



Meeting Minutes

Central Office Boardroom, Sherwood Park

March 7, 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

JP Grebenc, Ardrossan Elementary

Ginger Hassett-Koza, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High

Lori Lehman, Woodbridge Farms Elementary

Robyn Michaelchuk, Fort Saskatchewan Elementary

Alissa Ottahal, Strathcona Christian Academy Secondary

School Council Members

Ken Allan, A.L. Horton Elementary

Jackie Anderson, Ardrossan Elementary

Lyndsay Arndt, Lakeland Ridge

Michelle Beck, Wye Elementary

Lesley Bowman, Pine Street Elementary

Curto Christopher, École Campbelltown

Michelle Dugan, Bev Facey Community High

Becky Galbraith, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High

Board and EIPS

Vice-chair: Heather Wall

Trustee: Annette Hubick

Superintendent: Mark Liguori

Communications specialist: Corrie Fletcher Naylor

Welcome

Jacquie Surgenor, the COSC chair, called the meeting to order at **7:01 p.m.** Roundtable introductions were completed with each person giving their name and school or position within Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS).

Additions to the Agenda

Surgenor asked if there were any additions to the **March 7, 2018** agenda.

- The following amendments were made to the agenda:

For Information

f. School Zone Update

g. Education Minister David Eggen Update

Motion: To accept the **March 7, 2018** agenda as presented.

Moved: **Jackie Anderson**

Seconded: **Becky Galbraith**

Motion Carried

Approval of the Feb. 7, 2018 Minutes

Approval of the February Minutes was moved to April 4, 2018.

Board Report: presented by Heather Wall, Board vice-chair, EIPS

Heather Wall presented the Board Report. Highlights include:

- At the Board meeting on February 15
 - The Board defeated a notice of motion brought forward by trustee Jim Seutter, “That the junior high per pupil percentage of funding received from Alberta Education and allocated out to schools be adjusted over a three-year period to match the per pupils percentage as Early Childhood Services, elementary and senior high students.” The reasons for defeating the motion was based on the following:
 - unstable provincial financial climate;
 - political climate;
 - CEU capping;
 - need for strong foundations in elementary;
 - no identifiable problem;
 - no appetite to change the funding allocation model; and
 - in-year funding and the Leveraging Student Achievement funds can be used to target specific challenge areas at the junior high level.
- Throughout February, EIPS hosted David Eggen, the minister of education, on multiple school visits.
 - On February 14, Grade 2 students at SouthPointe School showcased how the Division is using the Classroom Improvement Fund grant.
 - The minister of education attended two EIPS school council meetings—Bev Facey Community High on February 20 and A.L. Horton Elementary on February 22. Vice-chair Wall congratulated both school council chairs for their outstanding job organizing the meetings. The discussion topics were relevant, thought provoking and offered parents the opportunity to have their concerns heard by the minister.
 - On February 23, the Minister visited Vegreville Composite High, Mundare School and Andrew School. The visits highlighted how EIPS is providing high-quality learning opportunities to rural communities and how the Division balances rural and urban education.
- Strathcona County approved a motion to move to full-day school zones for the upcoming school year.
- The minister of education has decided to keep the 2.4 kilometre transportation funding measurement in place for the 2018-19 school year. Over the coming year, Alberta Education will conduct additional consultations with parents and school boards. Regulations regarding student transportation eligibility is expected to be finalized in early fall, which will give school boards and families a year to prepare.
- On March 12, trustees are touring two EIPS schools—Vegreville Composite High and Mundare School.
- On March 13, EIPS is hosting Margaret McCuaig-Boyd, the minister of energy, and Jessica Littlewood, the member of the Alberta Legislature for Fort Saskatchewan – Vegreville, at Fort Saskatchewan High to showcase the new Shell Skills Centre.
- On March 14, the Board is meeting with officials from the City of Fort Saskatchewan. Topic discussions will focus on future school sites, the joint-use agreement and the Municipal Government Act. EIPS will also share background information about EIPS with the new members of council.
- Vice-chair Wall encouraged everyone to complete the parent survey. It’s open until March 23. The survey feedback will help shape discussions and decisions at both the school level and Division level. Families with children enrolled in French Immersion are asked to also complete a second survey relating specifically to that program.

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

Deneen Zielke was unable to attend the meeting and no report was given.

For Information

a) ASCA Update, 2018 Conference and AGM: presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC chair

- The Board will fund one school council member per school, to a maximum of 12, to attend the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) Conference and Annual General Meeting on April 20-22. To apply for funding complete the [Registration Form](#) and email it to Stephanie.Krause@eips.ca by April 6, 2018.

b) Proxy Voting: presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC chair

- If a school council is unable to attend the ASCA conference, it can ask one of the attending school council members to hold a proxy vote on its behalf.
- Each attending school council member can carry five proxy votes.

c) The *Pass System* Screening and Panel Discussion: presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC chair

- Kyla Sorel, the First Nations, Métis and Inuit consultant at EIPS, gave Surgenor several copies of a booklet entitled, *Truth & Reconciliation: Calls to Action*. The booklets were handed out at the meeting for those who wanted one.
- Four EIPS parents are invited to attend the Division's upcoming screening of, *The Pass System*, a critically acclaimed film that explores the oppression of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people in Canada. The film is a powerful teaching tool for those who want to learn more about truth and reconciliation. Following the screening, a round-table discussion is taking place with the director of the film, Alex Williams, and Elder Wilson Bearhead. The screening takes place April 27; 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information, or to attend, contact the COSC chair, [Jacquie Surgenor](#).

