



# Meeting Minutes

Central Office Boardroom, Sherwood Park

Wednesday, April 8, 2015

7 p.m.

## In Attendance:

Jacquie Surgenor, Westboro Elementary  
**chair**

Sally Navis, Strathcona Christian Academy Secondary  
**co-vice-chair**

Lynn Coates, Ministik School  
**co-secretary**

Krista Scott, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High  
**co-secretary**

Chuck Clubine, Ministik School

Becky Galbraith, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High

Kathy Gunderson, Ardrossan Junior Senior High

Kaya Kasook, École Élémentaire Ardrossan  
Elementary

Corry-Lyn O'Hara, Fort Saskatchewan Elementary

Sandy Stor, Bev Facey Community High

Deb Barron, director, Innovative Learning

Trina Boymook, board chair

Corrie Fletcher Naylor, communications specialist

Lynne Kaiser, public representative and member of  
Alberta School Councils' Association

Mark Liguori, superintendent

Barb McNeill, trustee

Jim Seutter, trustee

Bill Shields, president, Alberta Teachers' Association  
Local

Lisa Weder, director, Student Transportation

Eileen Zimmerman, associate superintendent,  
Instructional Services

## Welcome

Jacquie Surgenor called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Round-table introductions were made.

## Additions to the Agenda

Jacquie Surgenor asked if there were any additions to the agenda. One addition was added under For Information: Web Gone Wild

**Motion:** To accept the April 8, 2015 agenda as amended.

Moved: Krista Scott

Seconded: Chuck Clubine

**Motion Carried**

## Approval of March 4, 2015 Minutes

Jacquie Surgenor asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the March meeting.

- No changes were made.

**Motion:** To accept the March 4, 2015 minutes as is.

Moved: Kaya Kasook

Seconded: Sally Navis

**Motion Carried**

## **Board Report: Presented by Trina Boymook, board chair**

- The boundary exemptions are now complete. Wye Elementary was the only school that had a lottery. All other exemptions were approved.
- The Board is currently reviewing volunteers to sit on the Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Board of Trustees Audit Committee. Appointments will be made at the April 23 Board of Trustees meeting.
- The trustees met with local MLAs—Cathy Olesen, Dave Quest, and Jacque Fenske. At the meeting the Board discussed: the provincial education budget, the impact the 2015 budget will have on EIPS, updates on capital projects, and Board autonomy.
- The trustees met on April 7, 2015 for a budget workshop. Highlights include:
  - Salary increases for teachers will be covered as promised. But the increase will not maintain the current status of the budget.
  - Forty per cent of a school board's budget is made up of what's called a "non-teaching" portion of the budget. It's this component of the budget that is being cut by three per cent. Half of this 40 per cent is made up of staffing cost, which teachers rely heavily on to support learning in the classroom.
  - EIPS is projecting a total shortfall of \$6.3 million for the 2015-2016 school year, which includes grant reductions (3.1 per cent), no funding for enrolment growth, restrictions on its reserves, decreases to transportation grants (1.35 per cent), and reductions to Inclusive Education (1.9 per cent).
  - This is a drastic drop and, without the use of reserves, has very real implications for students.
  - Historically, EIPS has relied on its reserves to maintain funding levels to its schools to cushion provincial funding reductions.
  - Current population projections estimate EIPS will see an additional 112 students enrolled next year, which is an \$800,000 loss, and hundreds more over the next three years. Under the provincial fiscal plan, this growth in student population is not, and will not, be funded.
- The Board will meet on April 9 to discuss budget assumptions.
- The Board will meet on April 14 to discuss allocations and fees for schools and departments.
- The Board is joining 18 other school boards across the province to ask the province to reconsider its decision to freeze reserves and no longer fund enrolment growth.
- April 12 to 18 is National Volunteer Appreciation Week. The Board gave a gift to all COSC members who attended as a thank you for their time.

## **ATA Report: Presented by Bill Shields, president, Alberta Teachers' Association Local No. 28**

- The ATA recently held its elections, Mark Ramsankar has filled the role of president.
- ATA elections were held through online voting. There was a disappointing 11% voter turnout.
- The ATA feels the 2015 budget will cause serious challenges for school boards.
- Shields extended an invitation to all COSC members to attend a Pint and Politics night at the Overtime Gastro Pub and Taphouse. The evening will focus on gaining a deeper understanding of where parties stand on important education issues.
- This is Shields's last year as the ATA Local president. COSC members wish Shields all of the best in the future.

