



Meeting Minutes

Central Office Boardroom, Sherwood Park

Feb. 5, 2020

7 p.m.

In Attendance:

Chair: Jacquie Surgenor, Salisbury Composite High,
Sherwood Heights Junior High & Westboro Elementary
Secretary: Lesley Bowman, Pine Street Elementary

School Council Members

Jackie Anderson, Ardrossan Elementary & Ardrossan
Junior Senior High
Aaron Box, Strathcona Christian Academy Secondary
Karli Butler, Davidson Creek Elementary
April Childs, Lakeland Ridge
Curtis Christopher, École Campbelltown
Nadine Fricke, James Mowat Elementary
Jeff Hanrahan, Bev Facey Community High
Ginger Hassett-Koza, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High
Cara Kern, Pine Street Elementary
Devon Marshall, Strathcona Christian Academy
Elementary

Robyn Michaelchuk, Fort Saskatchewan Elementary
Holly Pedersen, Fort Saskatchewan Christian
Cheryl Pilipchuk, École Campbelltown
Melissa Pressé, Davidson Creek Elementary
Brian Vick, Brentwood Elementary
Sarah Witholt, Wye Elementary

Board and EIPS

Chair: Trina Boymook
Trustee: Annette Hubick
Trustee: Don Irwin

Superintendent: Mark Liguori
Associate Superintendent: Sandra Stoddard
ATA President: Deneen Zielke
Communications: Corrie Fletcher

Welcome

Jacquie Surgenor, the COSC chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda

Jacquie Surgenor asked if there were any additions to the Feb. 5, 2020 agenda.

- No amendments were made to the agenda.

Motion: To accept the Feb. 5, 2020 agenda as circulated.

Moved: Jackie Anderson

Seconded: April Childs

Motion Carried

Approval of the Nov. 6, 2019 Minutes

Jacquie Surgenor asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the Nov. 6, 2019 meeting.

- No changes were made.

Motion: To accept Nov. 6, 2019 minutes as is.

Moved: Ginger Hassett-Koza

Seconded: Devon Marshall

Motion Carried

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

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

- At the January 23 Board meeting trustees approved:
 - the 2020-2021 school fee parameters;
 - amendments to [Policy 23: School Fees](#), which clarify how and when fees are reviewed.
- On January 31, Chair Boymook and Trustee Skip Gordon hosted Nate Glubish, the member of the legislative assembly of Alberta for Strathcona-Sherwood Park, on a tour of both Ardrossan Elementary and Ardrossan Junior Senior High. Boymook will host him on another tour at Bev Facey Community High and Salisbury Composite High on February 21.
- On February 5, Chair Boymook and Trustee Harvey Stadnick attended the Fort Saskatchewan Mayor’s State of the City Address and a roundtable discussion with Finance Minister Travis Toews. At the roundtable discussion trustees discussed:
 - capital needs at SouthPointe School and Sherwood Heights Junior High;
 - Family First;
 - funding for education; and
 - concerns about the mid-year adjustment on school board budgets.
- The Board’s current focus: building the upcoming budget, developing Elk Island Public Schools’ (EIPS) priorities and goals, and examining its operations with Superintendent Mark Liguori.
- The Minister isn’t releasing details about the funding formula before announcing the 2020 budget. “The earlier the better,” was the request from the EIPS Board.
- The Board will continue its advocacy efforts around choice in education. EIPS is a Division of choice that offers a range of opportunities that contribute to a diverse learning environment. The public system provides an abundance of choice and there is no need to expand charter or private schooling.
- EIPS is reviewing how best to address student capacity issues in Fort Saskatchewan, Sherwood Park and rural Strathcona County. Fort Saskatchewan and Strathcona County have experienced strong residential growth, which is affecting the Division’s ability to provide accommodation for students living within these communities.
- The Board is pleased with the recent approval from Education Minister Adriana LaGrange to maintain the word “Public” in the Division’s corporate name.
- 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 24-26. 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 3, 2020.

Comments and Questions:

Comment: Thank you for the sponsorship for school council members to attend the ASCA Conference and AGM.

C: Glad to hear that we received the approval for “Public.” Buffalo Trails Public Schools received it and Aspen View Public Schools has requested it.

Question: Is the consultation open to everybody?

Answer: Yes, it’s open to everyone. Fort Saskatchewan is growing at such a rapid pace it will be at capacity in the near future. It’s an important conversation and should also include people who don’t have students in the system yet and those who had students in the system in the past. We want to find short-term solutions before a new school built.

