



MEETING MINUTES

Elk Island Public Schools, virtual meeting

Jan. 12, 2022 | 6:30 p.m.

In Attendance

SCHOOL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

Chair: Lesley Bowman, Pine Street Elementary

Vice-Chair: Devon Marshall, SCA Elementary

Secretary: Michelle Uytterhagen, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ken Allan, A.L. Horton Elementary

Jackie Anderson, Ardrossan Junior Senior High

Heather Bayne, Ardrossan Junior Senior High

Aileen Bozic, SCA Secondary

April Childs, Lakeland Ridge

Nadine Fricke, James Mowat Elementary

Cara Kern, Pine Street Elementary

Kimberly Scott, Westboro Elementary

Krista Scott, Bev Facey Community High, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High

Sheena Singleton, Sherwood Heights Junior High

Jacquie Surgenor, Salisbury Composite High, Sherwood Heights Junior High

Brian Vick, Brentwood Elementary

Sara Witholt, Heritage Hills Elementary

Caitlyn Zabrick, Fort Saskatchewan Elementary

ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trina Boymook, Chair

Colleen Holowaychuk, Vice-Chair

Cathy Allen, Trustee

Randy Footz, Trustee

Don Irwin, Trustee

Susan Miller, Trustee

Jim Seutter, Trustee

Jaqueline Shotbolt, Trustee

Ralph Sorochan, Trustee

ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mark Liguori, Superintendent

Deneen Ziekle, ATA Local No. 28 President

Corrie Fletcher, Communications

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 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 approval of the Nov. 3, 2021 meeting minutes.

MOTION | The minutes be approved, as circulated.

Motion CARRIED

Board Report

Board Chair Trina Boymook presented the Board report.

RECENT EVENTS

- Throughout November, trustees took part in the EIPS Assurance Reviews. Chair Boymook thanked the school council representatives who participated.
- On December 5-6, trustees took part in a Board retreat to discuss the Board's direction, priorities for the 2021-25 term and work plan for the 2021-22 school year. A third day is planned for January 13.
- Recently, the Division updated its [EIPS Operation Guidelines 2021-22](#). The most up-to-date version is available online, along with additional information for families.
- On January 6, the Division launched its inaugural Year in Review 2020-21: Stakeholder Confidence Survey. The survey assesses the community's confidence in the Division and its strategic direction. The Board will use the results to help inform the Division's key priorities, goals and outcomes, resource allocations and supports. The survey closes on January 18.
- On January 17, the Alberta School Boards Association's hosting its fourth curriculum engagement session, which Chair Boymook looks forward to.
- On February 1, kindergarten registration and the returning student registration process open. EIPS families are asked to confirm their child's enrolment in a school for the upcoming year by completing the online Returning Student Registration Form—available by logging in to the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). Using the form, families can indicate the school their child plans to attend and apply to attend a non-designated school, if applicable. Requests to attend a non-designated school must be completed during the returning student registration process to be considered for the next school year. Schools with [closed boundaries](#) in the 2022-23 school year:
 - Ardrossan Junior Senior High;
 - Davidson Creek Elementary;
 - F.R. Haythorne Junior High;
 - James Mowatt Elementary;
 - Sherwood Heights Junior High; and
 - SouthPointe School.
- At the January 20 Board meeting, trustees:
 - will finalize the EIPS Division Calendar for the 2022-23 school year—the Division conducted a survey about the calendar December, which received 2,170 survey responses, and Chair Boymook thanked all those who completed the survey;
 - will set the school fee parameters for the upcoming year; and
 - Trustees will consider a budget reallocation.

K-6 CURRICULUM

On December 13, a school board chairs meeting was held with Education Minister Adriana LaGrange to receive added details of the revised kindergarten to Grade 6 curriculum implementation. The Board's pleased the province is only implementing three subjects instead of all subject areas at the same time. It's equally pleased the Minister's open to a staggered implementation of the three subjects moving forward and that continued work will take place within the three subject areas to ensure it's age and developmentally appropriate as the province moves toward finalizing the curriculum. Following the meeting, the Board sent a letter to the Minister noting its appreciation. It also restated what needs addressing before implementation and the preference for a phased-in approach for implementing language arts and mathematics.

