

*DRAFT - To Be Approved Jan 16 2024*  
**Lamont Elementary School Council**  
Hybrid Meeting held on November 13, 2023

**In Attendance:**

Heather Rideout, Krista Skinner, Reena Swaile, Carla Graham, Erica Yost, Candace Bryks, Paul McKay, Colleen Holowaychuk

**Call to Order:**

President Heather Rideout called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm  
Krista Skinner to take minutes

**Approval of Agenda:**

Carla Graham made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Krista seconded. All in favour.

**Approval of Minutes**

- a. May 2023 Minutes not yet available, table until next meeting
- b. September 2023 Minutes - Krista moved to approve. Heather seconded. All in favour.

**Principal Report:**

State of the Union: Fall budgets were submitted at the end of October for board approval. LME submitted a budget based on 330 students and we are currently sitting at 334 students which includes 10 PALS students as that program continues to grow this year. We've had a few staffing additions and changes since we last met. Nicole Ash has completed her contract and is off travelling the world. Nicole provided us a great service by starting the year with our grade 4/5 class and getting them off to a good start. We welcome Lauren Pratt who has worked at our school before and is beyond excited to start up with our students. During this time Miss Howatt has moved on from LME to pursue other options and Mrs. Arzate has been on a leave since early October with no definitive return date. In her place Mrs. Derksen has assumed the dual role of AP and Counsellor and has been doing an excellent job.

Student Events at LME: We've had a number of awesome opportunities since we last met. In October we began with safety in mind. Fire drills, bus evacuation drills and a kindergarten trip to safety city.

Swim lessons continued through the month and we had an all school assembly where we highlighted all of our Lion's way winners during our month of respect. As we rounded out the month we had an excellent chance to connect with parents during interviews and thanks to the hard work of our school council and DJ Derksen we held a very successful Halloween family dance. The week wrapped up with a very

special Remembrance Day ceremony. Thanks to the number of parents who attended as well as members of the Lamont Fire Department.

Looking Ahead: We have a number of important dates and events coming up in the month of November. This week is Bully Awareness week. There will be activities in all the classes talking about bullying and what it means to be kind and hold each other to high level. Today kicked off with a reading of "The Juice Box Bully" to the classes as they attended library classes.

November 13-17: Bully awareness week

November 15 : Earth Rangers Presentation 1-2pm in the gym

November 24: Assurance Review 9-11:30 @ LME

November 27: Ukrainian Program Honey Cookies / St. Nicholas Bags

December 1 : Report Cards Published

December 4-8: Holiday Gift Shop

December 6: Early Dismissal / Loonies for Lamont

December 14: Christmas Concert @ Lamont High 6-8pm

Assurance Review: I am looking for a parent council member to join me at our assurance review. We will be gathering with Fultonvale Elementary Junior High and Uncas school. They ask that a parent representative take part. It will be from 9-11:30 here at LME and the question they would ask you to speak to is, "In what ways has your school engaged parents to be engaged and involved in decisions that impact their child?"

\*Krista asked that someone else attend the assurance review this year, as she has attended the last 4 years. Heather Rideout is available to attend as a parent council representative. Any other interested parties are to advise Paul.

## **Trustee's Report:**

### **Lamont Elementary School Council Trustee Report – November 2023**

#### **Read In Week October 2-7, 2023.**

I was invited to read at Lamont Elementary School and Mundare School on October 3, 2023. I also read to students at Bruderheim School on October 17, 2023.

#### **School Tours**

Trustees and senior administration toured schools in Fort Saskatchewan on Tuesday, October 17, 2023.

#### **Board Chairs Meeting with Education Minister**

On October 12, 2023, Board Chairs and Superintendents from across the province met with the education minister and his staff to discuss concerns and offer solution focused comments on topics including funding, transportation, infrastructure, career pathways and mental health.