ATA Report — presented by Deneen Zielke, President, Alberta Teachers' Association Local No. 28

Deneen Zielke presented the ATA Report. Highlights include:

- On November 29-30, Zielke attended the ATA's Professional Development Area Conference. Despite the current political landscape, teachers continue to aspire to improve their practice and do their best for those in their care.
- Zielke thanked Chair Boymook and administration for the news release sent by the Division, highlighting the work taking place across EIPS and how the recent budget cuts are impacting students and staff. Engaging families in these vital conversations is both crucial and appreciated.
- On December 19, Local executive members met with Nate Glubish, the member of the legislative assembly of Alberta for Strathcona-Sherwood Park. At the meeting, members expressed their concerns about recent cuts made to public education. The overall response was disheartening. She encourages families who are concerned to voice it to the government.
- The ATA is continuing its work advocating for a strong public education system. Part of that work includes supporting families and their efforts to lobby the government.
- On March 6-7, Local executive members are attending a seminar on political engagement. The Local's also inviting two EIPS parents to attend and learn from the seminar. If anyone is interested in attending contact the Local.
- The ATA is encouraging members and the community to take part in the Red for Ed campaign. Every Friday, supporters of public education are asked to wear red and post a photo of what they are wearing on social media using the hashtag #Red4EdAB.

For Information

a) ASCA Conference and AGM — presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC Chair

- Thank you to the Board. More information will come about how to register.
- New this year, there is an app for the conference that will have all the sessions.
- The first voting delegate from each school can attend the AGM free of charge. The cost for additional representatives is \$90.

b) ASCA Advocacy Resolutions – presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC Chair

- There are three Board resolutions.
- There are about eight from member schools.
- The resolutions should be released on Friday.
- Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) will conduct a pre-vote, with an omnibus of the fully supported resolutions.
 - The pre-vote helps ASCA group the resolutions together so it can spend more time debating the more controversial advocacy resolutions.

Comments and Questions

Question: Do we debate the resolutions at the school council meetings?

Answer: Yes. Once released, you can have the debate with your school council and decide how you want to pre-vote. If you cannot attend the AGM, you can fill out a proxy-vote form, which we'll discuss further in March and April.

- c) **Strathcona County School Traffic Safety Partnership – presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC Chair**
 - [Strathcona County School Traffic Safety Partnership](#), is a local non-profit group tasked with addressing school-related traffic safety issues.
 - The partnership helps schools develop traffic plans and traffic flow charts.
 - The partnership also offers grants to school councils organizing initiatives related to traffic-safety.

- d) **ASCA Advocacy Manual – presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC Chair**
 - The ASCA Board has put together an [advocacy manual](#).
 - It details ways to engage local members of the legislative assembly of Alberta.
 - To offer feedback contact [Jacquie Surgenor](#).

- e) **PEP Talk – presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC Chair**
 - The February issue of [PEP Talk](#) is now available.
 - PEP is a support group for parents with children who are dealing with addictions

New Business

- a) **Combined Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report 2018-19 – presented by Mark Liguori, Superintendent, EIPS**
 - The [Combined Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report 2018-19](#) is a way to report EIPS' results to the public and Alberta Education.
 - After submitting, Alberta Education goes through it and discusses it with the Division.
 - There are three pieces to the report:
 - The Division's three priorities listed within the Four-Year Education Plan.
 - Each priority has a set of goals and outcomes associated with it.
 - The report speaks to the work occurring within schools and Central Services as it aligns with the priorities and goals.
 - Purpose:
 - cyclical nature to the work
 - to help divisions plan, identifying successes and challenges, and go through the performance-management cycle.
 - compare results to other school divisions within the province.
 - ensure school jurisdictions are responsible to the public.
 - Will they allow a different reporting model between boards? We don't know going forward, but it could look different next year.
 - Those using an assurance model seem to like it. That's not what EIPS uses.
 - The colours and numbers can look troubling, which isn't indicative of a longitudinal problem.
 - The report compares EIPS' results with the province's overall results.
 - EIPS looks at the results and gauges how the data has changed over time. It's not the sole source of data for the Division.
 - Achievement results are self-explanatory. Some of the measures in the Accountability Pillar are from surveying only grades 4, 7 and 10.
 - As a result, the Division also runs an EIPS Parent Survey.
 - EIPS can't integrate its questions from the parent survey into the Accountability Pillar Survey.
 - Parental responses are more subjective than the provincial achievement test results.

