

# Minutes for Mills Haven School Council

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A meeting of the Mills Haven Elementary School Council was held on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The meeting was presided over by Chair Kendra Roemer, and Steven Kotschorek took the minutes.

## **Attendees**

Kendra R	Courtney P	Steven K
Krista B	Nichol B	Erika S
Monica D	Stefanie M	Jon E
Janice S	Barb C	Kari S
Aida D	Cathy A	Katrina W
Jen S	Sabrina K	Danielle R

## **Call to Order**

The MHSC meeting commenced at 6:04 p.m.

## **Adoption of Agenda**

### **Adoption of September 2023 Minutes**

## **Review of Agenda**

1. Chair Report (Kendra)
  - Oil Kings Night – 131 tickets sold to date
  - Parent Teacher Interviews Survey – Oil King experience incentive to encourage survey completion
2. Trustee Report (Cathy)
3. School Report (Jon & Janice)
4. School Education Plan (Jon)
5. First Nations, Metis, Inuit Moment (Janice)

6. Assurance Review Feedback (Jon)

- Successes
- Areas for growth

7. Meetings for the Year

- November 21, 2023
- January 23, 2024
- February 20, 2024
- May 21, 2024


**Motion to adjourn meeting**

- Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

# **School Council Administration Report**

## **Jon Elzinga and Janice Sundar**

### **October 24, 2023**



#### **School Pictures Feedback**

Picture and Retake Day is now complete. As this was our first year with Edge Imaging, we appreciate any feedback you have on how we can improve Picture Day even more.

#### **Read-A-Thon**

Our Read-A-Thon has officially launched. Over the next month and a half, we will be sending videos and information home to help promote reading and raise some funds at the same time! More discussion regarding the logistics of the Read-A-Thon will be held during the Fundraising Meeting.

#### **Food Drive**

Around Thanksgiving, our SEAS students coordinated a Food Drive in the Community for the Strathcona Food Bank. Students decorated bags, dropped them off at houses around our school, and then picked up the bags full of food a few days later. 98 bags of food were collected.

#### **Professional Learning Day**

On the morning of October 6, all Elk Island Public Schools employees gathered at Millenium Place. This was a fun event to celebrate the work that EIPS does for our students. The theme was “Our Students, Our Stories, Our Strength”. Speeches were given by our Board Chair, Superintendent, and EIPS Alumni. In the afternoon, the Mills Haven met to discuss our School Education Plan and how the priorities laid out by the Superintendent will help guide the work of our SEP.

#### **PowerTeacher Gradebook Pro**

This year the Mills Haven teachers are piloting for EIPS the use of PowerTeacher Gradebook Pro. This is an online platform to collect grades and monitor student progress. So far we have had three training sessions for teachers to learn the technology. The pilot project has also resulted in excellent conversations regarding how we assess students, ensuring that our practice is accurate and is based upon a wide variety of data.

#### **2023-2024 Budget**

The budget for the 2023-2024 school year was due on October 16, 2023. The budget is based on 464 students and is \$3,265,201. 95.26% of the budget goes towards staffing.

**Halloween**

We will once again celebrate Halloween on October 31. Students will change after lunch. When choosing a costume keep in mind the child will need to participate in gym and sit in class. Please refrain from sending any weapon-like accessories. We will have a school-wide parade displaying all the creative costumes throughout the school.

**Remembrance Day Assembly**

All parents are invited to attend our annual Remembrance Day Assembly on November 3 @ 10:45 in the gym. We look forward to dedicating time to honoring those who have gone before us to fight for our freedom. Students will be given a poppy as well on that day as part of their act of remembrance.

# Trustee Report – Mills Haven School Council Meeting

## Cathy Allen

### October 24, 2023



#### **MEETING WITH MINISTER NICOLAIDES AND ALBERTA EDUCATION**

On October 12, Chair Allen took part in a school board chairs meeting with Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaidis and his team. At the meeting, the Minister reviewed Alberta Education’s priorities and focus areas and hosted a question-and-answer period for Boards.

#### **TRUSTEES’ SCHOOL TOURS**

On October 17, trustees visited École Parc Élémentaire, Fort Saskatchewan Christian, Fort Saskatchewan Elementary, Fort Saskatchewan High and Next Step Fort Saskatchewan as part of its 2023-24 Trustees’ School Tours. The Board thanked all the school staff and students for hosting the tours. Trustees enjoyed learning and hearing about each school and the programs offered.

#### **THREE-YEAR STRATHCONA COUNTY ENGAGEMENT: FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAMMING**

The report for Recommendation was withdrawn from the October Public Board meeting. Superintendent Stoddard received updated information that could inform a new option for recommendation.

#### **MODULAR CLASSROOM REQUEST: 2023-24**

The Board directed EIPS administration to request funding from Alberta Education to address needed changes to several modular classroom units in the 2024-25 school year. If approved, the Division will:

- add two new modular classrooms to Ardrossan Elementary;
- add two new modular classrooms to SouthPointe School; and
- demolish two ageing modular classrooms at Westboro Elementary—followed by a site reclamation.

EIPS hopes a decision from the province comes before the end of the 2023-24 school year.

#### **UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT: 2022-23**

The Board received for information the Unaudited Financial Report for the 2022-23 school year—September 1 to August 31. The Division ended the 2022-23 school year with an overall operating deficit of \$5.32 million, which includes school-generated funds and the asset retirement obligation—a relatively new accounting standard requirement that represents the costs to abate EIPS buildings when the Division retires a building. That deficit is less than budgeted, by \$3.52 million, primarily because of school and department surpluses and a surplus in school generated funds. The planned deficit was offset by operating reserves to cover costs to support schools and departments, the focus on unfinished learning initiative, mental health and well-being and the new curriculum work.

<https://www.eips.ca/download/429231> (page 418)

#### **UNAUDITED ACCUMULATED SURPLUS**

The Board received for information the Unaudited Accumulated Surplus Report as of Aug. 31, 2023. The Division’s accumulated surplus totals \$8.34 million, which includes investment in:

- Board-funded tangible capital assets (\$8.03 million);
- the asset retirement obligation (-\$9.31 million);
- capital reserves (\$2.23 million); and

- unrestricted surplus, operating reserves (\$7.39 million).

Also, included in the operating reserves is the Division Unallocated Reserve, which EIPS maintains to cover emergent issues, manage price fluctuations and stabilize funding in the future. The Division Unallocated Reserve is at \$3.63 million. <https://www.eips.ca/download/429231> (page 434)

**EIPS ENROLMENT: 2023-24**

The Board received for information the Division's Enrolment Report for the 2023-24 school year. Enrolment numbers were collected from the PowerSchool database on Sept. 29, 2023. In total, 17,760 students are registered within EIPS—an increase of 300 students from fall 2022.

Please contact me with questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy Allen  
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