



MEETING MINUTES

Elk Island Public Schools, in-person and virtual meeting

Oct. 4, 2023 | 6:30 p.m.

In Attendance

SCHOOL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

Chair: Kendra Roemer, Mills Haven Elementary

Vice-Chair: Dallas Kirtz, Fort Saskatchewan Elementary

Secretary: Chelsea Pretzlaw, Ardrossan Elementary

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Aileen Bozic, SCA Secondary
Amanda Shand, École Parc Élémentaire
Anne Wasylyshen, Ardrossan Junior Senior High
April Childs, Lakeland Ridge
Brian Vick, Brentwood Elementary
Charmyn Thompson, F.R. Haythorne Junior High
Chelsea Pretzlaw, Ardrossan Elementary
Christan Rasmussen, Westboro Elementary
Erin Hamilton, Glen Allan Elementary
Janice Mills, Pine Street Elementary
Justina Gibson, Fort Saskatchewan Christian
Kalyn Harrop, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High
Karli Butler, Davidson Creek Elementary
Kilby Ritchie, Wes Hosford Elementary
Krista Baum, Mills Haven Elementary
Krista Scott, Bev Facey Community High
Leanne Weiss, Woodbridge Farms Elementary
Lisa Harke, SCA Elementary
Lynn Walker, Davidson Creek Elementary
Melissa Manolescu, École Campbelltown
Sarah Witholt, Heritage Hills Elementary

Stephanie Stoddard, Fort Saskatchewan Elementary
Steven Kotschorek, Mills Haven Elementary
Tara Dumont, Vegreville Composite High
Tawnia McQueen, Wes Hosford Elementary

ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Cathy Allen, Chair
Susan Miller, Vice-Chair
Colleen Holowaychuk, Trustee
Don Irwin, Trustee
Jim Seutter, Trustee
Ralph Sorochnan, Trustee
Randy Footz, Trustee
Trina Boymook, Trustee

ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sandra Stoddard, Superintendent
Ryan Marshall, Associate Superintendent
Deneen Zielke, ATA Local No. 28 President
Karen Baranec, Communication Services
Emma Small, Communication Services

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:27 p.m.

COSC ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Past COSC Chair Lesley Williams was unable to attend the meeting, so COSC member Kendra Roemer called the election for the position of Chair for the 2023-24 school year. Kendra Roemer was acclaimed Chair. COSC Chair Roemer then called the election for the position of Vice-Chair and Secretary for the 2023-24 school year. Dallas Kirtz was acclaimed Vice-Chair and Chelsea Pretzlaw was acclaimed Secretary.

MOTION | To accept the positions the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary as acclaimed.

MOTION CARRIED

COSC PLANNING

For 2023-24, COSC meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month—October, November, January, February, March, April and May.

Members agreed to:

- Hold meetings in person and virtual—with a fully virtual option during inclement weather. COSC member Aileen Bozic volunteered to help run the virtual side of these hybrid meetings.
- Hold all meetings 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

AGENDA

COSC Chair Roemer called for additions or deletions to the agenda.

MOTION | The agenda be adopted, as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COSC Chair Roemer called for approval of the May 3, 2023, meeting minutes.

MOTION | The minutes be approved, as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

Board Report

Board Chair Cathy Allen presented the Board Report.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- On September 18 and 19, the Board of Trustees and Superintendent Sandra Stoddard took part in the annual Board retreat to discuss the Board's direction, priorities and work plan for the 2023-24 school year—all in alignment with the [EIPS Four-Year Education Plan](#). To identify common areas of action between the Government of Alberta and the Board's work plan, the trustees reviewed the mandate letters from four ministries: Education, Advanced Education, Children and Family Services, and Mental Health and Addiction. The trustees will create their advocacy plan over the next two months.
- On September 20, the Board met for the first time with Kyle Kasawski, a member of Alberta's legislative assembly for Sherwood Park. It was a productive meeting focused on shared concern areas, advocacy and ways to work together to ensure strong public education.
- On September 21, trustees attended the Alberta Student Transportation Advisory Council Town Hall Meeting. Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaides and other representatives from Alberta Education also attended. School bus owners, operators and school divisions shared information about the shortage of drivers and the increasing costs for bus repairs, insurance, purchases, and driver training and accreditation.
- On September 25, Board Chair Allen and Superintendent Stoddard attended the Alberta School Board Association's Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Student Award Ceremony to celebrate with one of the Division's students. Daniella Figliuzzi, a student at Next Step Sherwood Park, received one of nine awards presented at this ceremony.
- The Board is looking forward to the school visits scheduled for this year. Trustees will be visiting schools in Ardrossan, Bruderheim, Scotford Colony and Fort Saskatchewan.

- Albertans can share their thoughts on what they'd like students to learn in Alberta's social studies curriculum. Survey results will be used to inform the draft curriculum before it's released for further engagement. The [survey](#) will be open until October 16.