- Alberta Education also disaggregates results for students who identify as First Nations, Métis or Inuit.
 - There are areas that show high, and maintained, low and issue.
 - It compares EIPS' results to the province's results.
 - The report addresses what the Division is doing to close the gap between students who identify as First Nations, Métis and Inuit and all other students.
 - Within EIPS, the percentage of students who identify as First Nations, Métis or Inuit and write four or more diploma examinations is higher than the provincial percentage. That said, it's still rated as "low" on the Accountability Pillar chart.
- EIPS goes through all the data and uses it to form its Education Plan. Sandra Stoddard, the Associate Superintendent, and her team in Supports for Students, write the document.
- The [overview](#) is provided in the COSC meeting package.
- Schools use it to develop their education plans.
- It then circles back to Central Services, which analyses how the priorities and strategies are working.
- With limited funding, the Board must reassess its goals and priorities.
- The province was supposed to rollout the new curriculum. It's delayed for further consultation.
- Overall, the document is the Division's way of reporting to the public and province about what it's doing and what it has done.

Comments and Questions

Question: Is the full document on the EIPS website?

Answer: Yes. It's also on the COSC page.

Q: Is there going to be funding based on performance from the government?

A: Good question. Post-secondary will have key performance indicators. There are mixed messages beyond post-secondary. Months ago, school boards were assured there wouldn't be targets. Whether that still stands, we will find out. We don't know.

Q: Is there a timeline for information coming out?

A: The best guess is when the province delivers the budget with the funding framework for K-12 education.

Q: The new curriculum is up to the province, do we know when it will go into effect?

A: No. It was absolutely September 2020. Now there is no timeline. Realistically, it's impossible to consult and implement it by September 2020. The information and consultation are general. We don't know what it's going to do. There is information on the Alberta Education website. Everyone should review:

- [Curriculum Recommendations](#)
- [Draft Ministerial Order on Student Learning](#)
- [Current Ministerial Order on Student Learning](#)
- [Curriculum advisory panel](#)

The original new curriculum was very good. The recent changes look like the curriculum will rollback to the past curriculum—around mastery skills. In a world when information is readily available, mastery is not as important as it was.

Comment: A new curriculum survey is open until February 24. Read the old ministerial order and compare it to the new one, as there are subtle changes that are meaningful.

Q: I was expecting higher results for EIPS than the Alberta percentage. Based on where we live and the demographics, it's concerning we're not above average. Do we have similar reporting to compare Alberta to other provinces or nationally? Additionally, how are we comparing to international student scores?

A: In Canada, education is provincially mandated, not nationally like the United States, for instance. You can look at raw numbers, such as final Grade 12 exams, but they aren't all equal. Universities scale marks based

on the rigour of the provincial curriculum. The Programme for International Student Assessment scores Alberta students near the top internationally. Alberta's system is public, and the system has all the students, not just streamed students as the top two countries have. Alberta does very well in comparison to the rest of the world.

Appendix B compares EIPS to the province (see page 54, "[Provincial Achievement Test Results Course-by-Course Summary with Measure Evaluation](#)"). Also, the results don't include just students from Sherwood Park. It covers all of EIPS' larger geographical area, and if you separate Sherwood Park proper, would the results change? We don't know because we don't disaggregate to that point.

Q: Seems odd that if we are significantly higher than Alberta in many areas, how are we still so close when they are aggregated? I was expecting to start at the summary. I have to go back to find out where the challenges are. It doesn't seem like we are doing that well.

Comment: When you look at the original draft curriculum, teachers were involved. The new draft doesn't have any additional teacher input. There's also a move toward standardized testing even at the six-year-old level. What that does, is it takes money out of classrooms to create testing models. Alberta Education has hired more than 200 consultants to rollout the new curriculum. To delay it isn't a good use of public money.

b) Student Transportation Fee Structure for 2020-21 – presented by Mark Liguori, Superintendent, EIPS

