



Meeting Minutes

Central Office Boardroom, Sherwood Park

May 2, 2018

7 p.m.

In Attendance:

Chair: Jacquie Surgenor, Sherwood Heights Junior High & Westboro Elementary

Vice-Chair: Krista Scott, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High

School Council Members

Ken Allan, A.L. Horton Elementary

Jackie Anderson, Ardrossan Elementary

Michelle Beck, Wye Elementary

Michelle Dugan, Bev Facey Community High

Ginger Hassett-Koza, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High
Devon Marshall, Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary

Board and EIPS

Chair: Trina Boymook

Trustee: Skip Gordon

Superintendent: Mark Liguori

ATA President: Deneen Zielke

Communications Specialist: Corrie Fletcher Naylor

Welcome

Jacquie Surgenor, the COSC Chair, called the meeting to order at **7:02 p.m.** Roundtable introductions were completed with each person giving their name and school or position within Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS). Surgenor then extended a gratuitous thank you to the COSC liaison for the administration and support provided to COSC, such as helping with the agendas, minutes and co-ordinating presentations.

Additions to the Agenda

Surgenor asked if there were any additions to the **May 2, 2018** agenda.

- No additions were made.

Motion: To accept the **May 2, 2018** agenda as presented.

Moved: **Ginger Hassett-Koza**

Seconded: **Krista Scott**

Motion Carried

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

Trina Boymook presented the Board Report. Highlights include:

- The board approved amendments to [Policy 7, Board Operations](#); [Policy 16, Recruitment and Selection of Personnel](#); [Policy 17, Student Transportation Services](#); and [Policy 19, Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning and Working Environments](#).
- The province's Student Transportation survey is now open. The survey closes June 12, 2018.
- At the April 26 Board meeting, trustees approved the 2018-19 Budget Assumptions and Allocations and the 2018-19 Administration Fees—Student Transportation, Facility Services, Supports for Students, Partners 4 Science, and Alberta Non-Resident and International.
 - In terms of Student Transportation, fees are increasing by approximately five per cent, the early discount fee is being eliminated, and an alternate bus fee (\$125 per student) is being introduced to riders who require busing to or from a second location.

- May 7, is Driver Appreciation Day.
- May 8, EIPS is hosting its annual Long Service and Retirement Event.
- Chair Boymook extended a warm thank you to all COSC members for their commitment to EIPS and its schools throughout the year.

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

Deneen Zielke presented the ATA Report. Highlights include:

- On April 27, the ATA's Diversity, Equity and Human Rights (DEHR) Committee co-hosted a professional learning session. It included the screening of, *The Pass System*, a critically acclaimed film that explores the oppression of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people in Canada. The film is a powerful teaching tool for those who want to learn more about truth and reconciliation and aligns with the new Teacher Quality Standard. Following the screening, a roundtable discussion took place with the director of the film, Alex Williams, and Elders Wilson Bearhead and Theresa Strawberry. Zielke thanked Surgenor and Krista Scott for attending.
- The ATA is also taking part in the Edmonton Pride Parade on June 9. T-shirts are available for EIPS staff to purchase.
- The upcoming ATA AGM will include elections and details about the province's curriculum changes.

For Information

a) Alberta Education Survey – Student Transportation: presented by Krista Scott, COSC Vice-Chair

- Points to keep in mind when completing the survey:
 - You never get something for nothing; free busing means less money for something else.
 - The carbon tax is not government funded.
 - If you select a specific answer, consider what it will mean for everyone—for example in urban areas and in rural areas—communities with less than 10,000 people.
- Scott asked the Minister for a copy of the Student Transportation Survey to read before completing the online version. The copy she received is available at www.eips.ca/download/130840.
- The 2018 Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) Conference included three focus-group sessions around Student Transportation. The first focus group dealt mainly with the 2.4-kilometre distance requirement. The reason: It's what Alberta Education thought parents cared most about. People in the session asked for engagement on other points as well. By the third focus group the discussion was more broad.
 - Safety was also a big discussion topic. Ardrossan's current situation was brought up—it being located by the highway with no school zone. Wendy Boje, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Education, will investigate it more.

b) Cyber World: presented by Devon Marshall, COSC member

- On April 11, Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary school council hosted the Saffron Cyber World workshop.
- More than 240 people attended.

