



MEETING MINUTES

Elk Island Public Schools, virtual meeting
Oct. 7, 2020 | 7 p.m.

In Attendance

SCHOOL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

Chair: Lesley Bowman, Pine Street Elementary

Vice-Chair: Devon Marshall, SCA Elementary

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ken Allen, A.L. Horton Elementary

Jackie Anderson, Ardrossan Elementary & Ardrossan
Junior Senior High

April Childs, Lakeland Ridge

Curtis Christopher, École Campbelltown

Jen Fraser, Salisbury Composite High

Nadine Fricke, James Mowat Elementary

Dawn Ferguson, Win Ferguson Elementary

Jeff Hanrahan, F.R. Haythorne Junior High

Cara Kern, Pine Street Elementary

Cassandra Levitt, Fort Saskatchewan Christian

Theresa MacKenzie, Westboro Elementary

Robyn Michaelchuk, Fort Saskatchewan Elementary

Rammi Pandher, Sherwood Heights Junior High

Melissa Pressé, Davidson Creek Elementary

Shelley Romanyshyn, Win Ferguson Elementary

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

Jacquie Surgenor, Salisbury Composite High &
Sherwood Heights Junior High

Michelle Uytterhagen, Fultonvale Elementary
Junior High

Brian Vick, Brentwood Elementary

Jessica Winship, Glen Allan 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

Mark Liguori, Superintendent

Sandra Stoddard, Associate Superintendent

Deneen Ziekle, ATA Local No. 28 President

Marcus Reed, Director of Specialized Supports

Ryan Marshall, Director Instructional Supports

Amit Mali, Principal Lamont High

Corrie Fletcher, Communications

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

COSC ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Past COSC Chair Jacquie Surgenor called the election for the positions of Chair for the 2020-21 school year. Lesley Bowman was acclaimed Chair.

Bowman called the election for the position of Vice-Chair and Secretary for the 2020-21 school year. Devon Marshall was acclaimed Vice-Chair. There were no nominations for secretary, and no one declared intent to seek the position. The COSC Chair will call an election for the Secretary at the start of each COSC meeting until the position is filled.

MOTION | To accept the nominations for the Chair and Vice-Chair as nominated.

MOTION CARRIED

COSC PLANNING

Members agreed to:

- Hold COSC meetings on the first Wednesday of the month—October, November, January, February, March, April and May.
- Hold meetings virtually, using the platform ZOOM, while COVID-19 restrictions are in place.
- Complete and submit a survey about COSC meeting times—6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. or 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

AGENDA

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

MOTION | The agenda be adopted, as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COSC Chair Bowman called for confirmation of the May 6, 2020 meeting minutes.

MOTION | The minutes be approved, as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

Board Report

Board Chair Trina Boymook presented the Board report.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Chair Boymook welcomed COSC members to another school year. She hopes every school council is represented at each monthly meeting. COSC is an effective way for school councils to stay connected with the Division. It also helps member understand what the Board does to ensure safe and positive learning environments for students.
- The [EIPS School Re-Entry Plan](#) is posted on [eips.ca](#). Information contained within the document is subject to change as additional information about COVID-19 becomes available. Any changes to the document are logged and posted online. Chair Boymook encourages members to refer to the plan regularly, and the Division's school re-entry [frequently asked questions](#) document.
- On July 16, the Board held a special meeting to approve the use of \$395,000 from the Division's unallocated reserves to cover costs related to COVID-19 for the first four months of the school year. Some of the purchases and expenses include personal protective equipment, extra custodial services, a new learning platform to support out-of-school learning and out-of-school learning resources developed by Edmonton Public Schools.
- The Board continues to work with Edmonton Public Schools to develop French Immersion out-of-school learning resources. It also allocated funds to support students who are working in small groups with French-speaking teachers.
- At the August 27 Board meeting, trustees approved:
 - a new policy, [Board Policy 26: School Dispute Resolution](#). The policy replaces Administrative Procedure 152: Dispute Resolution.
 - suspending section 4.4.3 of [Board Policy 7: Board Operations](#). The suspension relates to the number of virtual Board meetings trustees can attend during the 2020-21 school year. Until public-health

restrictions lift, trustees can attend meetings in-person or virtually. In addition, there are occupancy limits in place for the number of people who can access the Division's boardroom at any one time. As such, Board meetings are closed to the public until further notice. EIPS will livestream all public Board meetings on the [EIPS YouTube channel](#).

- On September 16, the Board held a special meeting to approve the following Fall budget adjustment:
 - The allocation of \$8.1 million for costs related to COVID-19, which includes \$6.1 million from the federal government. The province developed four broad categories to guide how school boards use the federal money:
 - staffing;
 - adapting learning spaces, personal protective equipment, cleaning and safety considerations for schools and buses;
 - supports for special needs students; and
 - online learning and teacher training.
 - The allocation of \$3 million to schools to address mental health, overextended classrooms and achievement gaps that resulted from the suspension of in-school classes.
- On September 15-16, trustees attended a Board Retreat. Topics discussed: the school re-entry plan, budget, value of public education and alternatives for a Sherwood Heights Junior High replacement school.
- In late September, the Board participated in a two-day value scoping session to determine an alternative to Sherwood Heights Junior High replacement school. The session included discussions about Sherwood Heights Junior High, Pine Street Elementary École Campbelltown, Salisbury Composite High and Clover Bar Junior High. School Council members from each school also participated in the value scope session.
- In October, the Board plans to conduct a parent survey to collect feedback about a Division Junior High Honours Alternative Program.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Q Why are out-of-school learners not being charged school fees by the Division?

A These students are registered with Elk Island Public School. As such, they receive funding from the province. Because they are not utilizing services within an EIPS facility, they aren't charged fees.

