



Meeting Minutes

Central Office Boardroom, Sherwood Park

Feb. 6, 2019

7 p.m.

In Attendance:

Chair: Jacquie Surgenor, Salisbury Composite High & Sherwood Heights Junior High

Secretary: Lesley Bowman, Pine Street Elementary

School Council Members

Jackie Anderson, Ardrossan Elementary & Ardrossan Junior Senior High

Aaron Box, Strathcona Christian Academy Secondary

Curtis Christopher, École Campbelltown

Lisa Harris, Fort Saskatchewan Christian

JP Grebenc, Ardrossan Elementary & Ardrossan Junior Senior High

Devon Marshall, Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary

Robyn Michaelchuk, Fort Saskatchewan Elementary

Kim Oliver, Wes Hosford Elementary

Board and EIPS

Chair: Trina Boymook

Trustee: Annette Hubick

Associate Superintendent: Brent Billey

Associate Superintendent: Sandra Stoddard

ATA President: Deneen Zielke

Communications: Corrie Fletcher Naylor

Welcome

Jacquie Surgenor, the COSC chair, called the meeting to order at **7:03** p.m.

Additions to the Agenda

Jacquie Surgenor asked if there were any additions to the **Feb. 6, 2019** agenda.

- The following amendments were made to the agenda:
- **For Information**
 - a. Social Media Smarts

Motion: To accept the **Feb. 6, 2019** agenda as amended.

Moved: **Curtis Christopher**

Seconded: **Kim Oliver**

Motion Carried

Approval of the Jan. 9, 2019 Minutes

Jacquie Surgenor asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the **Jan. 9, 2019** meeting.

- No changes were made.

Motion: To accept the **Jan. 9, 2019** minutes as is.

Moved: **JP Grebenc**

Seconded: **Devon Marshall**

Motion Carried

School Council Sharing

a) How School Councils can support numeracy – Presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC Chair, and Sandra Stoddard, Associate Superintendent

- Key messages put forth by the presentation:
 - reinforce parents as partners;
 - encourage math connections made at home; and
 - demonstrate the relevance of math
- It's important for children to make connections between what they learn in the classroom and how it applies in the real world.
- Research shows next to teacher competence, parental support is a strong indicator of student success and the more that's highlighted, the better.
- By building strong, positive attitudes toward numeracy, students are more likely to succeed.
- Begin with activities that meet your child's level.
 - Try to strip it down. If they're struggling, break the problem into steps or make it easier.
 - Allow them to feel confidence, which will lead to competence.
 - Give them the ability to apply their knowledge.
- Five areas were discussed in relation to real-life application:
 - Number Sense and Numeration
 - counting in the kitchen, counting items or clothing
 - done at the earliest ages—one, two socks
 - playing dice and card games
 - Measurement
 - using terms such as how high, how low, how much, how little
 - sorting, comparing and estimating
 - building estimating skills, "how much will the grocery bill be?"
 - using personal events to mark the passage of time
 - Shapes and Spatial Sense
 - 2D versus 3D objects
 - reading and interpreting directions or a map
 - kilometres travelled in a car
 - Patterns and Relations
 - listening to the repetition of music
 - wallpaper or fabric patterns in your home
 - play Guess My Rule
 - Data Management and Probability
 - organizing information into meaningful categories
 - using charts to represent data
 - understanding secondary data
 - you did some research online and found a result, but how do you know if that data is reliable?
 - understanding where the data comes from and how it's compiled
 - how do you check the data?
 - Many games involve probability.
- Ask your children questions, such as "how did you use math today?"
- Use the language of math—sum, difference, greater than, less than.

- Encourage critical thinking and use math at home in real-life situations:
 - counting change
 - cooking and measurement
- It seems there was a misunderstanding with the new math introduced several years ago.
 - While it encourages students to use different strategies to solve mathematical problems, there is a misconception they need to know all the strategies.
 - Students are taught to find a strategy that works for them and to use that.

