



# Meeting Minutes

Central Office Boardroom, Sherwood Park

March 1, 2017

7 p.m.

## In Attendance:

### COSC Board

**Chair:** Jacquie Surgenor, Sherwood Heights Junior High & Westboro Elementary

**Vice-chair:** Annette Hubick, Lakeland Ridge

**Secretary:** Laura Comfort, F.R. Haythorne Junior High & Salisbury Composite High

### School Council Members

Shawna Delaine, Fort Saskatchewan Christian

Shanna Eveleigh, Pine Street Elementary

Becky Galbraith, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High

JP Grebenc, École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary

Devon Marshall, Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary

Robyn Michaelchuk, Fort Saskatchewan Elementary

Bobbi Mooner, Lamont Elementary

Sundie Mwenesangole, Strathcona Christian Academy Secondary

Krista Scott, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High

Delane Zacharko, Lamont Elementary

**Trustee:** Heather Wall

**Superintendent:** Mark Liguori

**Communications specialist:** Corrie Fletcher Naylor

**ATA president:** Lynn Johnston

## Welcome

Jacquie Surgenor, the COSC chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

## Additions to the Agenda

Surgenor asked if there were any additions to the March 1, 2017 agenda. The following amendments were made to the agenda:

### For Information:

d. Restorative Justice Information Session

e. Blanket Exercise Invitation

### New Business:

b. General Questions from COSC Member

**Motion:** To accept the March 1, 2017 agenda as presented

Moved: JP Grebenc

Seconded: Shanna Eveleigh

**Motion Carried**

## Approval of the Feb. 1, 2017 Minutes

Surgenor asked if there were any changes to the COSC minutes from the Feb. 1, 2017 meeting.

- No changes were made.

**Motion:** To accept the Feb. 1, 2017, minutes as is  
Moved: Devon Marshall  
Seconded: Shanna Eveleigh  
**Motion Carried**

## Board Report

**Presented by Heather Wall, trustee, EIPS**

Heather Wall presented the Board Report. Highlights include:

- The public meetings for Ministik School were held on February 7 and February 15. Alberta's *School Act, Regulation 238/97, Closure of Schools Regulation*, require that a decision be made by the end of the school year.
- The public information sessions regarding the boundary review for the northeast quadrant of Sherwood Park were held on February 8 and February 16. The Board will review the feedback this month. The dates for the next round of public information sessions will be determined after the feedback is reviewed.
- At the Feb. 16, 2017 Board meeting the Board of Trustees approved the new elementary report card template. The feedback received by parents and staff is positive.
- The provincial budget is being announced in March. The announcement will push some of the budgeting decisions into April. In the past, the Division has used its reserves to make up for shortfalls in the operating budget. In the 2017-18 school year, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will not be able to use its reserves. The Board is working on a plan to reduce costs, with the intent of protecting the classroom.
- Individual senior high schools are holding open houses throughout the month of March. Information is posted on each high school's website.
- The deadline for boundary exemption requests is April 7. Ensure submissions are in by the deadline. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Discussion and Questions:

- **Question:** When will the vote on Ministik School be held and how will we find out?
  - That hasn't been determined yet. It will happen at a public board meeting. The agenda for each Board meeting is posted on the EIPS website the Monday before the board meeting.
- Surgenor thanked the Board for its commitment to keeping parents informed.

## ATA Report

**Presented by Lynn Johnston, president, Alberta Teachers' Association Local No. 28**

Highlights include:

- There are some books left from the ATA parent presentation entitled, *Outsmarting your Kids Online*.
- Johnston offered an overview of the recent convention.
- The ATA provincial elections are taking place in the next few weeks.

Discussion and Questions:

- There was a smaller attendance than expected at the parent session—*Outsmarting your Kids Online*.

## For Information

### a) ASCA Update: Presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC chair

- ASCA provides school councils with workshops for free.
- The upcoming conference and AGM is April 28-30.
- EIPS Board will pay for one member from each school in the Division to attend.
- Multiple people can go under one registration—one person per day.
- A Blanket Exercise will take place on Friday night; Education Minister David Eggen will speak on Saturday and answer questions; Chief Wilton Littlechild, the commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, is a keynote speaker; Saturday night is the banquet; Sunday includes the AGM, elections and issue resolutions—school councils can send a proxy vote if no one from their school council can go.

### b) COSC Email List: Presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC chair

- Because of anti-spam laws it's required for members to subscribe to EIPS' COSC Distribution List to receive minutes, updates and information from the Division. To subscribe, email Corrie Fletcher Naylor.

### c) School Nutrition Working Group Update: Presented by Annette Hubick, COSC vice-chair

- On Feb. 13, 2017, school principals accompanied parents attending the meeting.
- Part 1: Reviewed EIPS' *Administrative Procedure 164, Nutrition* and another division's policy: discussed what they did and didn't like about the policies.
  - Several common concerns that arose were similar to the ones already passed on to Surgenor including:
    - wording changes;
    - schools choices or restrictions;
    - possible negative effect on hot lunch, belief that hot lunch shouldn't be part of the policy since it's parent run. Hot-lunch programs vary from school to school, which also means the policy might not work for every situation; and
    - school-wide celebrations could be cost prohibitive.
- Part 2: Presented with a case study of an issue then brainstormed nutritional solutions.
  - Consensus was there are different types of food being offered.

