



Committee of School Councils

Meeting Minutes

Central Office Boardroom, Sherwood
Park Jan. 10, 2018
7 p.m.

In Attendance:

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

Vice-chair: Krista Scott, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High

Secretary: Lynn Coates, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High

Lori Lehman, Woodbridge Farms Elementary
Devon Marshall, Strathcona Christian Academy
Elementary

Robyn Michaelchuk, Fort Saskatchewan Elementary

School Council Members

Ken Allan, A.L. Horton Elementary

Michelle Beck, Wye Elementary

Lesley Bowman, Pine Street Elementary

Jessica Boyden, Fort Saskatchewan Christian

Bev Braat, Bev Facey Community High

Lisa Clamp, Bev Facey Community High

Tracey Cyca, École Campbelltown

Karen deMontarnal, École Campbelltown

Michelle Dugan, Bev Facey Community High

Shanna Eveleigh, Pine Street Elementary

JP Grebenc, Ardrossan Elementary

Ginger Hassett-Koza, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High

Board and EIPS

Board chair: Trina Boymook

Trustee: Annette Hubick

Trustee: Jim Seutter

Superintendent: Mark Liguori

Associate superintendent: Sandra Stoddard

President, ATA No. 28: Deneen Zielke

Learning Technologies: Bruce Cline

Director, Inclusive Learning: Tracy Muth

Communications specialist: Corrie Fletcher Naylor

Welcome

Jacquie Surgenor, the COSC chair, called the meeting to order at **7:03** p.m. Round table introductions were completed with each person giving their name and school or position.

Additions to the Agenda

Jacquie Surgenor asked if there were any additions to the **Jan. 10, 2018** agenda.

- The following amendments were made to the agenda:

For Information:

- 2018 ASCA Conference & AGM; ASCA awards
- Support Student Mental Health: Parent Info sessions
- Over 18: Presentation overview
- Saffron's Cyber World Presentation

Motion: To accept the **Jan. 10, 2018** agenda as presented.

Moved: **Ginger Hassett-Koza**

Seconded: **JP Grebenc**

Motion Carried

Approval of the Nov. 8, 2017 Minutes

Jacque Surgenor asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the **Nov. 8, 2017** meeting.

- No changes were made.

Motion: To accept the **November 8, 2017** minutes as is.

Moved: **Michelle Dugan**

Seconded: **Lesley Bowman**

Motion Carried

Board Report: Presented by Trina Boymook, board chair, EIPS

Trina Boymook presented the Board Report. Highlights include:

- The Board has finalized a number of reporting requirements for Alberta Education, the deadline was November 30. These include the audited financial statements, fall budget and annual education results report. A Results Review was also conducted with both central departments and schools.
- At the November 23 Board meeting, the following decisions were made:
 - the Board will continue to waive transportation fees for hazard students;
 - the Board will discontinue waiving the busing fee for International Baccalaureate (IB) programming, effective in the 2018-19 school year;
 - noon-hour busing is being discontinued, effective in the 2018-19 school year;
 - All EIPS schools will offer one kindergarten option, alternating full-day programming, effective in the 2018-19 school year; and
 - the decision regarding adding an alternate address fee for busing was tabled until Alberta Education releases its recommendations on the various transportation tiered fees.
- Recently, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) conducted a survey to gather feedback about the Division calendar and November fall break. Survey result highlights:
 - there were 7,622 responses and 1,596 written comments; and
 - sixty-four per cent of parents prefer starting before Labour Day and continuing with the November fall break.
- At the December 21 Board meeting, the 2018-19 Division calendar and 2019-20 Division calendar were. Highlights: the calendar includes a November fall break and students return to class after Labour Day.
 - In the 2020-21 school year, it's anticipated the school year will start in September but before Labour Day—the holiday falls late that year, on September 7.
- Bill 24: An Act to Support Gay-Straight Alliances was proclaimed on December 15. As a results, minor changes are being made to *Policy 19, Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning and Working Environment* and the supporting administrative procedures. The amended changes need to be posted to the Division website by June 30.
- Bill 28: School Amendment Act, 2017 was also proclaimed on December 15. Most of the amendments come into effect immediately however the following will take some time.
 - *September 2018* – new eligibility criteria for transportation, which could include changes to age, grade or special considerations regarding route safety
 - *September 2019* – certification requirements for principals and teachers
 - *September 2020* – common age of entry will change to five, by December 31 of that school year;
 - *Other amendments* – changes to the process for separate school divisions and minor technical updates to ensure legislation is up to date.

