

Committee of
School Councils

Meeting Agenda

[Virtual Meeting: Zoom](#)

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Time	Agenda	Presented by
6:30 p.m.	Opening remarks and welcome	Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair
6:32 p.m.	Introductions: Virtual	All
6:35 p.m.	Additions to the Agenda and Agenda Approval	Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair
6:38 p.m.	Approval of Minutes	Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair
6:40 p.m.	Board Report	Trina Boymook, EIPS Board Chair
6:50p.m.	ATA Report	Deneen Zielke, President, ATA Local No. 28
7 p.m.	For Information	
7:05 p.m.	a. ASCA Update	Jacquie Surgenor & Krista Scott, ASCA Directors
7:06 p.m.	b. Caregiver Series: May	Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair
7:08 p.m.	c. <i>Saffron Cyber Second</i> : May	Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair
7:10 p.m.	d. Saffron Presentation: Ardrossan Junior Senior High	Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair
	e. Sherwood Heights Junior High: School council efforts	Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair
7:15 p.m.	New Business	Mark Liguori, EIPS Superintendent
7:25 p.m.	a. COVID-19: Update	Mark Liguori, EIPS Superintendent
7:55 p.m.	b. Draft Budget Highlights: 2021-22	Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair
	c. School Council Annual Report: How to write one and what to include. <i>NOTE:</i> School Council Annual Reports due June 25, 2021.	
8:10 p.m.	COSC Sharing	Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair
8:20 p.m.	a. ASCA Conference and AGM: Overview and highlights	Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair
	b. Reflections: SCA Secondary presentation on how to support students during challenging times.	

Handouts

COSC Minutes: April 7, 2021

Board Highlights: April 22, 2021

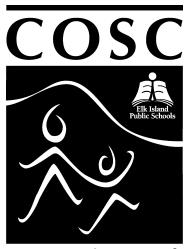
Caregiver Series

Saffron Cyber Second

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021

Location: TBD



Committee of
School Councils

UNRATIFIED

MEETING MINUTES

Elk Island Public Schools, virtual meeting

April 7, 2021 | 6:30 p.m.

In Attendance

SCHOOL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

Chair: Lesley Bowman, Pine Street Elementary

Vice-Chair: Devon Marshall, SCA Elementary

Secretary: Brian Vick, Brentwood Elementary

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Shaheen Alarakha, École Campbelltown

Ken Allen, A.L. Horton Elementary

Jackie Anderson, Ardrossan Elementary & Ardrossan
Junior Senior High

Aileen Bozic, SCA Secondary

April Childs, Lakeland Ridge

Nadine Fricke, James Mowat Elementary

Jen Fraser, Salisbury Composite High

Cara Kern, Pine Street Elementary

Cassandra Levitt, Fort Saskatchewan Christian

Theresa MacKenzie, Westboro Elementary

Melissa Pressé, Davidson Creek Elementary

Kimberly Scott, Westboro Elementary

Krista Scott, Bev Facey Community High, Fultonvale
Elementary Junior High & SCA Secondary

Jacquie Surgenor, Westboro Elementary &
Salisbury Composite High School

Michelle Uytterhagen, Fultonvale Elementary

Junior High

Jessica Winship, Glen Allan Elementary

Sara Witholt, Heritage Hills Elementary &
Woodbridge Farms Elementary

ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trina Boymook, Chair

Colleen Holowaychuk, Vice-Chair

Randy Footz, Trustee

Skip Gordon, Trustee

Annette Hubick, Trustee

Don Irwin, Trustee

Jim Seutter, Trustee

Harvey Stadnick, Trustee

ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mark Liguori, Superintendent

Sandra Stoddard, Associate Superintendent

Deneen Ziekle, ATA Local No. 28 President

Marcus Reed, Director, Supports for Students

Corrie Fletcher, Communication Services

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

COSC Chair Bowman called for additions or deletions to the agenda for April 7, 2021.

MOTION | The agenda be adopted, as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bowman called for confirmation of the meeting minutes for March 3, 2021.

MOTION | The agenda be adopted, as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

Board Report

Board Chair Trina Boymook presented the Board report.

HIGHLIGHTS

- On March 18, the Board of Trustees met for a budget working session to discuss priorities for the next year, COVID-19 costs and reserve use for the next two years.
- On March 25, the Board held a special meeting. Trustees approved:
 - The motion to update the Division's modular classroom request. The request now includes the relocation of two modular units to Ardrossan Junior Senior High from École Campbelltown.
 - The use of To Be Allocated funds to hire three full-time family school liaison workers to connect with identified out-of-school learners.
- On March 29, Chair Boymook, Superintendent Mark Liguori and school boards across the province met virtually with Education Minister Adriana LaGrange for a debrief of the new draft K-6 curriculum. Over the next few months, the Division will review the new draft K-6 curriculum with groups of EIPS teachers. The Board will use the review to provide official feedback to the Minister. Trustees encourage families to review the draft curriculum and provide feedback through the province's online survey.
- On April 8, the Board meets for a Caucus meeting, which will include budget discussions and funding allocation.
- On April 15 and 19, the Board meets again about the spring budget.
- The April 22 Board meeting includes the approval of school allocations, school fees and administrative fees. The Board encourages all school councils to include school budget discussions on the agenda for their next meeting.
- The Board is not considering a technology fee for the 2021-22 school year. As such, senior administration will update the Division's technology plan. Once reviewed by the Board, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will share the plan with COSC members.
- April is the month EIPS recognizes its many volunteers. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Boymook extended thanks to all COSC members for the time they give to their school and the Division, which is vital to its success.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Comment: Thank you Trina. It's always good to have you here to share your report.