## **New Business**

### **Student Transportation: Presented by Lisa Weder, director of Student Transportation**

- Student Transportation process:
  - All registration for busing is done by contacting Student Transportation.

- It's the responsibility of the parent to ensure their child is registered, especially Kindergarten students and new students.
- There is a direct link to Student Transportation through PowerSchool. Student Transportation also offers information through [MyStop](#).
- Parents will be mailed invoices at the end of April. Routes will be determined in May. Fees are due June 30.
- Students living less than 2.4 kilometres from their designated school are considered non-eligible students and a PayRide fee is applied. All eligible students are funded.
- Bus stops and routes:
  - Stops are determined based on distance, which varies by grades.
  - The maximum walking distance from house to bus stop for students in Kindergarten through Grade 6 is 250 metres.
  - The maximum walking distance from house to bus stop for students in grades 7 through 12 is 400 metres.
  - The more stops, the longer the bus ride.
  - First on, first off, is not used in rural areas because it's not efficient.
  - A direct bus is used more in rural areas and when there's a large distance to make up.
  - Transfer buses are used in heavily populated areas over a shorter distance.
  - Routes are determined based on the following: direct buses vs. transfer buses; proximity of school; population density; capacity and GPS; age; and student safety.
  - Special needs students may require special busing.
  - Budget affects the number of buses.
  - Double runs are the result of budgets, shortages of bus drivers, and efficiencies of the run.
- Bus seating:
  - Plans are usually created by Student Transportation and usually based on grade.
  - The bus driver modifies seating as required.
  - The maximum seat capacity is three per seat.
  - Large extra-curricular equipment, such as hockey gear, is not allowed on buses because it can't be safely secured.
- Bus complaints:
  - School administration is in charge of any punishments for actions on the buses.
  - Parents can contact the principal or Student Transportation with any issues.
  - All drivers go through S-endorsement training—a two-day course focused on student conduct.
  - A safety officer will investigate any reported incidents.

## **For Information**

### **ASCA Conference Proxy Voting: Presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC Chair**

- All proxy voting has to be submitted by April 21, 2015.

### **Web Gone Wild: Presented by Lynne Kaiser, ASCA member**

- Lynne Kaiser, on behalf of Crystal Hudson, invited all COSC members to Win Ferguson Elementary's upcoming Web Gone Wild learning session. The session will be led by Saffron at Win Ferguson Elementary in Fort Saskatchewan on Monday, April 27, 2015 at 6:45 p.m. Posters were handed out.

### **Communicating Student Learning: Presented by Deb Barron, director, Innovative Learning**

- Using a five-point numeric scoring scale, teachers will indicate student achievement in clear, parent-friendly categories in each subject.
- The current EPAL scale will no longer be used.
- The last round of feedback received 154 responses. Based on that feedback revisions were made to the wording in the report card.
- The new report card will apply to grades 1 through 6. Categories will be consistent throughout all grades. However, descriptors will differ between grades.
- Additionally, the reports card will allow teachers to report personalized information about each student in relation to learner attributes, areas of strength, areas for growth, and next steps.
- The CSL committee is looking for feedback on formatting areas for growth and next steps. Feedback is required by April 17, 2015 however feedback will still be accepted after this date.
- Eleven schools will be piloting the new report card in the 2015-2016 school year including: A.L. Horton Elementary; Brentwood Elementary; École Parc Élémentaire; École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary; Fort Saskatchewan Christian; Glen Allan Elementary; James Mowat Elementary; Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary; Westboro Elementary; Woodbridge Farms Elementary; and Wye Elementary.
- The full implementation of the report cards will take place in the 2016-2017 school year.
- A digital and paper copy will be sent to parents in the first year. After the first year, report cards will be sent out in a printer-friendly digital format, but parents can request a paper copy.
- EIPS is excited about its new method of communicating student learning, it's innovative, inclusive, and based on what stakeholders have indicated they want to see in a reporting system.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m. Krista Scott motioned to adjourn.

The next COSC meeting is Wednesday, May 6, 2015, at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Boardroom at Central Office in Sherwood Park.