



Committee of School Councils

MEETING MINUTES

Elk Island Public Schools, virtual meeting

Nov. 4, 2020 | 6:30 p.m.

In Attendance

SCHOOL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

Chair: Lesley Bowman, Pine Street Elementary

Vice-Chair: Devon Marshall, SCA Elementary

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jackie Anderson, Ardrossan Elementary & Ardrossan Junior Senior High

Aileen Bozic, SCA Secondary

April Childs, Lakeland Ridge

Curtis Christopher, École Campbelltown

Jen Fraser, Salisbury Composite High

Dawn Ferguson, Win Ferguson Elementary

Jeff Hanrahan, F.R. Haythorne Junior High

Cassandra Levitt, Fort Saskatchewan Christian

Theresa MacKenzie, Westboro Elementary

Melissa Pressé, Davidson Creek Elementary

Amanda Shand, École Parc Élémentaire

Krista Scott, Bev Facey Community High, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High & SCA Secondary

Jacque Surgenor, Westboro Elementary & Salisbury Composite High School

Michelle Uytterhagen, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High

Brian Vick, Brentwood Elementary

Sara Witholt, Heritage Hills Elementary & Woodbridge Farms Elementary

ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trina Boymook, Chair

Colleen Holowaychuk, Vice-Chair

Annette Hubick, Trustee

Don Irwin, Trustee

Jim Seutter, Trustee

ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sandra Stoddard, Associate Superintendent

Deneen Ziekle, ATA Local No. 28 President

Corrie Fletcher, Communications

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:28 p.m.

COSC ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Bowman called the election for the position of Secretary for the 2020-21 school year. There were no nominations for Secretary, and no one declared intent to seek the position. Jacque Surgenor volunteered to fill the role for the November meeting. The COSC Chair will call an election for the Secretary at the start of each COSC meeting until the position is filled.

AGENDA

COSC Chair Bowman called for additions or deletions to the agenda for Nov. 4, 2020.

MOTION | The agenda be adopted, as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COSC Chair Bowman called for confirmation of the Oct. 7, 2020 meeting minutes. An member requested an amendment. Members will ratify the minutes at the next COSC meeting in January.

Board Report

Board Chair Trina Boymook presented the Board report.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The French Immersion resources for out-of-school learning are starting to come in from Edmonton Public School Board.
- The Board of Trustees submitted a request to the province to cover the expense of moving four modular classroom units to SouthPointe School—two from École Campbelltown and two from Pine Street Elementary. The additional units will help address enrolment pressures at the school.
- To prepare for the 2021 municipal election, the Board approved amendments to bylaw 007/20: The Establishment of Wards and Electoral Subdivisions.
- The Board sent a letter to Education Minister Adriana LaGrange requesting the province holds the Division harmless this year. Because of COVID-19 and the decrease in enrolled students, the province's move to a weighted moving average will negatively impact EIPS.
- The Board continues to monitor its COVID-19 costs and projections.
- At the November Caucus meeting, the Board:
 - Reviewed the Junior High Honours survey results—completed by 1,410 individuals. The feedback will help guide administration's recommendation to the Board, coming forward at the December Board meeting.
 - Reviewed a draft report of the Sherwood Park Value Scope Session that took place in September. The final report and recommendation are expected next month at the November Board meeting.
- Currently, the Board is in the middle of department Result Reviews, and it looks forward to the upcoming school Results Reviews, later this month.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: Will the decision on the Junior High Honours program be made prior to registration next year?

Answer: Yes, it will come back to the Board and a decision made at the December Board meeting. The results were clear in terms of what families want. Time was built in for a second survey, which isn't needed.

ATA Report

ATA Local No. 28 President Deneen Zielke presented the ATA report.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Many schools have completed the first round of parent-teacher interviews. The feedback from teachers: While exhausted from modifying lessons, increased supervision and maintaining COVID-19 public-health protocols, they appreciate the tremendous support from families.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Questions: What has been the response from teachers on the different format of parent-teacher interviews?

Answer: Zielke responded, in her school, response was lower. But she's not sure about other schools. From a teacher perspective, they were efficient. She did miss having them in-person, which facilitates different discussions and enables her to share materials visually.

For Information

SURVEY: COSC MEETING TIMES – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

- The COSC meeting times survey results indicate a desire to start meetings at 6:30 p.m. The original start time of 7 p.m. was to facilitate travel. COSC members will revisit the meeting time when in-person meetings restart.

ASCA UPDATE – Krista Scott and Jacquie Surgenor, COSC members and ASCA Board directors

- There are lots of great resources on the [Alberta School Councils' Association](#) (ASCA) website.
- Meeting Mondays and Webinar Wednesdays are great opportunities to learn more about school councils and information relating to parents.
- A member asked a question about whether COSC members attended either Meeting Mondays or Webinar Wednesdays. The response was positive. One member mentioned despite having attended the school council purpose multiple times, she still learned new things. Another member mentioned the presentation on mental health was amazing.
- Krista Scott, a COSC member and ASCA director, reminded members to sign up for the [School Council Engagement Task Force](#), which gathers input from school councils on timely education matters to help inform the Board.
- The regular general meeting was held in October. The Board learned a lot about how to manage a virtual meeting. Comments included: It was overwhelming, exhausting, but interesting. The [advocacy resolution results](#) are available on the ASCA website.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: Since some resolutions were passed quickly with great support, could we vote on them as a group?