Question: I believe through social media, there was talk school divisions participating in piloting the new draft curriculum, will receive greater attention for their feedback, as opposed to school divisions not participating. Is this true?

Answer: The Education Minister invited all boards to provide feedback. The decision to pilot is an operational one, and made by the school division's Superintendent. EIPS made the decision to not pilot the curriculum well before the draft curriculum came out. The Minister said, typically 10 per cent of school divisions participate in piloting. Currently, six out of 61 divisions are participating.

Q: Do you know of any school boards, at this time, that are on board to pilot the draft curriculum? Is that information available?

A: I've read Fort McMurray Catholic Schools, and the francophone school in Sherwood Park will pilot the curriculum. The Education Minister wants to see a sizeable number of school divisions piloting it.

Q: Is there a lower threshold number that's acceptable for piloting—for example, what if only two school boards decide to participate?

A: During the meeting with the Education Minister, the timing of the pilot was questioned, given the pandemic. We have our plates full, and we question if there are enough boards participating. She replied she'd like to see 10 per cent participate.

ATA Report

ATA Local No. 28 President Deneen Zielke presented the ATA report.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Zielke thanked EIPS for deciding not to pilot the new draft K-6 curriculum. The curriculum is heavy on knowledge and lacks the teaching of skills and attributes children need to flourish in a connected world. Both the ATA and Local have serious concerns with the draft curriculum and oppose the document in its current state.
- Overall, teachers are feeling anxious and overwhelmed—for good reason. The province is now in its third wave, the number of school alerts and outbreaks are on the rise and access to vaccines is still limited.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Comment: I can see there will be difficulty with parents attempting to decipher this curriculum. Understanding the past curriculum, comparing it to the new curriculum, and understanding those comparisons will be difficult. I myself have had difficulty with these items—trying to understand the impact the new curriculum will have on my children.

Question: Where can we go for help on these issues?

Answer: You could talk to teachers and administrators. They will point out the differences in the curriculum. The differences are vast and encompass everything. The new curriculum is heavy on fact and memorization. Teachers, in general, were shut out of the process, and those who were involved had to sign non-disclosure agreements.

Comment: EIPS will take a good look at the new draft K-6 curriculum and provide feedback, which it will make available to families.

Comment: Anyone who finds a tool to help navigate the new draft curriculum, please share that tool.

For Information

ASCA UPDATE – Krista Scott and Jacquie Surgenor, COSC members and ASCA Board directors

- The Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) website includes videos to help navigate the upcoming annual general meeting.
- One video deals with motions and resolutions.
- On March 24, ASCA posted an e-Bulletin about the nullification of a resolution, the rationale for that nullification and next steps.
- **REMINDER:** If you're not attending the annual general meeting, someone can carry a proxy for you.
- The ASCA annual general meeting includes many important resolutions and the directors' election.
- Since the release of the draft curriculum, ASCA has worked closely with Alberta Education.
- An emergent resolution is an advocacy resolution that arises after the close of proposal for resolutions.
- The province released the new draft curriculum after the call for proposed resolutions closed. As such, ASCA will allow school councils to put forth related emergent resolutions.
- There is a proper process for presenting an emergent resolution. For more information contact the ASCA office.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: How do we get approval from a voter to proxy for us? Will you or Krista do it?

Answer: Krista and I do not get a vote, however there are members within EIPS who are going.

Q: If a school council wants to put forward an emergent resolution, is that school council, or voter required to attend the AGM?

A: Yes.

Comment: Do we have to attend the annual general meeting to put forward an emergent resolution? If so, our school council will discuss putting one together. Maybe we can co-ordinate putting one together through the COSC Facebook group.

ASCA PROXY VOTE – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

- If you can't attend the annual general meeting, you can fill out a proxy form.
- The proxy form's included in the meeting package and available online.
- If you're carrying proxy votes for other school councils, just one device is all that is needed to vote.
- It's the responsibility of the school council assigning the proxy vote to ensure whoever makes the voting understands its intentions.
- If guidance isn't given, the proxy holder has the discretion to vote according to his or her intentions.

CAREGIVER SERIES UPDATE – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

- The April Caregiver Series [schedule](#) is now available.
- Offered through Alberta Health Services, the sessions are informative and the resources valuable.
- School councils are hearing comments about mental health issues—affecting parents and children.
- Bowman encouraged members to review the April Caregiver Series calendar.

SAFFRON CYBER SECOND – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

- The April issue of the [Saffron Cyber Second](#) is now available.
- The newsletter offers tips, tools and strategies to help children develop skills for healthy and safe online experiences.
- Consider distributing it in a school council newsletter, the school newsletter or through social media.