- EIPS has to ensure the money received for transportation is used for transportation only. Can't use instructional dollars.
- Dollars in transportation must stay in transportation.
- EIPS has a policy in place regarding eligible students and ineligible students.
- With some of the new regulatory requirements from the province, for example, the Mandatory Entry Level Training, it means increased cost for transportation.
- The gap between funding and actual cost to transport students is what the Division can charge in fees.
- EIPS has to also work with the families it serves.
- Eligible student: Students EIPS receive transportation funding for and attend their designated school.
- Ineligible student: Students EIPS doesn't receive transportation funding for or students who attend a school of choice.
- The new fee structure takes into account the current transportation landscape and the projected budget for transportation.
- Changes include a two-tiered fee structure, the removal of the family rate and the removal of an allowance for hazard students.
- The supplemental fee for students accessing a second bus or to an alternate address remains in place.
- The logistics of extraordinary service come at a cost.
- Important to understand EIPS is looking at new costs, it's maintaining services and creating equity within the Division.
- There are costs for eligible students beyond the provincial funding—estimate is one-fourth of the current Payride fee.
- The Board has tabled the motion. Once the funding and fees are known it will put numbers to it.
- The Board needs to correct an inequity.

Comments and Questions

Question: Edmonton Public Schools reduced its instructional days by five days to save transportation funds. As a result, it will save approximately \$150,000 per day in transportation fees? Is our model the same?

Answer: Edmonton Public Schools has a complex hybrid system that relies on Edmonton Transit Service as well. It's also looking at working with Edmonton Catholic Schools. Every day we don't run buses is \$55,000, right off the top in savings. However, we cannot put those dollars in classrooms. Transportation dollars stay

in transportation. The result of not running buses is a decrease in fees, the creation of more routes or a refund at the end of the year. Classroom funds and transportation funds are mutually exclusive.

Q: With the funding and the fees you charge families, does that completely cover costs?

A: Yes, provided the price of diesel stays the same.

Q: Increasing the amount the people who aren't currently paying, how is this equitable? There is a shortfall of \$1.5 million, but is that not made up?

A: It's made up with the fees.

Q: Is there a chance to prorate fees for students who only travel one way?

A: One school had a significant number of questions. The Board has provided a framework to create funding. They will look at it again once there are actual dollars connected to transportation. There are two avenues to bring forth questions and concerns: through your trustee, or through Superintendent Mark Liguori and Dave Antymniuk, the Division Principal. Please know, when the budget shortfalls came out, EIPS did not increase fees. The Division is making prudent decisions. If you have other questions, talk to your trustees and bring questions to trustees or Central Services as they emerge.

COSC Sharing

a) Developing the COSC Operating Procedures – presented by Jacquie Surgenor, Chair, COSC

Executive members are developing operating procedures for COSC. As such, the COSC Sharing discussion revolved around why people attend the meetings and the benefit it offers to school councils throughout the Division. The below are how members responded to the question: "Why do you come to COSC?":

- I learn so much that I did not know, and I bring that back to my school council.
- I come for perspectives from other school councils and their experiences.
- I thought there was going to be wine and PJs.
- It's invaluable. I was the last person to say, "not it for Chair." Since coming to COSC, our school council has adopted a lot of things such as operating procedures. I attended the ASCA conference, and I can sit down with individuals and learn so much to take back to our school and students.
- Transparent information—high-level educational information provided to us in a digestible manner.
- Good communication with other school councils
- Breaks the glass bubble around your school. You're so protected by all the things that go on in your own school. Looking back on transportation issues – look what I paid or didn't in kindergarten.
- I might not agree with everyone in this room. But, everyone has something that makes me think and go "hmmm."
- Even though Strathcona County is well off there are many areas where the experience isn't the same
- Bigger perspective.
- As my kids get older and we experience more, I don't understand why things get done the way they are. I might not agree with it, but it gives me perspective.
- I come for my girls. I want them to have the best educational experience. I think our school is the best, but I love to hear from other.
- I like the perspectives from the junior and senior high schools, when we are just in elementary.
- I appreciate the topics you choose.
- Honesty and transparency between the Board and trustees.
- I want to know the superintendent and trustees so that if I have an issue they know who I am.
- Appreciate the Board and administration taking the time to come here and appreciate their attendance.
- It made me understand my role as a chair and clarified the legislated role of a school council.

- We had a society and school council that were close. It helps clarify the role and narrow the focus.
- I am not crazy, there are others around that are passionate about education as well.
- Provides mentorship and support. EIPS always has a strong presence at ASCA as well.
- I appreciate the many levels of information and the grassroots we each bring from our own school council, that we then take back to our own schools.
- We are teaching administration as much as they are teaching us.
- Validates concerns brought forward at school council, and when we see these brought up at the Division and provincial levels.
- I know where I can find out the answers to questions.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

The next COSC meeting:

Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2020

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

Location: Boardroom, EIPS Central Services Office, in Sherwood Park