Answer: In 2019, ASCA amended the resolution process to include a pre-sort vote, which groups resolutions with strong support into an omnibus motion. Unfortunately, COVID-19 interrupted this process, and many school councils did not participate. The pre-sort vote also occurred more than six months ago, so ASCA felt the results should not be used this year. The regular process is expected to return in 2021.

Q: Which resolutions passed?

A: There were many resolutions passed, including the Board sponsored resolutions about diploma examination weighting—maintaining weightings at 30 per cent—and the emergent resolution about emergency funding for COVID-19 and other emergencies impacting schools. The Board felt strongly costs related to emergencies should not come out of the classroom and additional funding should be provided by the government to cover these additional expenses.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MENTORSHIP – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

- One of COSC's missions is to support school council chairs. Bowman heard about a program Edmonton Public Schools runs where they organize ASCA workshops at the beginning of the year to support school councils across the division. A member asked whether there was interest in organizing this for EIPS. Strong support was indicated.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: Would we have support from EIPS Central Services to organize these, and push out the messages to school leaders?

Answer: Sandra Stoddard replied EIPS would support this.

CAREGIVER SERIES UPDATE – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

- These are ongoing. Information was included in the COSC package. Response to these sessions is positive.

SAFFRON CYBER SECOND – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

- Saffron Centre is a Sexual Assault Centre in Sherwood Park and a valuable resource in the past. Two years ago, COSC partnered with Saffron to create and distribute monthly information inserts for school newsletters. COSC plans to reboot the program, starting in January 2021.

New Business

EIPS RESULTS REVIEW –Sandra Stoddard, EIPS Associate Superintendent

- EIPS is hosting the result reviews virtually this year. Principals can invite school council chairs, and if possible, extend the invitation to other school council families.
- The result reviews are an assurance mechanism for the Board to ensure directions taken at the school level align with the EIPS’ Four-Year Education Plan.
- Sandra Stoddard walked through EIPS results, pointing out some places in the data of interest to families.
- There’s no PAT data, as students didn’t write PATs in 2019-20.
- Diploma examination data is for the November and January writing of the diploma examinations since the April and June exams were cancelled.
- There are also results from the Accountability Pillar Survey, which asks all staff, students and parents of students in grades 4, 7 and 10 to complete.
- EIPS, as a Division, and each school individually, receives an in-depth results package. Parents are encouraged to ask the principals for a copy.
- The data shows five-year trends, which is very helpful. It allows you to see if a school is improving or declining. Clicking on the numbers in the digital report helps one dive deeper into the questions and data, which congregate to form that data point. For example, clicking on the result for Safe and Caring Schools shows the questions that make up the category. Within each question, an aggregated score is shown and a breakout score for staff, parents and students. When there is a misalignment between how each group answered, discussions about why are important. These are great conversations for the school council to have.
- On the summary sheet, green and blue colours are good indicators; red and yellow indicate an area of struggle or in need of improvement.
- EIPS and principals look at the data relative to previous year’s results, previous three-year average and Alberta’s results as a whole.
- EIPS has steadily improved its achievement data. Often, achievement results are compared from grades 6 to 9 to see if results are improving or declining—not only within a grade or subject, but also over time as students grow.
- Participation rates are also important. EIPS encourages all students to write, except if there is a significant impairment. It’s important to note any student who doesn’t write counts as a zero, which can skew results in schools with special education programs where students don’t write. There is another result that indicates averages of all students who wrote—and excludes the zeros for students who didn’t write—so it’s important to look at that data too.
- Stoddard mentioned, the more you know about the data, the better the conversation you can have around your school’s Education Plan.

COVID-19 UPDATE – Sandra Stoddard, EIPS Associate Superintendent

- Stoddard’s proud of EIPS for taking a more stringent stand than others, and that it’s not willing to sacrifice the safety of students and staff.
- As of the meeting date, there are 10 active cases in EIPS:
 - Four at Fort Saskatchewan High
 - Two at Mundare School
 - Three at Strathcona Christian Academy Secondary
 - One Brentwood Elementary
- Since the beginning of the school year, EIPS had 43 reported total cases. Of these, 33 are recovered.

- There are six schools on an outbreak status--two or more cases. Two of these end November 5 and a third on November 11.
 - Bruderheim: No active cases
 - Fort Saskatchewan High
 - Mundare School
 - Lakeland Ridge: No active cases
 - Salisbury Composite High: No active cases
 - Strathcona Christian Academy Secondary
- One school, Lakeland Ridge, is on the watch list—more than four cases—slated to end on November 5.
- Stoddard indicated EIPS knew there would be cases when the kids returned to school. Up to this point, there has been no in-school transmission. The priority is to keep students and staff safe from transmission. She mentioned there's the impression it's out of control, however, EIPS is doing well.
- There are 421 out-of-school students transitioning back to in-school learning, and 59 in-school learners transitioning to out-of-school learning.
- The major goal of EIPS is to keep students in school. Staff are working hard to keep them safe.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: When will the decision to not hold athletics be revisited?

Answer: EIPS is committed to reviewing this decision on an ongoing basis. Students are missing out on athletics, RAP opportunities and work experience. The Division knows these are important to students. EIPS is constantly meeting and reviewing the ever-changing guidelines. It's also piloting some things in small schools, such as opening libraries and change rooms.

COSC Sharing

STAYING INVOLVED – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

- Chair Bowman tabled the agenda topic because of a lack of time.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:36 P.M.

Next COSC Meeting

DATE: Jan. 6, 2021

TIME: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Virtual meeting, link available in January agenda