- Parents worked with the school councillor to come up with ways to let people know about the presentation. It was also done in a way to not overwhelm people about the subject matter.
- The school's Youth and Children's Pastor was in attendance and spoke. He laid a great foundation for the evening. One of the things he focused on was not shaming children when they open up and talk about what they've seen on the internet.
- Saffron did an excellent job and likely could have gone on longer.
- The school also created a [Cyber World Resource Package](#) for families—funded through the fundraising committee.
- The school also received \$1,000 in sponsorship money for Disney circles and resource books, which were used as giveaways and to increase attendance.
- Looking ahead, COSC members want to see school council groups work collaboratively when hosting the Cyber World presentation—sharing resources and time.
- Another possible Saffron and COSC initiative: supplying related information to schools to include in the monthly newsletter.
- Overall, COSC members said digital citizenship needs to be handled at the school level and home. One idea is to have an agreement from the schools for parents to sign and be held accountable for.

c) Locally Elected School Boards: presented by Trina Boymook, EIPS Board Chair and Krista Scott, COSC Vice-Chair

- The ASCA AGM package included a [questionnaire](#) about the impact of local school boards on student achievement.
- ASCA wants to know how parents, across Canada, feel about local school boards.
- There are three questions all with emphasis around student learning.
- EIPS school council groups are encouraged to have a discussion around locally elected school boards with their parents—use the [questionnaire](#) as a guide.
- After the discussion feedback can be sent to [Jacquie Surgenor](#). Once compiled, she'll send all the feedback to ASCA.
- When answering the questions, you may want to begin with No. 3.
- Things to keep in mind for the discussion:
 - locally elected school boards work for you. They are not appointed by the provincial government, which leads to a greater degree of accountability and passion, and stronger advocates for communities at the local level with local content.
 - New Brunswick abolished its school boards in the 1990s but the change was not well received. Since then District Education Councils, which fill a similar role but are unpaid, have taken their place.
 - Saskatchewan tried to abolish its locally elected school boards but the public would not stand for it.
 - There is no one-size-fits-all school system across the country, or even the province.
 - Locally elected boards serve the needs of each school community.
- Something to ponder: How would the conversation be different if you didn't have a locally elected board or trustee at a school council meeting to discuss issues pertinent to your school—report cards, nutrition, policies? And, how would this change your child's education?

FOR INFORMATION

a) Budget Presentation: presented by Mark Liguori, Superintendent

- The budget planning process takes in to account the Division's Three-Year Educational Plan. It's kept simple so the goals are attainable, achievable and lead to the desired outcomes.
- The Division's three priorities are:
 - to promote growth and success for all students;
 - to enhance high-quality learning and working environments; and
 - to enhance public education through effective engagement, partnerships and communication.
- In Alberta, education costs the province roughly \$280-million per day. For the 2018-19 school year, operating expenses are expected to be \$8.4 billion.
- EIPS will receive another \$25,000 for the school nutrition fund. The Classroom Improvement Fund (CIF) was removed. However, it may be reinstated in some form in the future. Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal funding is \$714,000 lower than last year.
- Budget assumptions are based on compensation, inflation and student enrolment—enrolment numbers are expected to stay the same as the 2017-18 school year. It's also assumed the dollars allocated by Alberta Education are spent where it's stated to go, though the funding doesn't always match the demands of the assumptions made.
- Its recommended school divisions maintain a reserve fund of two per cent of the operating budget. EIPS has a reserve of approximately 2.8 per cent, and a clear plan for how to use those reserves in the event of government claw backs (see www.eips.ca/download/130017; see Pg. 24).
- The Board will submit the draft 2018-19 budget to the government on May 30.

COSC SHARING

a) ASCA Conference Overview: presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC Chair

- Surgenor thanked the board, on behalf of all COSC members, for the opportunity to attend ASCA.
- First-time delegates thought it was a phenomenal experience. There was so much useful information on being part of a school council. COSC members who attended recommended the conference for anyone thinking about holding a position on school council. Additionally, more than one person from each school council should attend each year—funds for the second person could come from the school's fundraising council funds.
- The networking was great. So was having an opportunity to see what others in Alberta are doing.
- Breakout sessions were informative and delegates were impressed with the quality, balance and range of the sessions.
- It was stated and restated, how fortunate EIPS COSC members are to be in a school division where parental engagement is so important.
- The minister of education was in attendance and took questions.
- The mental health focus was great—we should remember that we all have mental health in some capacity.
- Phil McRea's session on technology, and his language around the topic, was amazing.
- The keynote speaker was Lynn Miller, a psychologist and faculty emeritus with the University of British Columbia. She spoke about the rise of anxiety and through the power of relationships it can be mitigated. Ways parents can support their children include empowering them through failure and making sure their actions mirror their words.

- COSC members suggested creating a succession-planning toolkit as a resource for incoming school council members.
- At the AGM, EIPS school council members were vocal, eloquent, to the point and represented the Division well.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

The next COSC meeting:

Date: Wednesday, **Oct. 3, 2018**

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

Location: Boardroom at EIPS Central Services in Sherwood Park