New Business

CURRICULUM UPDATE— Mark Liguori, Superintendent, EIPS

- When it comes to the new curriculum, the first thing a person should look at are two specific documents—the guiding framework and competencies overview, both put out by the province.
- [The guiding framework for the design and development of kindergarten to grade 12 provincial curriculum](#) was developed before any work started on the draft K-6 curriculum.
 - The document answers a lot of peoples' questions as to what the curriculum is about.
 - It's recommended to look at the document before digging into the curriculum itself.
- The [Alberta Education: Competencies Overview](#) is developed by Alberta Education.
 - The document outlines what students should achieve through the curriculum.
 - For example, critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, collaboration, citizenship, personal growth and well-being.
- Review both documents and then dig into the draft curriculum.
- Looking at these first will allow you to better calibrate what should be in the curriculum.
- EIPS approached the Board early on, as to why it's not piloting the new curriculum.
- By the time the 2021-22 year is finished, children piloting the program will go three years without a normal education. To add draft curriculum to the 2021-22 school year isn't what the Division desires.
- It takes lots of work to introduce new curriculum, and getting it right the first time is difficult.
- Learners have to have a solid and normal third year—in 2021-22—before introducing new curriculum.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Comment: Thank you. If we are talking to parents at school council meetings, your comments will certainly help conceptualize a game plan to approach Alberta Education.

Question: Is it OK to share with parents in our school council, EIPS decided early not to pilot the curriculum, and to also share with them the reasons given tonight.

Answer: Yes, that's fair. We have a formidable task, with a ton of work ahead of us, just to return to normal.

Q: How much material is in this guiding framework document? How large is it?

A: It's not too bad, there are 27 pages, and it's readable.

C: We're glad you're taking a good look at the draft curriculum—the good, and the bad.

COVID-19 UPDATE – Mark Liguori, Superintendent, EIPS

- EIPS currently has one active COVID-19 case.
- Since the last meeting, EIPS had 12 cases of COVID-19—11 are now recovered.
- Two of the past 12 cases were identified as a variant of concern.
- The Division expects the number of COVID-19 cases to rise over the next two weeks to three weeks, which could impact schools and classes.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: Given a variant of concern was detected, will the flow of information change?

Answer: Nothing will change in that regard. EIPS will work as hard and as fast as it can. There may be some small delays though, but not days or weeks. Typically, everyone's on top of it.

Q: Has there been any in-school transmission?

A: To the best of our knowledge, no.

Q: If there is a confirmed case on a school bus, will the current protocols change?

A: Based on the information we have from Alberta Health Services, the protocols remain the same. However, the situation is fluid and could change.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND SPECIALIZED PROGRAMMING WITHIN EIPS: PALS TO GRADE 12 –

Marcus Reed, Director, Supports for Students

- EIPS believes in the inclusion of all children and students in a way that maximizes their learning potential and fosters their sense of belonging to the school community and larger society.
- Inclusion is an approach, not a place—a values-based approach to accepting responsibility for all children and students.
- Successful inclusion involves:
 - beliefs and values that encompass a sense of community, all learners belong to the community and all children and students can learn;
 - effective teaching and learning for all learners;
 - a commitment to professional learning on the part of teachers and support staff;
 - a commitment to teamwork and a willingness to share expertise and learn from one another;
 - a collaborative approach with families that offers opportunities and support to help their children be successful learners and contribute to decision-making about their child's education;
 - thoughtful and intentional planning for academic and social development opportunities for all children and students; and
 - a school culture and environment where everyone belongs and everyone learns together.

- When you have inclusive schools, you build diverse communities.
- EIPS does everything possible to ensure programming priorities align with student need.
- What's best for students is always the focus. As such, programming within EIPS is constantly changing to ensure expectations are met.
- The pre-K program, PALS, works to provide early intervention and programming for students with a variety of developmental or speech-related needs. Specialized programs for school-aged students include CSP, Connections, GOALS, Impact, LINKS, PLACE, STEPS, FOCUS and SEAS.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: In the past, before COVID-19, junior high students had cohorts in higher grades, in option classes, such as music or art. How does COVID-19 affect that?

Answer: An excellent question. EIPS is mindful of the situation. Schools still have cohorts in place, and contact is kept to an absolute minimum. In most cases, students are still able to participate in some options, provided the cohorting model is followed.

COSC Sharing

ASCA RESOLUTIONS NO. 3 – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

- The discussion was tabled because of lack of time.

ASCA RESOLUTIONS NO. 11 – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

- The discussion was tabled because of lack of time.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:32 p.m.

Next COSC Meeting

DATE: May 5, 2021

TIME: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Virtual meeting, link available in April agenda



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 22, 2021

Chair's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Board Chair Trina Boymook highlighted a few recent events and shared information:

- On March 26, Chair Boymook attended the virtual Alberta School Boards Association Zone 2/3 meeting—with special guest Education Minister Adriana LaGrange.
- On March 29, Chair Boymook, Superintendent Mark Liguori and school boards across the province met virtually with LaGrange for a debrief of the new draft K-6 curriculum.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

National Volunteer Week takes place April 19-23. Within EIPS, hundreds of volunteers offer their time and expertise on an ongoing basis. While that work looked a little different this year, the commitment from families remains the same. Collectively, these efforts help to support the success of EIPS schools and make a profound difference in the lives of students and their learning environments. In recognition of National Volunteer Week, and on behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Boymook thanked all EIPS volunteers for the many ways they give their time, skills and resources to the Division.

Association and Local Reports

ASBA ZONE 2/3 REPORT

Trustee Heather Wall attended a virtual Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 meeting on March 19, 2021. The meeting included robust discussions and reports from the ASBA President, CEO, directors and Advocacy Committee.

