



# Meeting Minutes

Central Office Boardroom, Sherwood Park

April 5, 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

Cindy Beasley, Brentwood Elementary & F.R. Haythorne Junior High

Nadine Duiker, Salisbury Composite High

Elwin Dziwenka, A.L. Horton Elementary

Shanna Eveleigh, Pine Street Elementary

Becky Galbraith, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High

JP Grebenc, École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary

Tracey Komant, Strathcona Christian Academy Secondary

Devon Marshall, Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary

Robyn Michaelchuk, Fort Saskatchewan Elementary

Renee Redinger, École Campbelltown

Krista Scott, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High

### Board and EIPS

**Board Chair:** Trina Boymook

**Vice-Chair:** Harvey Stadnick

**Trustee:** Jim Seutter

**Superintendent:** Mark Liguori

**Associate Superintendent:** Eileen Zimmerman

**First Nations, Métis and Inuit consultant:** Kyla Sorel

**ATA Local No. 28 president:** Lynn Johnston

**Communications specialist:** Corrie Fletcher Naylor

## Welcome

Jacquie Surgenor, the COSC chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

## Additions to the Agenda

Jacquie Surgenor asked if there were any additions to the April 5, 2017, agenda. The following amendments were made to the agenda:

### For Information:

- c. Saffron Presentation

**Motion:** To accept the April 5, 2017, agenda as presented.

Moved: Becky Galbraith

Seconded: Devon Marshall

**Motion Carried**

## Approval of the March 1, 2017 Minutes

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

- No changes were made.

**Motion:** To accept the March 1, 2017 minutes as is.

Moved: JP Grebenc

Seconded: Shanna Eveleigh

**Motion Carried**

## **Board Report**

**Presented by Trina Boymook, Board Chair, EIPS**

Board Chair Trina Boymook presented the Board Report. Highlights include:

- In February, the Division held two drop-in information sessions regarding the attendance boundaries for the northeast quadrant of Sherwood Park. An online survey followed and 764 online submissions were received. The Board is reviewing that feedback in early April. Dates for the next round of drop-in information sessions are scheduled for April 19 and April 25.
- The provincial budget was announced on March 16. Given the economic climate, it's considered a good news budget for education. However, it does come with some challenges the Board needs to work through. EIPS will see a decrease of roughly \$1 million through the senior high Credit Enrolment Unit (CEU) funding. Alberta Education is reducing the number of CEUs it funds annually from 60 to 45 per student. The savings are being used towards a \$54-million fund to offset the revenue loss school boards are facing because of Bill 1: An Act to Reduce School Fees. There are also no increases to the per-student grants for students in kindergarten to Grade 9. Additionally, Boards aren't receiving any dollars to address increased costs or the carbon tax.
- Fees and budget allocations to schools and departments are being approved at the Board meeting on April 20. Over the past few years, the Division has used reserves to make up shortfalls in the operating budget. In the 2017-18 school year, this will not be possible. Currently, the Board is working on a plan to reduce costs with the intent to protect the classroom.
- The first reading of Bill 1: An act to Reduce School Fees took place on March 2. Two fees are being eliminated. First, is a transportation fee—fees can't be charged to students who attend their designated school and live greater than 2.4 kilometres from their designated school. Within EIPS, fees are only charged to students in grades 1-12 who live closer than 2.4 kilometres from their designated school or who attend a non-designated school. As a result, EIPS families won't be impacted by this part of Bill 1. Second, is an instructional supplies and materials fees. These include textbooks, workbooks, photocopying, printing and paper. Within EIPS, these are called Learning Resource Fees. If Bill 1 is passed, this fee will be eliminated. Currently, EIPS charges: ECS \$25; elementary \$50; junior high \$55; grades 10-11 \$120; and Grade 12 \$100. In the 2016-17 school year, the Learning Resource Fee generated \$1.2 million in revenue for the Division. A compensation formula is being developed as part of the regulation-development work.
- At the March 16 Board meeting, trustees approved a motion to close Ministik School. Students, including those registered for kindergarten this fall, are being re-designated to Fultonvale Elementary Junior High. Work is currently underway to prepare for a smooth transition.
- Also at the March 16 Board meeting, the Three-Year Capital Plan was approved. Priority 1 is a replacement school at Wye Elementary—a K-6 school with a student capacity of 650 students located in Heritage Hills. Priority 2 is the modernization of Sherwood Heights Junior High. Priority 3 is the modernization of Rudolph Hennig Junior High. And, Priority 4 is a new K-6 school in Fort Saskatchewan. School boards are required to submit a Three-Year Capital Plan to Alberta Education annually by April 1.

- On March 22, the province approved funding for a Wye Elementary replacement school. Now approved, the remaining priorities listed in the Three-Year Capital Plan shift up.
- On April 6, Chair Boymook, trustee Ray Welsh and Superintendent Mark Liguori are meeting with representatives from the Town of Vegreville and other partners in the area regarding the continued presence of a School Resource Officer (SRO) within Vegreville and Mundare.
- Today, the Board was informed Education Minister David Eggen is expanding a nutrition program for school jurisdictions. The original 14 school boards that were part of the pilot are receiving \$255,000 in grant funding while the remaining 46 school boards are receiving \$141,000 in grant funding. Funds are being distributed to establish, or enhance, existing nutrition programs and are being targeted for the provision of nutritional meals, including the costs associated with ordering, preparation and delivery. Funds aren't available for the development of infrastructure such as commercial kitchens or other food-handling facilities.