Question:

- If parents are part of the conversation, why don't these strategies and tips come home with students?
 - Consultants have, and continue to, developed tips to send out through school newsletters for numeracy.
 - Videos are being developed for parents.
 - Starting with younger grades.
 - How to engage parents and kids in math talk.
 - Math conversations are a good place to start. Share with your children how you're using math and verbalize how you do it.
 - Another challenge faced by parents, kids used to come to school with stronger math foundations.
 - There is a loss of mental math.
 - Help them develop this by asking them to solve questions without paper.
 - Repeated halving and doubling to learn fractions.
 - Children used to problem solve more. Now it seems they have quick access to answers.
 - As a result, teachers notice students are getting frustrated more easily.
 - Help them by modelling perseverance when you get frustrated.

Board Report – Presented by Trina Boymook, Board Chair, EIPS

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

- On January 10, the Board held a special meeting to consider a new agreement for Strathcona Christian Academy. The Board voted unanimously in favour of entering into a new agreement and is pleased Strathcona Christian Academy remains within EIPS.
- The Returning Student Reregistration process runs from February 1-28. Three schools have closed boundaries for the 2019-20 school year—SouthPointe School, F.R. Haythorne and École Campbelltown. All requests to attend a non-designated school must be completed during the returning student registration process to be considered for the next school year.
- At the January 24 Board meeting:
 - Trustees approved a motion to change the German program at Mills Haven Elementary. A German Language and Culture Program will replace the German Bilingual program. The school will continue to offer 160 minutes of German instruction per week and be similar to other second language programs
 - Trustees passed a number of motions to address the growing interest in the elementary French Immersion program in Sherwood Park. The Wye Elementary replacement school will offer a dual-track English and French program, starting in September 2020. The boundary map and attendance boundaries for the two Sherwood Park elementary French Immersion sites were approved. The Division will host a parent meeting at both École Campbelltown and Wye

- Elementary to share information with families about dual-track programming and to collect input about a transition plan.
- A notice of motion was served in relation to the school renaming process for the Wye Elementary replacement school. The current motion approved at the December Board meeting remains in effect until there is a motion approved in the affirmative to do otherwise. In addition, the Division extended the deadline for the replacement school naming survey to ensure École Campbelltown families are engaged in the renaming too.
 - The Board approved sponsoring the registration fees for school council members to attend the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) Conference and Annual General Meeting on April 26-28. The Board will fund the cost of one registration fee per EIPS school—up to a maximum of 12 registrants. To register, complete the [ASCA Registration Form](#) by April 5, 2019.

Questions:

- Thank you for supporting EIPS representatives at the upcoming ASCA Conference and AGM.
- Can you explain some of the concerns around the Wye Elementary name?
 - The majority of people want a name change and a name that reflects the new location.
 - The name choices are really up to the trustees, but they do indeed use a democratic process to determine eligible names.
 - There are other ways besides a name to honour the history of Wye Elementary.
 - There will always be differences of opinions among parents. It's the job of trustees to make decisions in the best interest of most.
- A parent who attended the Board meeting expressed her impression of how the trustees treated all stakeholders with respect. She commended trustees and senior administration for a job well done. She thanked the Board and said the experience illustrated how trustees think of and how collectively they speak for every student in the Division.

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

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

- Zielke is looking forward to the North Central Teachers' Convention Association tomorrow and Friday. There are always good sessions that extend and support current practice. She's also looking forward to the COSC Chair, trustees and senior administration joining the Partners in Education luncheon on Friday.
- The ATA, in partnership with the College of Alberta School Superintendents, has developed a series of Leadership Quality Standard certification sessions for principals and assistant principals. The sessions are available during the annual ATA Convention.
- On January 24, the ATA hosted a political-engagement session with Larry Booi, the President of Public Interest Alberta and the former president of the ATA. He shared his thoughts on the province's political landscape and how to make education an election issue.
- On February 12, the Local is hosting a meet and greet with local candidates at Hunter's Social Club. Interest seems high.
- Provincial ATA elections are now underway. Three individuals are running for president, incumbent Greg Jeffery, Vice-President Jason Shilling, and newcomer Robert Duiker.
- The Local has made some changes to its election timelines. Elections for table officers are taking place in April—the earlier timeline allows new members more job-shadowing time. The president position is also open for nominations this year—the president serves for a two-year term.