ATA LOCAL REPORT

The Board received for information the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Local No. 28 report from President Deneen Zielke:

- Zielke thanked EIPS for deciding not to pilot the new draft K-6 curriculum. Both the ATA and Local have serious concerns with the draft curriculum and oppose the document in its current state.
- Overall, teachers are feeling anxious and overwhelmed—for good reason. The province is now in its third wave, the number of school alerts and outbreaks are on the rise and access to vaccines is still limited.

New Business

COVID-19 COST UPDATE AND REALLOCATION OF FUNDS

The Board approved changes to the budget estimates for costs related to COVID-19. Recently, administration reviewed the Division's estimated COVID-19 costs for the 2020-21 school year—based on the province's Scenario 1 school re-entry plan. Overall, medical illness costs related to COVID-19 are lower than estimated—by \$850,000. As such, Financial Services now estimates the Division will need \$2.05 million to cover the remaining COVID-19 costs for the 2020-21 school year—down from \$2.90 million. Additionally, the Division anticipates a surplus of \$243,00 in the personal protective equipment and custodial budgets.

The Board also approved an adjustment to the Division's To Be Allocated budget. The additional funds (\$183,500) will cover expenses for the upcoming election; furniture and equipment for four modular unit classrooms; curriculum costs; evergreening student computers at schools with need; and strobe lights for emergency notification systems in high-noise areas.



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

TRANSFER TO CAPITAL RESERVES

The Board approved transferring \$1 million to capital reserves from the Division Unallocated Operating Reserves. The move ensures the Division has adequate funds to maintain its capital assets and address any unexpected capital needs.

2021-22 KEY BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS

The Board approved the key budget assumptions for the 2021-22 school year (see pg. 16, "[2021-22 Key Budget Assumptions](#)"). The assumptions are based on the province's *Budget 2021* and *Funding Manual for School Authorities 2021-22 School Year*. EIPS will now use the approved assumptions to develop a conservative 2021-22 spring budget. The budget then allows schools and departments to begin planning for the upcoming school year. As with all assumptions, any changes such as funding changes, reserve usage, enrolment numbers and standard costs can affect the initial budget.

ASSUMPTION HIGHLIGHTS

- **General operations:** Operations will align closely with the 2020-21 spring budget—except the 2021-22 spring budget will include COVID-19 cost estimates.
- **Alberta Education:** EIPS anticipates it will receive the funding amount outlined in Alberta Education's *Funding Manual for School Authorities 2021-22 School Year*.
- **Other Funding:** EIPS expects provincial funding to cover lease agreements and the French programming; the Mental Health Capacity Building grant to remain in place; a school fee collection rate similar to the 2018-19 school year; assessments for Program Unit Funding completed by deadlines imposed by Alberta Education; and School Generated Funds to return to normal, similar to the 2018-19 actuals.
- **Enrolment:** For the 2021-22 school year, the Division expects slightly higher student registration numbers than in fall 2020—increasing to 17,176 students.
- **Compensation:** EIPS anticipates employee compensation to stay the same—a 0% increase to staff salaries. The certificated standard costs are expected to increase by 1.7%—mostly because of grid movement and increases to benefit costs. Similarly, classified standard-cost changes will increase between 0.7% and 5.5%—based on grid movement and benefits costs.
- **Reserves:** The 2021-22 budget will include an estimated 1% reserve spending by schools and departments, and additional reserve usage of Division Allocated Operating Reserves, School Generated Funds and capital reserves.
- **Expenses:** The Division projects higher costs for insurance premiums—up to 15% for liability and property, and 25% for bus operators—and the increase of \$10 per tonne for the Federal Carbon Tax. Meanwhile, the Division will see savings related to lease space for Next Step Fort Saskatchewan and Next Step Vegreville. Both schools are moving into school sites for the upcoming school year—Salisbury Composite High and Vegreville Composite High, respectively.
- **Inflation:** EIPS anticipates a slight increase in non-salary inflationary costs for schools and departments.
- **Board System and Administration:** Board system and administration expenses will stay within the targeted grant amount provided by Alberta Education. The Division will use any unused amount for Board expenditures, such as instruction.

ALLOCATIONS AND USE OF RESERVES: 2021-22

The Board approved the budget allocations and reserve use for the 2021-22 school year (see pg. 27, "[2021-22 Budget Allocations and Use of Reserves](#)"). The following is a brief summary of the approved allocations and reserve usage.



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

ALLOCATIONS

For the 2021-22 school year, funding from Alberta Education is relatively the same as the current school year. The Division's projected accumulated surplus, which includes investment in tangible capital assets, operating reserves and capital reserves, is \$14 million, as of Aug. 31, 2022. Allocations for schools, Supports for Students and Central Services departments will see a slight increase—primarily because of higher standard costs, benefit expenses, changes in Program Unit Funding and reserve usage. Overall, EIPS plans to access \$2.19 million from its operating reserves for schools and departments and \$4.66 million from the Division Allocated Reserves to support Division projects. In terms of capital reserves, the Division anticipates using \$400,000. And, finally, projected Division Unallocated Reserves is \$5.76 million—well within the recommended 2% of the budget.