- At the December 21 Board meeting, the Board defeated a notice of motion put forward by the Lamont County trustee to direct administration to look at the feasibility of Grade 9 programming being introduced at Mundare School.
- The Board attended a joint meeting with Elk Island Catholic Schools and Strathcona County to discuss the Municipal Development Plan, school sites and school zones.
- Kindergarten registration starts on Jan. 15, 2018. Families will now register online. Information is available on the EIPS website. A pre-enrolment and data-validation process is coming into effect for the 2018-19 school year. Parents can pre-enrol students in their desired school for the following year and ensure all of the information on file is correct and up to date. It also eliminates the need for the Boundary Exemption Request Process and removes inefficiencies that are currently affecting the Division. The pre-enrolment process takes place from March 1-15.
- At the January 25 Board meeting, minor amendments are being made to a few of the Board policies.
- On January 11-12 trustees are taking part in a Board Retreat in Vegreville. The focus: the vision and direction of the new Board.
- Public information sessions for the Wye Replacement School are being held in February. Dates are not currently set.

ATA Report: Presented by Deneen Zielke, president, Alberta Teachers' Association Local No. 28

Deneen Zielke presented the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Report. Highlights include:

- Professional Development Area Conference: The ATA is currently looking at a review of teacher conferences and how best to meet members' needs.
- Zielke attended a professional learning session on the use of social media and mental health. There was a lot of conversation around how these issues affect children and how they can be supported.
- The Diversity Equity and Human Rights committee is planning a book reading around the novel entitled, *Lullabies for Little Criminals*, which shines a light on the lives of children growing up in poverty.

For Information

a) ASCA 2018 Conference and AGM, ASCA Awards: Presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC chair

- 2018 Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) awards: Members are encouraged to communicate about the nominations and awards. Historically, there are few nominations and it would be great to recognize parent engagement.
- The focus at the ASCA Conference is mental health.

b) Support Student Mental Health: Presented by Tracy Muth, director, Inclusive Learning

- [Caregiver Education Sessions](#) are taking place from January to May, hosted by Alberta Health Services. Sessions are free and cover a variety of topics such as "Breaking the Cycle of Anxiety," "Supporting Self-Regulation in Elementary School Children," and "Keeping Scattered Kids on Track."
- Similar Caregiver Education Sessions are taking place in [Edmonton](#)—cost unknown.

c) Over 18 Project: Presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC chair

- Peer feedback was gathered for the project.
- It was suggested a tool kit should be created to help guide parents.

d) Saffron’s Cyber World Presentation: Presented by Tracy Cyca, COSC member

- Tracy Cyca, a COSC member from École Campbelltown’s school council, extended an invitation to 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 February 13.

New Business

a) New Online Registration Process for Kindergarten: Presented by Bruce Cline, Learning Technologies

- Kindergarten registration is being moved to an online registration form.
- Nothing new other than it’s filled out on the computer.
- Provincial Approach to Student Information (PASI) is a government project that requires all student information be digital by 2020.
- There is no guaranteed children will get in to their requested the school if it’s not their designated school—acceptance is based on available space.
- If problems arise with completing the form, families can go to the school and staff will help them through the digital form.
- The advantages of the online registration form: it takes less time for administration and ensures all information is correct.
- The online registration form goes live on January 15 at 6 p.m.
 - Users can create an account and then fill in the required information.
- The form is also being used for all new students for the 2018-19 school year.
- New non-resident students also need to go online and complete the form to register for the 2018-19 school year.
- There is no direct link on the form to transportation.
- The Division will continue to update the form as requirements change.

