



MEETING MINUTES

Elk Island Public Schools, in-person and virtual meeting
May 1, 2024 | 6:30 p.m.

In Attendance

SCHOOL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

Chair: Kendra Roemer, Mills Haven Elementary

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Aileen Bozic, SCA Secondary
Amy Prenc-Perry, Clover Bar Junior High
Anne Wasylyshen, Ardrossan Junior Senior High
April Childs, Lakeland Ridge
Brian Vick, Brentwood Elementary
Charmyn Thompson, F.R. Haythorne Junior High
Christan Rasmussen, Westboro Elementary
Janice Mills, Pine Street Elementary
Jordana Feist, James Mowat Elementary
Justina Gibson, Fort Saskatchewan Christian
Kim Scott, Salisbury Composite High
Krista Scott, Bev Facey Community High
Leanne Weiss, Woodbridge Farms Elementary
Lisa Harke, SCA Elementary
Melissa Manolescu, École Campbelltown

Tawnia McQueen, Wes Hosford Elementary (Interim Secretary)
Tracey Nielsen, Clover Bar Junior High

ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Cathy Allen, Chair
Trina Boymook, Trustee

ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sandra Stoddard, Superintendent
Ryan Marshall, Associate Superintendent
Emma Small, Communication Services

GUEST SPEAKER

Jacque Surgenor Gaglione, EIPS Parent

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

COSC member April Childs provided the land acknowledgement.

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 April 3, 2024 meeting minutes.

MOTION | The minutes be approved, as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

Special Presentation

ASCA DIVISION SCHOOL COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT AWARD – Krista Scott, COSC member and Jacquie Surgenor Gaglione, EIPS parent

- Scott and Surgenor Gaglione presented EIPS senior administration with the Division School Council Engagement Award from the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA). The Division won the award at ASCA's annual conference banquet on April 27. They nominated EIPS near the beginning of the year.
- Scott and Surgenor Gaglione read their nomination letters, and Board Chair Cathy Allen, Superintendent Sandra Stoddard, and Associate Superintendent Ryan Marshall accepted the award on behalf of EIPS.
- Both Scott and Surgenor Gaglione stated that the Division's COSC is the oldest in Alberta and was started in the 1980s. It's continued to be parent-owned and supported by the Division. They noted EIPS' COSC allows authentic questions from parents, keeps families informed and has built trust between school communities and the Division. They're grateful to senior administration for the long-lasting partnership.
- Both gave examples of why the Division deserved the award. They discussed the engagements with families on the budget, fees and program changes, such as French Immersion. Scott and Surgenor Gaglione stated EIPS has gone above and beyond with video messages and data packages.
- Superintendent Stoddard thanked the people around the table and gave credit to the families across the Division, stating, "This is our award."
- COSC members redirected the focus back to the Division, recognizing all the work they do too.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Comment: We were proud to be from EIPS when we were at the ASCA Conference.

Comment: So many people around the table were noticed for their expertise and recognized during the ASCA Conference.

Comment: I thought that all school divisions had COSC, but when I mentioned COSC to someone at the conference they had no idea what that was. Shows what we have isn't the norm and is something special.

Board Report

Board Chair Allen presented the Board Report.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Board of Trustees participated in their Board Retreat from April 8-9, 2024. This was an opportunity to have discussions about future trends in public education for EIPS. The Board looked at research, data and written summaries regarding:
 - Inflation, interest rates and economic trends;
 - Housing availability in EIPS communities;
 - Cybersecurity;
 - Technology trends, including artificial intelligence;
 - Immigration targets of the federal government;
 - Geo-political landscape;
 - Hiring trends;
 - Equity, diversity and inclusion;
 - High demand skills, including critical thinking, data analysis, technological skills, communication and adaptability; and
 - Careers that will be in high demand and those that'll become obsolete.
- Board Chair Allen asked COSC members what trustees asked themselves on their retreat: what will the world look like for the graduating class of 2036—the current kindergarten students? How does EIPS prepare these students over the next 12 years to become citizens of the world?

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: Did you discuss [Bill 20: Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2024](#) at the retreat?

Answer: No.

Comment: Autonomy is very important to EIPS. We'll continue to stick to our [Four-Year Education Plan](#) and support EIPS students.

Comment: If sending emails to the provincial government, it's a great idea to copy the opposition in those communications.

ATA Report

ATA Local No. 28 President Deneen Zielke did not present a report.

For Information

CAREGIVER SERIES UPDATE – Kendra Roemer, COSC Chair

- The [May 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 [May Caregiver Series](#) calendar.

ASCA UPDATE – Kim Scott, COSC member

- To see the course options for educating school council representatives, see the [ASCA website](#).
- ASCA is hosting a golf tournament fundraiser—anyone can participate.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORTS: DUE JUNE 26 – Kendra Roemer, COSC Chair

- School Council Annual Reports are due on June 26. Reports are sent to the principal at your school. A report template is available in the [May COSC meeting package](#).

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: Not sure what the Board does with these reports and how the data is pulled, but would the Board consider a Google form format? Edmonton Public Schools (EPS) gathers the information from school councils in a Google document, so it's easier to organize the data and see patterns between the different school communities.

Answer: Confirmed with Communication Services that something like this may be possible.

Comment: Suggest the Board connect with EPS to get a copy of what they're doing.