RESERVE FUND REQUESTS

The Board approved the following reserve fund requests:

- Transfer \$5.76 million to the Division Allocated Reserves from the Division Unallocated Operating Reserves.
- The use of \$4.67 million from the Division Allocated Operating Reserves to cover COVID-19 costs, the Focus on Learning Loss initiative, social-emotional supports and other Division project expenses.
- Transfer \$500,000 to Division Allocated Capital Reserves from the Division Unallocated Capital Reserves.
- The use of \$400,000 from capital reserves to update or replace ageing equipment at schools and information technology equipment.

SCHOOL FEES: 2021-22

The Board approved the proposed School Fees for 2021-22, which outlines how fees are charged for optional courses, noon supervision, and extracurricular and activity expenses. Now approved, each school will post fees on their individual websites for the 2021-22 school year.

2021-22 ADMINISTRATIVE FEES

FACILITY RENTAL FEES

The Board approved the facility rental and lease fees for the 2021-22 school year. Fees are reviewed annually and determined by current market rates and operational cost-recovery analysis. Based on that review, fees will remain the same as the previous year (see, [After-Hour Fee Schedule:2021-22](#)).

SPECIALIZED SUPPORTS FEES

The Board approved the Specialized Supports Fees for the 2021-22 school year. The fees cover the costs associated with providing specialized supports and services in both inclusive settings and system programs for non-resident students. For 2021-22, fees will increase slightly because of higher standard costs for staff working in specialized system programs (see pg. 103, ["2021-22 Specialized Supports Fees"](#)).

PARTNERS FOR SCIENCE

The Board approved the Partners for Science (P4S) fees for the 2021-22 school year. Annually, EIPS supplies its schools and other school jurisdictions with P4S kits. Fees aren't charged to EIPS schools but are charged to other school jurisdictions. For the upcoming school year, these fees will remain the same as the 2020-21 rates. The Division will also continue to charge a \$25 restocking fee for any P4S kits returned late. Overall, the fees help offset the costs associated with the P4S program (see page 106, ["2021-22 Partners for Science Fees"](#)).

ALBERTA NON-RESIDENT AND INTERNATIONAL

The Board approved the Alberta non-resident and international fees for the 2021-22 school year. Rates for non-Alberta residents and international students will remain unchanged and are comparable to other Alberta-based school division rates. Currently, there are five international students—four full-time and one part-time—enrolled in EIPS schools and zero non-Albertan resident students (see [Non-Resident Student Fees](#)).



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

PLAY AND LEARN AT SCHOOL

The Board approved the Play and Learn at School (PALS) fees for the 2021-22 school year. The fee is for the typically developing twin of a child who meets the criteria for PALS programming—providing programming for a typically developing twin benefits the child with disabilities and the PALS program as a whole. For the 2021-22 school year, fees remain unchanged. (see pg. 112, "[2021-22 Play and Learn at School \(PALS\) Fees](#)").

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION FEES

The Board approved the Student Transportation fees for the 2021-22 school year. In 2020-21, the Division introduced a two-tiered, cost-recovery fee structure. As such, all riders—eligible and ineligible—now pay a fee for student transportation services. Overall, the new fee structure is more equitable for riders and allows EIPS to deliver its current level of service. For the 2021-22 school year, fees remain unchanged from the previous year. Student Transportation will also continue to offer a payment-plan option—available to all families with fees of \$300 and more.

ANDREW SCHOOL ATTENDANCE BOUNDARY: STUDENT TRANSPORTATION ELIGIBILITY

The Board approved a change to Student Transportation eligibility for senior high students living in the Andrew School attendance boundary (see page 119, "[Andrew Attendance Boundary Student Transportation Fee Eligibility Criteria](#)").

Committee Reports

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report about the Advocacy Committee meeting held on April 6. Topics discussed: strategies for the Board's advocacy efforts and what to include in the next *EIPS Quarterly Update*.

POLICY COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report about the Policy Committee meeting held on April 13. The committee reviewed six Board policies, three of which require minor edits—coming forward at an upcoming Board meeting.

STUDENT EXPULSION COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from the Student Expulsion Committee, which held one hearing on April 6.

Reports for Information

FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

The Board received for information a report regarding the Division's financial projection for the 2020-21 year-end. Policy 2: Role of the Board states the Board of Trustees will monitor the fiscal management of the Division, including reviewing year-end projections. Overall, EIPS projects an increase in the accumulated surplus of \$2.59 million from its audited balance on Aug. 31, 2020. Operating reserves will increase by \$2.3 million, capital reserves will increase by \$312,000, and tangible capital assets remain unchanged. The projected \$2.59-million surplus is \$7.31 million more than budgeted. For the most part, the variance is the result of increases to the Division Operating Reserve from the provincial COVID-19 mitigation funding recognized in the current school year, projected surpluses from department programs, a surplus in standard teaching costs and other items (see pg. 122, "[Financial Projections 2020-21](#)").