b) High School Redesign Overview: Presented by Mark Liguori, superintendent, EIPS

- There are nine foundational principles.
- CEU stands for Carnegie Equivalent Unit, which is a time-based reference used for measuring educational attainment by post-secondary institutions to gauge pensions. It’s also short for Alberta Educations Credit Enrolment Units, which calculates base-instruction funding at the senior high level.
- Senior high credits are the equivalent of hours in classroom:
 - 1 = 25 hours;
 - 3 = 62.5 hours; and
 - 5 = 125 hours.
- Typical year: 100 credits per student.
- Thirty-nine per cent of high school graduates go on to post-secondary within four years of graduating, and 63 per cent after six years. Most go into the world of work first and then into post-secondary.

- Historically, senior high schools were funded based on credits earned by each student throughout the year, up to 60 CEU per year.
- Schools that adopt the High School Redesign model are funded based on the average credits over a three-year period—2011-12, 2012-13 and 2103-14.
- These three years do not waiver. Therefore, if you had students taking lots of credits in those three years, then funding is greater. If you didn't, then funding is substantially less.
- It's a great model for schools that earned a lot of credits in those three years, but could have potential loses for schools that did not and do now.
- Reason introduced: At some schools there was little room for improvement and little reason to push kids.
- The new funding model means a student doesn't have to take a specific amount of credits in one year, they can earn them over a three-year period. If a student excels in a particular class and finishes it early, they can move on to other things. If a student is struggling, then the hours for that class can be extended to help them succeed. The imposed required time is lifted when using the Redesign model.
- It's a better approach to meet the individual needs of students and a more personalized approach to individual education.
- Creates flexible learning environments and helps to engage students. Also allows teachers to create flex classes to expose students to things they may not normally be exposed to and can broaden their horizons.
- Creates meaningful relationships and has helped lower dropout rates and engage students—making every student matter.
- Assessment is both formative and summative.
- In the real world, you don't only have one chance to fail or succeed.
- There are four senior highs in the Division that have adopted the High School Redesign.
- If done well, the program has a high potential for better results.
- The 45 CEU cap, for senior highs not using the Redesign model, can stifle education because it can limit programming and negatively impact schools from a financial standpoint.
- Follow some of these tips to select a senior high for your child:
 - Let the student pick and just offer some guidance.
 - Talk to and make a plan for the overall program—from the time the student enters senior high to the time the student finishes.
 - Start discussing in Grade 9.
 - Leave all doors open.
- Transitioning to the High School Redesign model works best if you start with one or two of the nine foundational principles. Ensure each are performing well. Then schools can add the other principles, perfecting each before adding another.

COSC Sharing

a) School Fees: Presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC chair

- Members were requested to seek parent feedback regarding school fees. Here's some of the comments COSC members heard at their school council meetings:
 - Don't want to lose opportunities.
 - Decisions going to the government are taking too much time.

- Some wrote a letter to the government.
- Some called the minister of education and the minister of finance.
- What does it take to get back to the same level of where you were at?
- There is only one pot of money and it did not change.
- Division 1 or lower had minimal impacts.
- Bill 1 came at a cost to students.
- Who sets the fees?
- Time-based opportunities are being missed.
- It happened a year earlier than planned.
- How are refunds and applications handled?
- How does this impact fundraising? Are parents fundraising for the shortfalls?
- If parents aren't paying through school fees, then they are paying in other ways such as reduction in opportunities, having to fundraise or different fees.
- How much was the cost to implement this system?

b) Results Review Experiences: Presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC chair

The agenda topic was tabled because of a lack of time.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

The next COSC meeting:

Date: Wednesday, **Feb. 7, 2018**
Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Location: Boardroom at Central Office in Sherwood Park