### **October 2023 Board Meeting**

French Immersion Decision – the Superintendent brought forward that she had received some new information regarding the French Immersion recommendation and requested the report be pulled from the agenda. The Board agreed and approved the agenda as amended.

Unaudited Financial Report September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023, was received for information. \$4.8 million was spent on Board and System Administration. We were allowed up to approx. \$6.2 million. These dollars were directed out to schools.

Unaudited Accumulated Surplus on August 31, 2023, Report was received for information.

As of August 31, 2023, schools boards need to be under an allowable cap in operating reserves. For EIPS this amount is 3.15% or approx. \$6 million.

For August 31, 2024, the cap will be 3.2%.

School generated funds are not part of the cap.

For operating reserves, we are allowed a maximum of \$6,090,273 (3.15% of our budget) and a minimum of \$1,933,420 (1% of our budget) so we are under the allowable amount.

As of August 31, 2023:

Capital Reserves \$2.2 million (not included in the cap)

Operating Reserves \$4,953,775

Throughout the year, if there are surplus dollars in the budget, those are brought back to the board to approve reallocations.

2023-2024 Enrolment Report was received for information.

17,760 in EIPS

We have seen an increase of 60 students in Lamont County.

For information:

<b>School</b>	<b>Budgeted Spring 2023 Enrolment</b>	<b>Actual September 29, 2023 Enrolment</b>
Bruderheim School	99	115
Lamont Elementary School	298	331
Lamont Jr/Sr High School	341	344
Mundare School	108	116

### **Community Events/Meetings**

Awards Night, Lamont High School - October 23, 2023

Remembrance Day Ceremony, Lamont High School – November 3, 2023

### **Central and School Assurance Reviews**

October 30 & 31, 2023            Central Departments

November 22-27, 2023        Schools

School Council Rep will be asked and welcome to attend.

### **Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA)**

Trustees will attend the Fall General Meeting in Edmonton on November 19-21, 2023.

### **Budget Survey**

In December the division will be sending out a survey to stakeholders on what they feel the most important things should be prioritized in the budget.

### **School Council Engagement Grant: Application Process**

Email will come out from Emma Small to school council chairs and/or principals. This year you can use it for the ASCA conference fees which is a change from previous years. Please feel free to contact Emma Small for additional information.

Emma.small@eips.ca

### **Reminder: Committee of School Councils (COSC) Meeting**

The first COSC meeting was held Wednesday, November 1, 2023. The next one will be held on January 10, 2024, at Central office at 6:30pm. A virtual option will continue to be offered and I highly recommend having someone from your school council attend.

## **Town Report:**

### **Lamont Elementary School - Town Council Report November 2023**

#### **Remembrance Day Ceremony**

November 11, 2023, Lamont Hall 10:30am Still looking for students to take part in "No Stone Left Alone"

#### **Tour and Dinner Meeting with the Lamont County Food Bank**

Both Town of Lamont and Lamont County councils were invited to attend a dinner and meeting with the Food Bank.

#### **Public Library Meetings**

Meetings are held the first Monday of each month.

A Christmas craft night fundraiser is planned for Monday, November 27, 2023, at 7pm in the library. Please see their FB page to register.

## Meeting with RCMP

A meeting with members of council and the RCMP will be taking place due to some concerns from residents regarding community safety.

## Town Light Up

November 25, 2023 - There will be a lot of activities in town that day. The Childrens' Store is back after many years. It will be held in the meeting room. Please join us for a day of fun and community.

## Council Meetings

Second and fourth Tuesdays of the month 7pm. Always live streamed on Facebook.

## Budget 2024

Council will begin working on our budget for next year with meetings coming up in the next month.

## LUBA Report:

LUBA was invited to present at our meetings to present anything they are working on. Report presented by Carla.

Nov 27 - Ukrainian Program Honey Cookies / St. Nicholas Bags

Dec 6 - Santa

January (first week back to school) - will be doing a Perogy Lunch. Will put a call out for volunteers.