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Trustee Reports Roundtable

RECENT EVENTS

Trustees shared information and highlighted recent events:

- **Vice-Chair Colleen Holowaychuk** attended her regular school council meetings and the April Committee of School Councils (COSC) meeting. She's also looking forward to the upcoming 2021 Alberta School Councils' Association conference.
- **Trustee Randy Footz** attended school council meetings for A.L. Horton Elementary and Vegreville Composite High—attendees at both meetings voiced support for the existing school fees. He also toured Vegreville Composite High's new office and reception area and the planned space for Next Step Vegreville.
- **Trustee Skip Gordon** attended his regular school council meetings and the April COSC meeting.
- **Trustee Annette Hubick** attended the Alberta School Board Association Zone 2/3 meeting featuring special guest Education Minister Adriana LaGrange. She also attended Strathcona Christian Academy (SCA) Secondary's virtual presentation about how to support students during challenging times; the April COSC meeting; and school council meetings for Davidson Creek Elementary, Brentwood Elementary and Clover Bar Junior High—which all included thoughtful feedback about the draft K-6 curriculum.
- **Trustee Don Irwin** attended various meetings, including the regular school council meetings, the April COSC meeting, Board budget meetings and the Advocacy Committee meeting. In addition, he attended F.R. Haythorne Junior High's virtual open house and SCA Secondary's virtual presentation about how to support students during challenging times—both events were excellent.
- **Trustee Jim Seutter** attended virtual school council meetings for Heritage Hills Elementary, Lakeland Ridge and Fultonvale Elementary Junior High. He also took part in SCA Secondary's virtual presentation about how to support students during challenging times, which he quite enjoyed.
- **Trustee Harvey Stadnick** attended his regular school council meetings.
- **Trustee Heather Wall** attended her regular school council meetings.

EIPS BEREAVEMENT

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Boymook extended condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Cathy Rudnisky, an Educational Assistant who worked with Elk Island Public Schools since 1999. Rudnisky passed away earlier this week. For the last 18 years, she worked at Ardrossan Junior Senior High, assisting the teaching team and supporting students. Over the years, she helped countless senior high students achieve their goal of graduating—through Alberta Distance Learning—and supported many junior high students with their learning and achievement goals. She'll be remembered for her infectious smile and as a staunch advocate for students. She will be missed by all.

Board Members

Trina Boymook, *Chair* | Colleen Holowaychuk, *Vice-Chair* | Randy Footz | William (Skip) Gordon
| Annette Hubick | Don Irwin | Jim Seutter | Harvey Stadnick | Heather Wall

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Trina Boymook, *Board Chair* | P 780 417 8101

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Caregiver Education Team Newsletter

May 2021



AHS, in collaboration with The Mental Health Foundation, is proud to offer FREE online programming for parents and caregivers of children and youth.

Sessions are offered online through the Zoom conferencing application. A link to access the online session will be sent by email to those who have registered for the session.

Drop-In Series

SEEDS: Growing Parenting Skills

Creating Positive Experiences Through Presence & Play

Wednesday, May 5
6:00 – 7:30 pm

Supporting Emotional Growth in Children

Wednesday, May 12
6:00 – 7:30 pm

Motivating Your Child Through Praise and Rewards

Wednesday, May 19
6:00 – 7:30 pm

Supporting Your Child With Structure and Routine

Wednesday, May 26
6:00 – 7:30 pm

Mental Health and Resiliency

Calming our Bodies and our Minds

Thursday, May 6
6:00 – 7:30 pm

Resilient Mindsets

Thursday, May 13
6:00 – 7:30 pm

Collaborative Problem Solving

Thursday, May 20
6:00 – 7:30 pm

Sessions at a Glance

Lunch & Learn Webinars

Building Executive Functioning Skills

Part 1: Monday, May 3
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Part 2: Monday, May 10
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Keeping Scattered Kids on Track: Supporting ADHD

Part 1: Wednesday, May 5
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Part 2: Wednesday, May 12
12:00 – 1:00 pm

More than Just a Bad Day: Understanding Depression

Monday, May 17
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Parenting Strategies for Positive Mental Health

Part 1: Wednesday, May 19
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Part 2: Wednesday, May 26
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Caregiver Education Sessions

Parenting Strategies that Promote Positive Mental Health

Tuesday, May 4
6:00 – 7:30 pm

Test Anxiety: Strategies for Success

Tuesday, May 11
6:00 – 7:30 pm

Substance Use:

A Harm Reduction Approach
Tuesday, May 18
6:00 – 7:30 pm

Sleep and Your Family's Mental Health

Tuesday, May 25
6:00 – 7:30 pm

Junior-High Jitters:

Transitioning to the Teenage Years
Thursday, May 27
6:00 – 7:30 pm



Mental Health Foundation



For more information, visit www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

Caregiver Education Sessions

May 2021



These free 90 minute online sessions are intended to provide parents, caregivers, teachers, and community members with introductory information regarding mental health challenges that can affect children and youth.

Parenting Strategies that Promote Positive Mental Health

Explore factors that contribute to your child's mental health and wellness and learn how you can be your child's greatest mental health asset.

Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Note: For caregivers of children grades K-6; for adults only.

Test Anxiety Strategies for Success

Does your teen prepare for exams only to freeze up during the test? Test and performance anxiety are very common among students. This session will help teens learn how to succeed despite their anxiety and help caregivers support their teens to reduce test anxiety.

Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Notes: For caregivers and teens (grades 7-12) to attend together.

(Continued on next page...)

Registration

Sessions are offered online through the Zoom conferencing application.

A link to access the online session will be sent by email to those who have registered for the session.

To register, click [HERE](#) or go to:

www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

Parent Feedback:

"I love that these sessions are available virtually...what a great option this is for busy families."

"Very well presented. Great material."

"I enjoy the facilitators, they all do a fantastic job and I feel like a lot of people/parents can benefit from these sessions as I do!"



Mental Health Foundation



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Caregiver Education Sessions

May 2021



These free 90 minute online sessions are intended to provide parents, caregivers, teachers, and community members with introductory information regarding mental health challenges that can affect children and youth.

