Dan Wiles
- 3.0 Teacher of the Month (Al Nichol)

Al Nichol has been teaching social studies, and tech studies for 10 years at Lorne Akins, previously at W.D. Cuts. Al is the social studies department head. The curriculum for social studies is constantly changing and updating, especially for grade 9 which is very contemporary, involving a lot of politics. There is an increase in aboriginal studies with the most recent updates, including studies of residential schools, and based on 8<sup>th</sup> Fire, which is an indigenous prophecy that we will “all come together”

Grade 7 social studies is more historical.

Grade 9 also includes the study of political cartoons. Fred Curatilo, a professional cartoonist, visits for a day and spends time teaching grade 9 students how to decipher political cartoons. This has previously been the most difficult area on the PATS, but recent analysis shows an improvement. Al also runs challenge classes and web page coding.
- 4.0 District Initiatives and Policies (Cheryl Dumont)

At the board meeting 17 students from the newly established coral program performed 5 coral pieces. The Christmas card winner was a grade 4 girl from Ronald Harvey School. Cards are sent out from the Board, signed by all the trustees. The annual report on student services was given by Bev Baker-Hoffman, who talked about challenges in the program. The program is very inclusive, starting with preschool and up. There is a “wrap-around” approach, involving coded and non-coded students, where the whole team meets to discuss services available for each child. The Regional Collaborative Delivery Team (RCDS) works with St. Albert public, Catholic, and Sturgeon boards. Direction was given for the writing of a final draft on the board Missions and Beliefs. There will be a meeting in February for planning the “100 Student Conference”. Discussion of the provision of a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment.

Discussion of how to get policies out to parents for feedback.

The class size report found the district to be doing well with class sizes, and space is being well-used in schools.

Discussion of international trips, approval is done at the administration level. In December 2016, high school basketball trips were made to California (San Diego and Anaheim).

The next school year calendar has been approved. Students will return to school in August, 2017.

Barry Wouk, district superintendent, is near retirement and has been reappointed for another term, until August 2018. The search for a new superintendent will begin immediately.

- 5.0 Review of Parent Council "Connection Plan" (Jeffery/Havertape)  
A council poster was created by Heather and Sue, and a table with information and articles representative of topics covered at council meetings was in the foyer during PT interview times. A sign-up sheet was available and interested parents were encouraged to provide email contacts for council to send out information for those parents unable to attend meetings but interested in receiving information. Forty parents signed up and a mailing list will be created allowing articles and handouts can be distributed to as many families as possible. Casino volunteers were also recruited for the casino nights on March 2/3, 2017. Interest in the Healthy Hunger Program was also assessed.
- 6.0 L.A. Happenings (Dan Wiles)-See attached January/February calendar
- 7.0 New Business (Dan Wiles)
  - 7.1 January 19, COSC meeting. Each council will be receiving 10 tickets for the "Growing up Digital" presentation at West Edmonton Mall on March 2. It was also felt this should not have a serious impact on volunteers for the casino night, as it will only affect one shift.
  - 7.2 APPLE Day (January 27). Criteria include good attendance, effort, and general behaviour. Groups will go to West Edmonton Mall waterpark, Bowling and movie, skiing. Those not participating will spend the day at school.
  - 7.3 Stakeholder Workshop, January 31. Three parents; Heather Jeffery, Sue Havertape, Roxane Landsborough, staff, and this year because not coinciding with APPLE Day a grade 9 student will attend.
  - 7.4 Adult Onset Mental Health Conditions  
Handouts: "Mental Illness" and "Understanding Mental Illness in Children and Youth",  
Web links: <https://www.anxiety.com>,  
<http://www.humanservices.alberta.ca/programs-and-services.html>,  
<https://www.kidshelpphone.ca/teens/home.aspx>  
Apps: "Always There", "Headspace", and "Mindshift"
  - 7.5 Energy Drink News article (Heather Jeffery) will be included with post meeting mail-out
- 8.0 Topics for Future Meetings (G. Jackson)
  - January: Parenting an Adolescent-Schools and Homes
- 9.0 Adjournment (Heather Jeffery) Meeting adjourned at 7:55. Next meeting Tuesday January 17, 2017 at 7:00pm