ATA Report

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

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Zielke hoped everyone was able to enjoy their summer.
- From August 14-18, the ATA held their annual summer conference.
 - Zielke and six other members of the Local attended several programs, including Association Instructors, Professional Development, Local Communications and Teacher Welfare. In addition to the program-specific training, they also attended a number of individual sessions.
 - Tariq Hadid, the Syrian refugee who created Peace by Chocolate and spoke at Teachers' Convention last year, was a keynote speaker at the conference. He addressed the contingent of 450 teachers, but he also met with ATA Local Presidents to discuss leadership and the power of the community. He was very inspirational, and his message influenced conversations throughout the week. Zielke stated she looks forward to bringing some of these ideas to fruition.
- Zielke thanked the Human Resources department at EIPS for allowing her to speak at the Off to a Good Start orientation. She valued the time to connect with new teachers.
- The Local has completed its executive strategic planning and looks forward to many initiatives from various committees. This year's Local executive includes:
 - Deneen Zielke – President
 - Dave McKinnon – Vice President and Local Political Engagement Officer
 - John Murphy – Treasurer
 - Maxine Holm – Local Communications Officer
 - Daniel Radersma – Secretary
 - Kim Zapesocki – Professional Development Committee Chair
 - Jennifer Fredeen – Teacher Welfare Committee Chair
 - Danielle Morin – Teacher Board Advisory Committee Chair
 - Ella Mikilecky – Women in Leadership Committee Chair
- On September 19, the Local held its first council meeting and welcomed staff representatives for the year. Council approved the formation of a Women in Leadership Committee. The Local is excited to facilitate these committee meetings for members to support one another, in addition to seminars, presentations and other professional learning opportunities. The Women in Leadership Committee will work collaboratively with the Professional Development Committee and others as the committee grows.
- On October 20, the Local will welcome new teachers to the profession at its local induction celebration at the University of Alberta Faculty Club. Board Chair Allen and Superintendent Stoddard will attend.

For Information

ASCA UPDATE – Kendra Roemer, COSC Chair

- Many resources and opportunities are available for school councils on the [ASCA website](#).
- COSC Chair Romer encouraged school councils to access their ASCA membership by sending an email to [Emma Small](#) that their school council wants a membership to ASCA for the 2023-24 school year. EIPS will take care of registering your school council and covering the costs.
- ASCA is also piloting a project called Walk Alongside. More details will be shared in the coming weeks.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: Could EIPS remove the barrier of schools having to request an ASCA membership and simply pay for each school in the Division to have one?

Answer: Board Chair Allen will investigate further.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: How do councils access the members-only ASCA resources?

Answer: Emma Small will include this information in the followup email.

CAREGIVER SERIES UPDATE – Kendra Roemer, COSC Chair

- The [October Caregiver Series](#) schedule is now available.
- Offered through Alberta Health Services, the sessions are informative and valuable.
- COSC Chair Roemer encouraged members to review the [October Caregiver Series](#) calendar.

COSC OPERATING PROCEDURES – Kendra Roemer, COSC Chair

- The [COSC Operating Procedures](#) will be updated as needed. COSC Chair Roemer requested members review the procedures and bring feedback to the November COSC meeting.
- Any changes will be discussed and approved at the meeting in November.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT GRANT – Kendra Roemer, COSC Chair

- Each school council will receive the \$500 [School Council Engagement Grant](#) from Alberta Education. There's no rollover from last year's grant. There are specific criteria on how the grant can be used.
- COSC will not be pooling grant funds this year.
- ASCA has a [web page](#) about the grant and can help answer any questions.
- In the October COSC meeting package, school councils were asked to complete a contact form for the grant by October 23. To administer the grant, the Division needs to collect contact information to send to Alberta Education.

New Business

EIPS THREE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT PLAN – Sandra Stoddard, EIPS Superintendent

- Before Superintendent Stoddard discussed the [EIPS Three-Year Engagement Plan](#), she spoke about how all EIPS staff were coming together for a divisionwide Professional Learning Day on October 6. Superintendent Stoddard shared an overview of the day, which included student and alumni speakers and performances.
- In terms of the EIPS Three-Year Engagement Plan, Superintendent Stoddard discussed the following:
 - Updates on engagements to date, including Brentwood Elementary and north Sherwood Park.
 - French Immersion engagement that started last year and continues this year. The Division wants to ensure robust programming and improve retention. Several boundaries have been adjusted at the elementary level. A report about French Immersion is coming to the next Board meeting.
 - For system programs, EIPS is looking at aligning with feeder schools.
 - Balancing senior high is the next step of the engagement plan.

NEW CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT TOOLS – Ryan Marshall, EIPS Associate Superintendent

- Associate Superintendent Ryan Marshall discussed [Partners 4 Science](#), which is funded in partnership with Dow Chemical.
- He provided an overview of what has rolled out already for the new curriculum, what will be rolled out in 2023-24, and what will roll out in years to come.
- He also discussed the tools the Division uses to assess students in literacy and numeracy.

COSC Sharing

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETINGS 2023-24 – Kendra Roemer, COSC Chair

- A member of Pine Street Elementary’s school council shared that the same six people show up to their meetings. They asked what other school councils are doing with their \$500 School Council Engagement Grant to increase parent engagement.
 - A member of Brentwood Elementary’s school council said they used the grant to access self-directed ASCA learning modules last year.
- A member of Davidson Creek Elementary’s school council changed meeting dates to not conflict with feeder schools. Parent engagement is not just attendees at school council, it includes other activities, events and relationships you have in the school community. Their school council also has a Facebook page.
- Other ways to increase engagement include:
 - School councils can have a section in their school’s newsletter.
 - Set up a school council table at meet-the-teacher and open house nights.
 - Keep introducing yourself and talking about what school council is and what it does at every opportunity.
 - Have school council elections and annual general meetings right after meet-the-teacher night.
 - Be at events the school is hosting, such as interviews or concerts.
- Idea sharing for future roundtables: Have a handful of schools share the list of activities they’re planning for the year.
- Agenda item suggestion: Highlight one Board advocacy focus area at each meeting. Can share this information with COSC to help school councils and all parents and caregivers to advocate for similar things at the same time.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:32 P.M.

Next COSC Meeting

DATE: Nov. 1, 2023

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

LOCATION: EIPS Central Services building, boardroom.