Question:

- Is there a theme or topic for the upcoming teachers' convention?
 - It's all over, but there is a focus on inclusion and First Nation, Métis and Inuit education—as that is now a part of the teaching quality standards.
 - Students with stressors outside of school and how that impacts the classroom.
 - Some areas on how to support these kids in class.
 - New curriculum, with a special focus on implementation. It's the first time it includes all subject areas at the same time.

For Information**a) Saffron Cyber Second – Presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC Chair**

- Do we find value in the *Saffron Cyber Second* and do we want to ask Saffron to continue to produce these for another year?
 - Yes.

b) ASCA Conference Presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC Chair

- The ASCA Conference and AGM is at the end of April and the EIPS Board will support twelve representatives from the Division to attend.
- The theme this year is Building Bridges.
 - Jody Carrington is the keynote speaker.
- The [resolutions](#) are being released on Friday, Feb. 8, 2019.
- The way we vote on the resolutions is different this year. The reason: To streamline the voting process and to focus on the resolutions that require debate.
- We will bring the resolutions to our respective councils and vote as the resolution stands today either “yes” or “no.”
- Resolutions that receive 60 per cent “yes” votes will be put into a block and voted on as a block and then we will debate the remaining resolutions.
- If there is a majority vote on the floor, we could remove a resolution from the block and debate it.

c) Social Media Smarts – presented by JP Grebenc, COSC member

- About 30 parents attended the event last week.
- He highly recommends it.
- There was a lot of interest on other topics too. He hopes to organize another event in May.
- It would be nice to have a meeting format that included parents and children together.
- It would also work well to have more time for questions and answers at the end.

New Business**a) Cellphones in the Classroom: Presented by Trina Boymook, EIPS Board Chair and Sandra Stoddard, EIPS Associate Superintendent**

- On February 28, the Division is hosting a student forum with questions about cellphone and personal device use.
 - Because of time and location constraints, one student per school is participating.
 - Students range from grades 5-12.

- A student survey will follow the student forum to ensure non-attendees have their voice heard.
- The Board directed administration to provide research to inform policy:
 - The student forum allows the Board to hear directly from the students.
 - They will be divided into nine groups and each group will have a trustee.
 - Each group will also have a teacher facilitator and a recorder to capture the conversation.
 - Gathering information on:
 - Impacts of cellphones on academic success.
 - Impacts on peer relations.
 - How do kids feel?
 - Does it complicate relations?
 - Does it impact their well-being?
 - The survey will have scaled questions, yes and no questions, and a place for personal information or experiences.
 - The survey will gather both qualitative and quantitative data.
- An online parent survey and staff survey will follow. Stoddard shared the survey and took feedback on the format and questions.
 - The parent survey goes out on March 4, 2019. I will also include the annual EIPS parent survey questions.
 - Stoddard provided a copy of the survey to the group and members debated the entire document.
 - She will followup by providing an electronic question to the group that they can fill out with their comments and suggestions.

b) EIPS writer continuum – Presented by Sandra Stoddard, EIPS Associate Superintendent

- Stoddard distributed a kindergarten to Grade 12 writing continuum compiled by EIPS.
 - It's a collection of writing samples from lead teachers with cues at the bottom for teachers to use to assess their student's writing.
 - The cues at the bottom demonstrate I statements so students can self-assess and identify areas for improvement.
 - The samples are used in the classroom and set up as a continuum so students can compare their writing to the samples, set goals and use the cues to guide their writing.
 - It's also a tool for teachers and parents.
 - It's also a good conversation starter for school council meetings and Parent-Teacher Interviews.

Meeting adjourned at **9:07** p.m.

The next COSC meeting:

Date: Wednesday, **March 6, 2019**
Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Location: Boardroom at Central Office in Sherwood Park