Comment: Questions may be changing for this year as the Board feels the current sample will not gain the insight they're wanting from school councils. Stay tuned for more information and details.

DRAFT AP 538: BUILDING SECURITY AND DOOR LOCKING – Sandra Stoddard, EIPS Superintendent

- This year, the Division connected with school administration to discuss and consider how to implement door locking in schools.
- This is to keep students safe and the wrong people out—not because students aren't trusted.
- Communication will be key to ensure families and students understand the "why" and that they know when open- and closed-door hours will be.
- There'll be supervision during open door times to ensure unwanted visitors are not entering the school, or if they have, the school is aware and can take precautions.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: Will this include daycares in our schools being required to lock their doors too?

Answer: Yes, it will include any rented space.

Question: How will this be impacted in the case of a power outage?

Answer: We don't know but that's a great question. We'll investigate this.

Comment: Very important to share with the older students that this isn't because they aren't trusted.

Question: How will this work for sports as people will need to be able to get in and out?

Answer: This has been discussed and there'll be a plan for that.

Question: Who's paying for this? It shouldn't come out of the individual schools' budgets.

Answer: The Division paid for some cameras, door locking, fobs and keys. If the school wants more, it'll be for them to cover. Do not need a camera or access at every door.

COSC Sharing

ASCA CONFERENCE AND AGM EXPERIENCES – All COSC members

- COSC members felt they had respectful conversations at the ASCA Conference and AGM. All were proud to represent EIPS.
- Scott and Surgenor Gaglione ran an exercise at the conference. They asked school council representatives what their school parent engagement is like currently and what they hope it will look like five years from now. This is in preparation for ASCA's Walk Along Side initiative to create more family-centric schools across the province.
 - Data was collected through Google forms, and Surgenor Gaglione will share the information with the Board once it has been organized.
- There were valuable sessions held at the conference and AGM.
- Many EIPS COSC members shared tables, allowing them to make connections between each other. Superintendent Stoddard noticed this collaborative spirit had transferred to the boardroom.
- The keynote speaker Barbara Coloroso discussed bullying. She mentioned that a single malicious act should be considered bullying. These instances can have trauma attached to them. Teasing and bugging or one-time issues may not be bullying, but it could be. One act can have ongoing implications and is still bullying.
 - COSC members challenged EIPS to consider the wording of the policies and procedures regarding bullying and the message being shared with students.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: Does the Board get the information about advocacy resolutions that were passed? It'd be good insight to what parents are finding important. For example, playing YouTube videos during lunch to keep students quiet—parents have concerns about screen time.

Answer: Not directly from ASCA. However, we'll share this information with the Board when available.

Comment: The Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaides indicated that staffing was properly funded and the school divisions have what they need to be able to make decisions about wages regarding educational assistant pay and sustaining well-trained educational assistants. We as parents understand this is not necessarily correct.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT GRANT – All COSC members

- Tabled because of a lack of time.

OPEN FLOOR – All COSC members

- COSC members discussed ideas for the 2024-25 school year:
 - September Meet and Greet
 - Informal event for COSC members to build connections with each other.
 - Provide support and resources for new school council representatives and chairs to help them get started. Could be the beginning of a mentorship program.
 - October Organizational Meeting
 - Request principals come and stay for the training on the Role and Purpose of School Councils and what this looks like for their schools. Could do it as a joint session.
 - November Meeting
 - A session and group discussion on planning agendas for the year.

New Business

DRAFT SPRING EIPS BUDGET 2024-25: HIGHLIGHTS – Sandra Stoddard, EIPS Superintendent

- Because of time constraints, Superintendent Stoddard provided a brief summary of her presentation. She encouraged COSC members to review the [Budget Highlights Presentation](#) and watch the upcoming Board meeting on the [EIPS YouTube channel](#).
- She highlighted how EIPS focused on its priorities when creating the budget and decided to give as much money to the schools as possible now, using reserve funds wisely so they could have more time to plan.
- The draft budget focuses on curriculum, mental health, career pathways, equity and staff retention.
- It also focuses on challenges identified during the Assurance Review process, such as classroom complexity.
- The budget will allow for hiring more full-time educational assistants so they can access benefits.
- There's a surplus in transportation fees for EIPS. Families will receive a 40 per cent rebate back from their 2023-24 transportation fees they can put toward their 2024-25 fees.
 - There's a one-time payment going to the providers to help with their rising costs, such as retaining bus drivers. Providing good service for EIPS families remains important.
 - Remainder of the surplus is being used to improve and increase the video surveillance on buses to benefit safety.
 - There's an incentive for paying [2024-25 transportation fees](#) quickly as they increase after June 30, 2024. There's an option for a payment plan, and EIPS has removed the \$25 finance fee to make it easier for families to afford.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: What does the end of the provincial government's pilot project mean for Reset Rooms? It's been shared through Kudos that the Reset Room is the only reason some kids are able to make it through the day.

Answer: It's \$1.9 million to sustain the Reset Rooms so the focus is on counselling supports and professional development for teachers to assist students with regulation.

EIPS FOUR-YEAR EDUCATION PLAN – Sandra Stoddard, EIPS Superintendent

- The [Four-Year Education Plan](#) was covered in the [Budget Highlights Presentation](#).

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9 P.M.

Next COSC Meeting

DATE: Oct. 2, 2024

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

LOCATION: EIPS Central Services building, boardroom.