## Treasurer's Report:

Presented by Krista

### Lamont Elementary School SAC Monthly Financials July 1 2023 - June 30 2024

Current Stmt Balance	\$	7,812.18
O/S Cheques	\$	3,482.05
Free Balance	\$	4,330.13

O/S Cheques			
Chq #	Dated	Reason	Amount
564	Nov 2 2023	teacher Discretionary	\$ 1,600.00
565	Nov 2 2023	Dance Supplies	\$ 339.54
566	Nov 3 2023	Agendas	\$ 1,542.51

Date	Item Description	Cheque #	Credit	Debit	Balance
July 31 2023	August Stmt Balance Forward				\$ 6,487.92
Sept 6 2023	Cheque to Heather Rideout - Carnival Supplies	563		\$ 474.46	\$ 6,013.46
Sept 14 2023	Withdrawal Float for Carnival			\$ 300.00	\$ 5,713.46
Sept 15 2023	Deposit Float/Carnival		\$ 698.62		\$ 6,412.08
Nov 1 2023	Deposit - Halloween Dance Cash Deposit		\$ 1,400.10		\$ 7,812.18

We have a current balance of \$4330.13

## Fundraiser Report

Presented by Krista

The Dance ended up bringing in a profit of \$1060.56

89 Families in attendance - approximately half of the student body was there!

## Old Business:

### a. Halloween Dance:

Any concession items left over from the dance were donated to the Lamont Food Bank.

Great response from attending families, hoping to have another dance again next year, but expanding into the activity room as well as the gym.

## New Business

### c. Christmas Market Presented by Erica Yost and Carla Graham

External meetings were held over the last few weeks.

Erica has ordered 41 boxes from the Christmas shopping group, they will be arriving tomorrow, Nov 14. Will need to be stored until the shop day.

Sylvia MacDonald used to purchase pet/baby items to supplement. Also had a binder with information. There may have been some left-over items stored somewhere in the school, however nothing was found when searching.

Requesting funds to purchase items.

*Queries from Krista* - as this is new information, who will be running this? Having heard in the past that this event is just to break even, and sometimes runs a deficit, what is the plan for funds? What are we responsible for as far as up-front costs, as we do not have much for free balance funds?

*Answers from Erica/Carla* - Parent Council will be running it - Erica Yost, Candace Bryks, Carla Graham, and Breanne Martz will be organizing it. The plan is to break even. Gifts are sent based on the student body numbers provided. Items are sold at the event, then the money and any left over items are returned to the vendor prior to Christmas break. Apparently there was a credit on our account from past events, but it expired in May 2023. If we continue with the event there would be a credit available each year.

**Carla Graham made a motion to authorize a budget up to \$400 for Erica Yost to purchase pet and baby items, reimbursable based on receipts. Seconded by Krista. All in favour.**

Note for info - the profits for this event and sales from the pet/baby items will come back to Parent Council's accounts. Erica will email Paul this evening with a mini survey list regarding pets/babies within the school. Paul will stop into all classes to get an informal tally of items anticipated for purchase so that Erica isn't needing to "buy blind".

Paul will have the Flex Room (IBM Lab) available for the sales days. Storage of items will be in an currently empty classroom until the time of set-up, as the Flex Room is used daily.

**d. Christmas Concert Decorations**

Presented by Carla on behalf of Breanne Martz

Would like to decorate the stage for the concert. Suggest contacting the shop class at the high school to potentially build some wooden christmas trees, christmas lights, etc. Paul advised that the school has funds available for this purpose. Amanda M also discussed this with Paul. Breanne is to contact him directly to discuss.

**Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 16th at 6:00pm (Hybrid)**

Query from Candace regarding Reading Buddies - Paul advised that buddies currently take place during Library period. This has been adjusted from previous years.

**Meeting adjourned by Heather Rideout at 7:02 pm.**