d) Sharing Circle: presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC chair

- A sharing circle with Elder Wilson Bearhead is taking place at Salisbury Composite High on April 24; 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- There are 10 spots reserved for EIPS parents.
- If interested, [fill out the sign up form](#).

e) Assurance Model: presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC chair

- Currently, the government uses an Accountability Model, which is fairly prescriptive and focuses on the vertical relationships between school authorities and the minister of education.
- Last year, the government announced the move to an Assurance Model, which is more flexible. It also has a broader priority setting and communication process. The intent is to involve more stakeholders and to make engagement a core component. The model will include the accountability model and a more comprehensive results-reporting process.
- A pilot project was conducted with several school divisions. So far, the feedback is positive—in terms of the increased flexibility in the planning and reporting process and the ability to design meaningful plans and reports.

- There are two working committees at Alberta Education. ASCA has a representative on both committees. Last week, Randy Clarke, the director of leadership excellence with Alberta Education, met with the ASCA Board to present and hear feedback on the draft Assurance Model framework.
- On February 22, as the EIPS COSC Chair, Surgenor attended an all-day session to provide further feedback on the draft Assurance Model.
- The province has identified five areas:
 - teaching and leadership
 - system supports
 - student learning
 - governance
 - responding to local and societal context
- At the February 22 session, a significant amount of time was spent on sub-elements for each domain and answering: “What evidence would give assurance to someone standing on the street corner?”

f) School Zones: presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC Chair

- The discussion around changing school-zone times started with COSC roughly six years ago.
- COSC created a committee, and through that, met the Strathcona County traffic liaison.
- COSC found out about the Strathcona County School Traffic Safety Partnership.
- COSC fought to get both a rural and urban representative on the committee, and won.
- A few years ago, the school zone times were brought before council and turned down.
- In February, it was brought forward again and finally passed with the new council.
- Starting in the 2018-19 school year, school zones are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and in effect on all school days.
- COSC was a huge driver by talking to people and building awareness.
- Members suggested putting forward an ASCA resolution around school-zones regulations on provincial highways.
- The success illustrates the importance of the parent voice.

g) Education Minister David Eggen Update: presented by Michelle Dugan, Bev Facey Community High and Ken Allan, A.L. Horton Elementary

- The meetings went well and there were several thoughtful topics discussed.
- *School Fees:*
 - i. The minister didn’t commit to anything.
 - ii. Talked about the administration burden of having to submit for changes.
 - iii. Parents pocket versus dollar-for-dollar matching.
 - iv. Schools can change things, there is a quarterly report that can be submitted for funds that were missed.
- *High School Redesign:*
 - i. Completion versus grades.
 - ii. The Accountability Pillar survey goes out to Grade 10 students who have had minimum exposure to high school. It would be better for Grade 12 students to be surveyed to offer more comprehensive feedback.

- *Busing:*
 - i. The 2.4 kilometres is an issue.
 - ii. Rural requirements versus urban.
 - iii. Some students are getting on the bus at 6:30 a.m.
 - iv. The minister was willing to listen to the issues.

New Business

a) 2018 ASCA AGM Issue Resolutions: presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC chair

- If you are a voting person from a school council, ensure you know how your councils wants you to vote on each resolution.
- Know what changes are acceptable and what's not.
- Take these discussion topics back to your school council when discussing the [2018 ASCA AGM Issue Resolutions](#):
 - *Issue Resolution No. 1:*
 - What is the cost?
 - Is it necessary?
 - Is it reasonable or practicable?
 - Who is involved?
 - Is it a condition of employment already?
 - What level required it?
 - What constitutes an acceptable record?
 - *Issue Resolution No. 2:*
 - Forty-five is too low.
 - More funding is required?
 - What happens in year three if all of the funding is used within the first two years?
 - Should there be a cap?
 - Are single credits possible?
 - *Issue Resolution No. 3:*
 - Overall, it's a vague request on teacher training
 - It's not the Ministry of Education rather the Ministry of Advanced Education.
 - University training or professional learning training?
 - At what age should the early screening be taking place?
 - Would smaller class sizes make screening better?
 - What supports will be put in place to help teachers?
 - *Issue Resolution No. 4:*
 - Not widely implemented.
 - One document used out of many options.
 - It's not a transparent system for curriculum redesign.
 - PRISM was created by the ATA as a resource for teachers to use.
 - Is it optional?
 - Is it fair to mandate it?
 - Who do we want curriculum developed by?
 - Allow it to be a resource versus a Program of Study?

- *Issue Resolution No. 5:*
 - Law in place for parents to opt in or out.
 - Law that there is no unwanted disclosure.
 - School council consultations would violate those laws.
 - People come out in many ways.
 - Who is there currently?
 - How and why would you control what is discussed?
 - How is “sexually related topic” defined?
 - What is acceptable?
- *Issue Resolution #6:*
 - Already in place
 - Topic within school councils already.
 - Rural options.
 - Accountability of parents.
 - Hamstringing schools.
 - Mindful of minister stepping over the line
 - Minister mandate versus adherence?
 - Sometimes versus all of the time?
 - How many layers?
 - What do we want the Minister mandating?
 - Autonomy of councils?

COSC Sharing

Tabled because of time.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

The next COSC meeting:

Date: Wednesday, **April 4, 2018**

Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Location: Boardroom at Central Office in Sherwood Park