**NOTE:** Tracy Muth, the director of Inclusive Learning, is the project lead and will followup with outcomes.

### Discussion and Questions:

- **Question:** Were there minutes for the people who attended that can be shared back at the schools?
  - There was nothing like that; no information on this at this time.
- **Question:** Can we request Central Office do an approved vendors fair to support schools nutritional food needs?
  - It makes sense, COSC can make that request.
  - **Action:** Annette Hubick will followup at a future COSC meeting once final revisions are made to *AP 164*.
- **Question:** What drove the AP?
  - Best practices.

**d) Restorative Justice Information Session: Presented by Krista Scott, school council chair, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High**

- Krista Scott extended an invitation to attend an information session entitled, “Using Restorative Practices to Build Healthy School Communities.”
- Facilitated by Caroline Missal and Sue Hopgood, from Engage Restorative Practices, the session will focus on the benefits of restorative practices and how restorative practices are being used at Fultonvale Elementary Junior High.
- The session takes place in the Learning Commons at Fultonvale Elementary Junior High on March 7 at 7 p.m.
- Restorative Justice helps with student behaviour.
  - The practice encourages questions such as “has harm been done, who was harmed” and focuses on community building.
  - The session is a refresher workshop, as Fultonvale Elementary Junior High has used the practice for some time.

**e) Blanket Exercise Invitation: Presented by Robyn Michaelchuk, school council chair, Fort Saskatchewan Elementary**

- Fort Saskatchewan Elementary is hosting a Blanket Exercise for parents. There is space for other parents to attend.
- The Blanket Exercise takes place at 6 p.m. on March 16.

## **New Business**

**a) 2017 ASCA AGM Issue Resolution: Presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC chair**

- The [Resolutions](#) are included in the March 1 agenda package and can be referred to for the following discussion notes.

### **Discussion and Questions:**

- P17-01
  - Is mental health already part of the curriculum? The answer is no.
  - Disorders, symptoms and strategies should be done by health professionals; too specific of a request; outside a teacher’s area of expertise; to work with Alberta Health makes sense but the comprehensive care plan is too specific. ASCA reference materials may not be the right place to get this information.
  - Youth mental health beds are few. There aren’t a lot of resources or supports available either.
  - The level of resources requested is unlikely to be accommodated as material resources aren’t currently available.
  - There is a need for mental health support in schools; teachers can teach the general concepts and have supports for children and parents to get the resources they need.
  - With the curriculum change, mental health should be incorporated into it.

- P17-02
  - Having the survey online makes sense and will get more parents completing the survey.
  - Having discussions with parents before doing the survey will help define some of the questions, which will help parents better answer the questions and understand the intent behind them.
- P17-03
  - Wording of P17-03 needs clarification as computational thinking skills means mental math—is this the intent?
  - Keyboarding skills are foundational and should be included, or considered, before coding. What are we taking out of the curriculum to add this? Should it be mandatory up to Grade 12? Could it be part of math class?
- P17-04
  - ASCA already supports the treaty acknowledgement and information is posted on the website.
  - Alberta Education has already committed to doing this.
- P17-05
  - Two documents were created around inclusion, but implementation has yet to occur because of funding issues. Instead of starting over, it should include bringing back and moving forward with the direction of the province’s document, “Setting the Direction for Special Education in Alberta.” With the massive change in curriculum, teachers may find it overwhelming to accommodate everything.
- P17-06
  - Parents may notice grants don’t always match what is spent on inclusion needs. It’s not always accurate because of differential costs for different students.
  - Shortfalls can only be eliminated through adequate funding.
- P17-07
  - Some school divisions use priority-based spending—asking parents what’s a priority and spend accordingly. To do consultations at a division level is difficult and can create tension since each school has different needs and priorities.
- P17-08
  - The resolution has already been done at ASBA. Letters have been written and discussed. However, the carbon tax has not been exempted from schools.
- P17-09
  - The “ask” should be directed to Alberta Education to ensure workers on school grounds are being held accountable.
  - The resolution is just asking to have information and make it clear where it’s available—it’s a reasonable request.
  - The resolution is specific to Boards, which already exists—[Policy 19, Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning and Working Environments](#). *Policy 19* is posted on the EIPS website. Other Board have similar policies, but not all school divisions have the policy posted online.
  - It’s not ASCA’s role to do this; they don’t have the authority.

**b) General Questions from COSC Member**

- **Outdoor recess policy:**

- Is there an Administrative Procedure regarding when students go outside?
  - There is an administrative procedure—[AP 131, Inclement Weather](#)—regarding when students shouldn't go outside because of weather. Schools can use the AP to help guide decisions around this.

- **Email:**

- Can school councils and parent-led groups approach parents through email using the schools' email-distribution list—so they don't have to approach parents separately?
  - COSC will discuss further at a followup meeting.

**School Council Sharing**

**a) Challenges School Councils are Facing**

The discussion was tabled because of lack of time.

Krista Scott moved to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

***The next COSC meeting:***

**Date:** Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at 7 p.m.

**Location:** Boardroom at Central Office in Sherwood Park