Substance Use A Harm Reduction Approach

The experience of substance use is different for each person. Learn about some common substances used by youth, the spectrum of use, and the science behind addiction. Discover the basic principles of harm reduction and why it is beneficial for those who use substances. Learn strategies to support youth who may be using substances through courageous conversations and harm reduction strategies.

Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Notes: For caregivers of children grades 7-12; for adults only.

Sleep and Your Family's Mental Health

Develop an understanding on how sleep can impact mental and physical health. Review common sleep concerns and strategies to promote healthier sleep habits for your whole family.

Date: Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Notes: For caregivers of children grades K-12; for adults only.

Junior-High Jitters

Transitioning to the Teenage Years

Is your child going into grade 7 and feeling nervous about it? This session will provide information about developmental changes teens experience, as well as the challenges they may face in this school transition. Strategies for managing these changes and boosting wellness will be discussed.

Date: Thursday, May 27, 2021

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Notes: For caregivers and pre-teens (grades 6-8) to attend together.

Registration

Sessions are offered online through the Zoom conferencing application.

A link to access the online session will be sent by email to those who have registered for the session.

To register, click [HERE](#) or go to:

www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

Parent Feedback:

“Clear and well thought out.”

“I found this session very informative and looking forward to using strategies.”

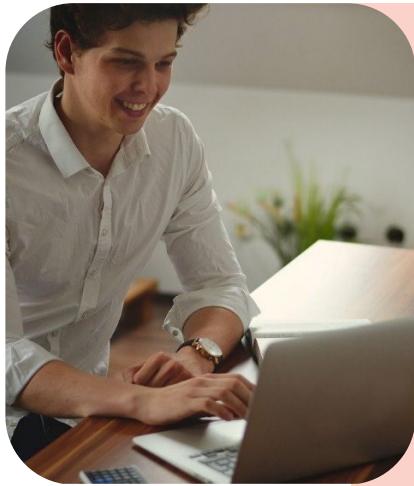
“This is a wonderful resource for all people in our communities. Thank you for offering it for free to the general public.”



For more information, visit www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

Lunch & Learn Webinars

May 2021



These free 60 minute online sessions are intended to provide parents, caregivers, and community members with information regarding mental health challenges that can affect children and youth. When topics are presented over two sessions, participants can attend one or both sessions.

Registration:

Sessions are offered online through the Zoom conferencing application.

A link to access the online session will be sent by email to those who have registered for the session.

To register, click [HERE](#) or go to:

www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

Building Executive Functioning Skills

Promoting Success in Learning

Review and discuss ways to support the development of your child's executive skills such as working memory, inhibition, and mental flexibility.

Part 1: Monday, May 3, 2021

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Notes: For caregivers of children grades K-6; for adults only.

Part 2: Monday, May 10, 2021

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Notes: For caregivers of children grades K-6; for adults only.

Keeping Scattered Kids on Track

Supporting Children and Adolescents with ADHD

This session will discuss common signs and symptoms of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and strategies for supporting success in children and youth with ADHD.

Part 1: Wednesday, May 5, 2021

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Notes: For caregivers of children grades K-12; for adults only.

Part 2: Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Notes: For caregivers of children grades K-12; for adults only.

(Continued on next page...)

Parent Feedback:

"I really love the virtual delivery format – it's so much more accessible for me."

"Your series are full of info and also entertaining. The [facilitators] are always so friendly and knowledgeable."

"Thank you so much for the presentation. Both presenters were excellent and explained the content in a nice way that is easy to follow."



Mental Health Foundation



For more information, visit www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

Lunch & Learn Webinars

May 2021

These free 60 minute webinars are for parents/caregivers who are looking to strengthen their child's/adolescent's ability to thrive through life's challenges and discover strategies that can help build resiliency and overall family wellness. Participants are welcome to attend single sessions or the full series.

More than Just a Bad Day: Understanding Depression in Adolescents

This session will help caregivers increase awareness about adolescents who might be experiencing sadness and depression. Strategies for support will be discussed.

Date: Monday, May 17, 2021

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Notes: For caregivers of children grades 7-12; for adults only.

Parenting Strategies that Promote Positive Mental Health

Explore factors that contribute to your child's mental health and wellness and learn how you can be your child's greatest mental health asset.

Part 1: Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Notes: For caregivers of children grades K-6; for adults only.

Part 2: Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Notes: For caregivers of children grades K-6; for adults only.

Registration:

Sessions are offered online through the Zoom conferencing application.

A link to access the online session will be sent by email to those who have registered for the session.

To register, click [HERE](#) or go to:

www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

Parent Feedback:

"The presenters were excellent! Very informative and easy to understand and relate to. Thank you."

"This helped me to understand more about what is happening with my teenager and some ways to help."

"Very engaging and straight forward."

"Session provided good overview of strategies and provided good info."



Mental Health Foundation



For more information, visit www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

Drop-in Series

May 2021

SEEDS Growing Parenting Skills

The Support, Education, and Engagement Drop-In Sessions (S.E.E.D.S) are 90-minute drop-in online interactive and educational workshops for parents and caregivers who are looking to strengthen their foundational parenting skills, address parenting challenges, and support their child's healthy social and emotional development. Caregivers will receive practical information, share parenting tips, and participate in group discussion.