#### Discussion and Questions:

- Wye Elementary boundaries are not impacted by the new boundaries for the northeast quadrant of Sherwood Park. The replacement school is being located in the Heritage Hills area.
- Pertaining to the CEU grant that was cut. Q: Does the government have something against the funding model? A: The government is moving towards a different formula. It will most impact programs that offer students chances to achieve a higher number of credits such as the registered apprenticeship program (RAP), work-experience programs, the Green Certificate program and summer school programs. Q: Is there more information on the nutrition program? A: Not yet; the Division needs to receive more details and will then create a plan. The province's nutrition program is separate from *Administrative Procedure 164, Nutrition*. The province's program is meant to help students who don't have enough food to study effectively.
- April 23-29 is National Volunteer Appreciation Week: Trustees thanked all school council members for being volunteers. They then handed individual gifts out to attendees as a token of appreciation.

## ATA Report

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

Highlights include:

- On March 14, Johnston attended a learning session about political engagement. The focus: women and politics.
- With the upcoming municipal elections, some of EIPS trustees will likely step down. Johnston encouraged COSC members to consider running.

## For Information

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

- The ASCA conference is April 28-30.
- The Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) was part of the Bill 1 discussion; there are nine spots available for parents to attend and give feedback.
- The deadline to apply for board funding to attend the conference is April 7.

**b) Proxy Vote: Presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC chair**

- The deadline to submit a Proxy Vote Form is April 26. If you can't attend the conference, the form allows someone who is attending to vote on your behalf.

**b) Saffron Presentation: Presented by Renee Redinger, COSC member**

- Renee Redinger, a COSC member from École Campbelltown School Council, extended an invitation for all EIPS parents to attend an upcoming Saffron Centre presentation entitled, "Cyber World: A parent's guide to raising healthy digital citizens." The presentation is taking place at École Campbelltown at 6:30 p.m. on April 18.

## **New Business**

**a) Supporting Truth and Reconciliation: Presented by Kyla Sorel, First Nations, Métis and Inuit consultant, EIPS**

- Kyla Sorel's background: She has settler ancestors, is a psychologist and her role with the Division is to grow the First Nations, Métis and Inuit education department.
- She asked members what their schools are doing to make parents and their children aware of truth and reconciliation. Parents shared the various ways they've been involved or made aware:
  - Blanket Exercises (for parents, students and teachers);
  - school assemblies starting with the Treaty 6 acknowledgement;
  - part of classrooms;
  - took part in a community event that dealt with truth and reconciliation and wanted to know how it could come to the school—interested in understanding how we're all impacted and the role we play in making it part of the school community;
  - a session at the ASCA Conference, which included an essay written about natives watching videos to trace their ancestors; and
  - a video about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's "Calls to Action."
- Every school is different—some schools want to jump into truth and reconciliation, some feel blindsided and aren't quite at the point to explore it in depth.
- The presentation, [Supporting Truth and Reconciliation](#), is available online.
- Here's how EIPS is supporting truth and reconciliation.
  1. In addition to curriculum implementation: Blanket Exercises; Project of Heart; Orange Shirt Day; and Imagine a Canada, a national competition that asks students to share their thoughts on what the future of Canada will look like from the lens of reconciliation.
  2. Assisting schools in supports for indigenous students and families.
  3. An elder's presence at schools—speaking at assemblies and working with individual students using group methods.
  4. Sharing circles, which include storytelling
  5. A newsletter focused on truth and reconciliation within EIPS.
  - Question: What would my next step be, as an individual, to try to get accountability in my school?
  - Answer: Ensure your parent voice is heard by the school staff so they know it's important to you. Also, allow educators and staff a time to learn as they're being provided information.

All EIPS staff have participated in Blanket Exercises. It hasn't been mandated that the schools must do any one particular thing. Instead, the Division wants commitment not compliance.

- *NOTE:* RISE is a resource for parents.

**b) Recap of Presentation on the Direction Alberta Education Is Setting, Now and in the Future**

- The topic was tabled for May because of a lack of time.

**c) Bill 1 – Brief overview and discussion: Presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC chair**

- The province gave its first reading of Bill 1: An Act to Reduce School Fees.
- Phase 1 takes place in April; it goes to the government in May for finalization, and if passed, it's being rolled out to schools in September.
- Parents need to have discussions with their trustees to let them know their thoughts on Bill 1.
- Instructional supplies and materials fees: Thoughts from COSC members
  - Difficult for people to agree on what this entails as everyone will have different opinions.
  - Each school will look at fees and what's involved in programming and instruction to determine what fees can be charged and what can't.
  - Can't just take away important program resources from established courses as it may be taken away from other funding.
  - Each school will have different priorities as to where funding needs to be included.
  - All fees are to be covered by school boards, which include option courses, agendas, yearbooks, electronics, school supplies and sports.
- Transportation fees
  - Those living greater than 2.4 kilometres from their designation school and attending their designated school can't be charged transportation fees.
  - Fees can only be charged to students accesses Student Transportation who live less than 2.4 kilometres or who attend a non-designated school.
- Topic discussions to take back to the school councils:
  1. What fees are reasonable to charge parents—what are you willing to pay for?
  2. What's the best method to engage parents for giving feedback about fees?
  3. What are your core courses and what are your options?
- Q: How are teachers involved in this? A: The ATA isn't involved in this process. The government wants to hear from parents because they want to know what they feel is acceptable to pay.
- The language used with parents needs to be clear as Board fees sounds different than school fees
- Some COSC members mentioned they're uncomfortable with this process as its asking parents to make decisions based on limited information—not knowing what teachers need for resources in classrooms, what they won't be able to get or what they will lose if school fees are no longer a revenue source.
  - Currently fees are determined at the school level and included in school budgets.
- A parent said they would like to push to have flexibility and keep government out of what fees can be charged—suggesting it should be between parents, school administration and the Board so it's easier to make change.

Krista Scott moved to adjourn the meeting.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

***The next COSC meeting:***

**Date:** Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 7 p.m.

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