

## Trustee Report – Lakeland Ridge School Council

April 2019

### Election 2019

- I encourage you to review the resources I shared with you at the last SC meeting.
- Questions you may consider asking candidates:
  - What do you feel are the most important issues in education? What is your party's education platform?
  - Is providing stable, predictable and adequate funding a priority for your party?
  - Given the current deficit, how do you intend to achieve a stable funding model for education?
  - Do you believe locally elected school boards should be able to have greater discretion in allocating funds to areas of most urgent need within their divisions?
- I, along with Trustee Irwin, attended the SC Chamber of Commerce all-candidate forum on April 4<sup>th</sup>. We distributed a non-partisan handout regarding education issues and asked questions of the candidates. (copies of handout).

### Personal Digital Device Policy

- Key themes from the **Student Forum** discussions:
  1. Whether they supported the use of personal devices in schools or not—generally agreed that policies governing how personal devices are regulated in schools should be age specific.
  2. Students broadly recognized that personal devices are growing increasingly ubiquitous and that this translates into a larger impact on their lives, for good or ill, necessitating more education and guidance from parents and teachers.
  3. Participants recognized that the nature of the impact of personal devices on their lives largely depends on self-regulation and their personal choices in how these devices are used or not used.
  4. Participants consistently reiterated their desire to remain digitally connected with family and friends and that there was a sense of safety in these connections.
- The preliminary results of the **Student online survey** were shared with the board at our April 4, Ed Committee meeting.
  - 6682 students responded
  - Common themes I observed:
    - Students in grades 5 & 6 say it's not much of an issue in the classroom as they're not allowed.
    - Students in grades 7-9 say abuse/distraction can be a problem, but that they're also needed.
    - Students in high school split between "regulate them" and "they're only hurting themselves so let them live with the consequences."
    - Many stated there should be exceptions during "work time", options and DPA walks.
    - Several cited listening to music as an important educational use that isn't served by school-provided devices.
  - Contrary to popular belief, a surprisingly low number reported that they'd been a victim of cyberbullying (20%)

- There were 3923 responses to the **parent survey on personal devices**. The board will receive the results of these, as well as the other questions on the EIPS parent survey and the staff survey at its May Ed Committee meeting.

### **Heritage Hills Elementary**

- The results of round2 of the Wye Replacement School naming survey were presented to the board at our March 14 meeting.
  - 541 responses. Of this total, 473 respondents voted, while 68 refrained from voting and chose only to offer comments instead.
  - 336, or 71 per cent of respondents, indicated Heritage Hills as their first preference.
  - Interesting to note is that those 336 votes are more than the total responses in Phase 1 of the survey where we asked whether it should be renamed at all. This indicates significant community support for the Heritage Hills name
- The board unanimously voted to name the new school Heritage Hills Elementary.
- EIPS will be soon surveying French Immersion parents to gather input on the transition to Heritage Hills becoming Sherwood Park's second FI site (dual track).

### **EIPS 3-Year Capital Plan**

At the March 14 meeting, the Board approved the 3-year capital plan and, like last year, a replacement school for Sherwood Heights tops the list. The board has been very active in the effort beyond just putting it on our list. We now have written commitments from the Boys and Girls Club and the Mayor of Strathcona County to come on as partners in a new build that would serve a variety of the community's needs. The project currently sits on the province's unfunded list of priorities—our goal was to move it to the funded list prior to the election being called, but the Government did not make any new school funding announcements. The work will resume after the election.

### **Junior High Honours**

At the direction of the board, EIPS central administration has been developing a system-standardized junior high honours program.

- School-based decision whether to use the program. For 2019-20: Sherwood Heights, FR Haythorne and Ardrossan Jr/Sr.
- Staff-training will be required.
- Common requirements and selection process being developed.
- There will be a STEM and Humanities path. Students can take either or both.
- Regular curriculum enhanced with project-based learning (one for each path).
- Other schools can choose to send their staff to the training as well as to use the projects, even if they don't have an official program.
- Good work to prepare for the upcoming curriculum changes.

### **National Volunteer Week**

This week is National Volunteer Week ... thank you for contributing your time and input with School Council and a myriad of other ways parents ensure our school communities thrive and provide exceptional educational experiences for our students!