Creating Positive Experiences Through Presence & Play

Join us in a session on how we can develop positive relationships with our children. As one of the most foundational parenting strategies, other strategies are more effective when you discover the connection that can be built through child-directed play.

Date: Wednesday, May 5, 2021

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Note: For caregivers of children grades K-6; for adults only.

Supporting Emotional Growth in Children

This session is designed to help parents learn ways they can support their child's development and relationships through social and emotional coaching.

Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Note: For caregivers of children grades K-6; for adults only.

Motivating Your Child Through Praise and Rewards

This session will demonstrate how the offering of simple social rewards and tangible incentives can be effective in encouraging children to behave in helpful ways, build essential life skills, and reach goals.

Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Note: For caregivers of children grades K-6; for adults only.

Supporting Your Child With Structure and Routine

Providing structure and routine is one of the most effective means of promoting healthy development in our children. Learn how to use these strategies in your home and how to assist your child in daily transitions.

Date: Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Note: For caregivers of children grades K-6; for adults only.

(Continued on next page...)

Registration

Sessions are offered online through the Zoom conferencing application.

A link to access the online session will be sent by email to those who have registered for the session.

To register, click [HERE](#) or go to:

www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

Parent Feedback

"This was great! Lots of ideas and will be using these in our family."

"I was really happy to learn this session existed. The information was helpful and clear. Thanks!"

"Well presented, informative, and positive. We can incorporate the strategies right away. Thank you."



Mental Health Foundation



For more information, visit www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

Drop-in Series

May 2021

Mental Health and Resiliency Series

This FREE parenting program is for parents and caregivers who are looking to strengthen their family's ability to 'bounce back' from life's challenges. In these 90-minute introductory-level information sessions, you will learn strategies that can help you and your children learn to be more resilient in the face of stress and anxiety. As part of a 7 session series, parents are welcome to attend one session or join us each week.

Calming Our Bodies and Minds

In this online session, we will discuss the ways that our bodies and minds respond to stress and learn strategies for equipping our children to regain a sense of calm and control in the midst of life's stressors.

Date: Thursday, May 6, 2021

Time: 6:00 -7:30 pm

Note: For caregivers of children grades K-9; for adults only.

Resilient Mindsets

In this online session, we will look at specific behaviours and habits that parents can encourage in the home to develop a more positive mindset in their child for reducing stress, increasing empathy, and equipping our child to tackle new challenges.

Date: Thursday, May 13, 2021

Time: 6:00 -7:30 pm

Note: For caregivers of children grades K-9; for adults only.

Collaborative Problem Solving

In this online session, we will explore ways that parents can foster effective problem solving in their child through empathy, clear communication, and collaboration in a way that reduce struggles when challenges arise.

Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021

Time: 6:00 -7:30 pm

Note: For caregivers of children grades K-9; for adults only.

Registration

Sessions are offered online through the Zoom conferencing application.

A link to access the online session will be sent by email to those who have registered for the session.

To register, click [HERE](#) or go to:

www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

Parent Feedback

"I think that what is provided is absolutely wonderful. I enjoy the sessions so much. Thank you."

"Loved it! Great information. Loved the videos and the activities."

"Liked this session and will keep on watching in the future!"

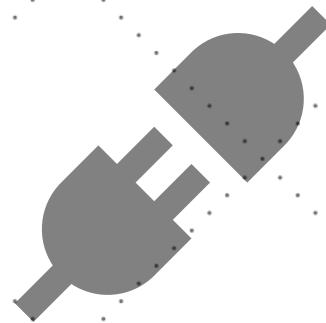
"You present the material in a way that is easy to understand and unpack."



Mental Health Foundation



For more information, visit www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca



Internet News

How Roblox embraced indie game makers to become a \$30 billion company

This article talks about how Roblox, very popular amongst young kids, became as popular as it did.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/video/games/roblox-embraced-indie-game-makers-become-30-billion-company-rena385>

EU countries, lawmakers reach deal to tackle online child sexual abuse

This article covers the legislation recently introduced in the EU to combat online child sexual abuse. This is particularly important as online child sexual abuse has risen over the pandemic.

Saffron has a one hour workshop on this topic if you would like to know more.

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/eu-countries-lawmakers-reach-deal-tackle-online-child-sexual-abuse-2021-04-29/>

Facebook reveals new features for creators to earn money from ecommerce sales

This article explains how facebook is making it easier for content creators to make money on their platforms, beginning with Instagram which is very popular among youth. Be aware of this because many kids want to make money by streaming or becoming an internet personality.

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/facebook-help-creators-earn-money-ecommerce-sales-2021-04-27/>

Saffron's Tips

Use the internet with them!

One of the best ways to make sure our kids are staying safe online is to be online with them. It gives us an easy way to stay familiar with the internet and how they like to use it.

It also creates trust between us and our kids. If we can normalize watching Youtube or Netflix, browsing Instagram or TikTok with them we are normalizing the right behaviours and the safest behaviours.

It also brings us together with our kids to spend time with them. The internet isn't going away, so we need to try and make the best of it and turn it into a good thing.

You may be apprehensive about trying this, but trust us, the parents that have done it love it!

Resources



Protect Kids Online is a site developed by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection.

It has useful information and resources for parents to take a look at.

They also offer advice on reporting concerning behaviour.

<https://protectkidsonline.ca/app/en/>

Get in touch with Saffron if you have any questions!



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