ATA Report

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- Zielke thanked the Board, senior administration and school administration for all the work done to ensure a safe school re-entry—including the additional investment in personal protective equipment.
- The Local's disappointed by the province's lack of funding to prepare for the school re-entry.
- Teachers also appreciate the Division's efforts and are pleased to be back in the classroom. However, the pandemic creates heightened anxiety, so they're doing their best to cope with the situation.
- On September 25-27, the Local hosted a strategic planning meeting. The focus: key objectives for the 2020-21 school year.
- On September 29, the Local hosted its Annual General Meeting. The meeting included the election of the executive's table officers and the passing of two motions. One, to support the suspension of after-school activities in EIPS schools during the pandemic. The other, to provide branded masks for employees and families.

For Information

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

- Krista Scott and Jacquie Surgenor reviewed key points from the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) website that may be of interest to school council representatives.
- Members are encouraged to review ASCA's [School Council Resource Manual](#), an online guide for school councils that includes live links to import documents, templates and checklists.
- ASCA has a School Council Engagement Task Force, which gives members the opportunity to offer feedback to the Board of Directors to help determine future advocacy issues. Members must register annually at albertaschoolcouncils.ca.
- ASCA's annual general meeting takes place virtually from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Oct. 17, 2020. The deadline to register is Oct. 13, 2020.
- Meeting Mondays and Webinar Wednesdays are still available. Both offer a wealth of information for representatives.
- All EIPS school councils can access ASCA with their questions or concerns.

CAREGIVER SERIES UPDATE – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

- The Caregiver Series is now offered entirely online.
- The sessions are free and geared toward parents, caregivers, teachers and community members who want to learn more about challenges impacting children and adolescents.
- The series offers excellent resources for mental health, anxiety and more.

OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

The [COSC Operational Procedures](#) are available on the EIPS website and the [COSC Facebook page](#).

New Business

SCHOOL RE-ENTRY – Superintendent Mark Liguori and Associate Superintendent Sandra Stoddard

- With guidance from both Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education, the province's school re-entry plan is based on Scenario 1, a return to in-school learning with near-normal conditions.
- EIPS' focus is the safety of all students and staff while providing a continuity of learning. Student mental health and well-being is also at the forefront.
- EIPS continues to provide resources to improve the online learning experience.
- For in-school learners, EIPS administration has met with all principals about the school re-entry plan.
- The plan is refined and updated as needed. It's a fluid and evolving plan.
- If the province directs school divisions to move to Scenario 2, a partial return to in-school classes, EIPS will likely shift to a Day 1 and Day 2 schedule. Doing this allows for uniformity. Day 1 would involve in-school lesson delivery, and Day 2 would involve working at home.
- The decision to move to Scenario 2 from Scenario 1, or Scenario 3 from Scenario 1, is determined by Alberta Education.
- EIPS' focus is to keep the situation under control with student and staff responsibility—proper hand hygiene, respecting symptoms, and staying home when ill.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Q If a student needs to quarantine, is there a process followed? Is this kept confidential?

A Yes, there is a procedure EIPS follows, and, as much as possible, the student's confidentiality is maintained.

Q If a child walks or rides a bike to school and then needs to go home due to arising symptoms while at school, does the parent need to come to pick up the student or can he or she go home the way they came?

- A Yes, the parent is notified their child needs to leave the school. The student can leave either with their emergency contact person, or by walking or biking home, if permitted by a parent or guardian.
- Q If a student needs to isolate for 10 to 14 days, who provides the schoolwork during that time?
- A If a single child from a class needs to isolate, the school provides the student with the missing work—including access to textbook information, if necessary. Each principal needs to co-ordinate with classroom teachers to ensure the continuity of learning for the single student. If an entire class isolates, the classroom teacher moves to the Brightspace platform and the class learns using Brightspace.
- Q Why is EIPS not offering school athletics programs? When will school athletics be considered?
- A EIPS principals have unanimously agreed to halt athletics until the current COVID-19 situation is under control for education. EIPS is not prepared to have some schools offer athletics while others do not. We are working together as one unified Division. Athletic programs will return when it's possible to offer them safely. Right now, the focus is to keep students in school and learning for as long as possible. We're only six weeks into the school year. The goal is to aim for the completion of the school year, with students in school until the end of June. Currently, EIPS is reviewing its policy for changerooms use before and after physical education instruction—the Division understands the hygiene component of the situation.
- Q What are my child's rights at school? He feels as though all of his rights aren't being recognized?
- A It's a great opportunity to re-visit the concept of rights and responsibilities. Every student has the right to an education. Every student has the responsibility to keep others safe while at school.
- Q Are students and teachers being encouraged to utilize outdoor spaces as much as possible? Is Central Services encouraging schools to do this?
- A Using outdoor space is left up to each school. The Division encourages schools to be creative in their delivery of outdoor learning. And, it encourages using outdoor space, whenever possible.
- Q In junior high and senior high, what classes isolate? Only the homeroom class? Or, elective classes too?
- A It depends. The school determines who is a closed contact to a confirmed COVID-19 case. If a student shared a space with the confirmed case for more than 15 minutes, then they're considered a close contact. So, it can be the homeroom class and option classes.
- Q How can we make Brightspace a more effective learning tool? It doesn't appear like an engaging platform, particularly for elementary learners?
- A EIPS continues to add resources to improve the online learning experience. If the province decides to move to Scenario 3, Brightspace allows for a more productive and interactive learning environment.

COSC Sharing

PURPOSE OF COSC – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

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

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:20 P.M.

Next COSC Meeting

DATE: Nov. 4, 2020

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

LOCATION: Virtual meeting, link available in November agenda