EXTENDED CHRISTMAS BREAK

Multiple school board chairs meetings were held with the Minister of Education following the province's announcement to extend Christmas Break. The meetings were held on December 31, and January 5 and 6, which allowed school boards to better understand the supports provided by the province, express concerns and offer a picture of each Division's local context to best prepare for January 10. The EIPS Board appreciates

having access to the Assistant Chief Medical Officer and the Assistant Deputy Minister of Health on January 5. Both individuals answered health-related questions about the provincially supplied medical-grade masks and changes to isolation protocols.

ATA Report

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- School boards provincewide are experiencing serious teacher shortages and student absences related to illness. While teachers are doing their best, time will tell the impact of the fifth wave of COVID-19 and Omicron variant.
- The Local's pleased the province decided to change and delay the roll-out of the new draft kindergarten to Grade 6 curriculum. However, it still has concerns with curriculum content and implementation, including available resources, assessment documentation and appointments for the Advisory Committee—it's critical teachers have a seat at the table as they are curriculum experts.
- The province recently launched a new e-tutoring hub for students in kindergarten to Grade 9. Unfortunately, the site is substandard, and the lesson objectives don't align with grade outcomes.

For Information

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

- The Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) didn't receive its provincial grant.
- Instead, it was offered a \$15,000 project-specific grant—only available to ASCA for a specific project.
- The ASCA Board of Directors made the difficult decision to transition the way ASCA operates—most staff were laid off.
- Currently, ASCA's transitioning to a new model and in discussions about next year's budget.
- The association still provides the services for a fee format—the Board will review the cost of this next year.
- The 2022 ASCA Conference will be a scaled-down version—in-person only. ASCA also hopes to offer a hybrid model of the annual general meeting. Both will take place the third week of April.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: Where are we with funding today compared to two years ago?

Answer: Grants from the government dropped from \$654,000 to \$170,000 last year and to \$0 this year.

CAREGIVER SERIES UPDATE – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

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

New Business

COVID-19 UPDATE – Mark Liguori, EIPS Superintendent

- Superintendent Mark Liguori provided a COVID-19 update.
- He emphasized maintaining continuity for students.
- The [EIPS Operations Guidelines 2021-22](#) were modified given the extended Christmas Break to ensure the Division was fully prepared for a return on January 10. There was a delay in releasing the updated guidelines as the Division was waiting for input from the province. Superintendent Liguori expressed the importance of all staff and students maintaining good hand hygiene, wearing masks, and staying away from school if they feel ill or test positive for COVID-19.
- The Division received the shipment of medical-grade masks and at-home rapid test kits late this afternoon. It will distribute these to schools later in the week.

- Superintendent Liguori also took full responsibility for decisions made about suspending athletics—the Division wants to see the absence trends first, for both staff and students, in the first week. He said absences for both staff and students are trending up, but the number is not staggering.
- Superintendent Liguori also reiterated it's prepared if the Division needs to shift to online.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: Are you revisiting the trends next week regarding illness and absences in schools, and will EIPS possibly alter the restrictions on clubs and athletics?

Answer: On Monday, we will take a look at numbers to make a determination on participation levels for students—practice, league play or nothing.

Q: What are the parents doing who aren't sending their kids to school? Are teachers sending work home?

A: Some are using Brightspace. Some have enough resources at home. Some students are just staying at home preparing for exams—not diplomas as they're cancelled.

Q: Have there been any teachers who have quit their jobs because of not being comfortable in the working environment?

A: Not to my knowledge, that would go through Human Resources. Some have chosen to take a leave.

ANNUAL EDUCATION RESULTS REPORT 2020-21 – Mark Liguori, EIPS Superintendent

- Superintendent Liguori reviewed the [EIPS Annual Education Results Report \(AERR\) 2020-21](#) and [AERR Overview 2020-2021](#).
- The *Annual Education Results Report 2020-21* outlines the Division's Four-Year Education Plan, opportunities for growth and how the Division's supporting students. The report incorporates feedback from each of its school's education plans, identifies EIPS' key priorities and goals, highlights data from the Alberta Education Assurance survey and details strategies to enhance learning going forward.
- EIPS continues to do an outstanding job. Superintendent Liguori acknowledges there's room for improvement.
- He also reviewed the strategies for each of the priorities and goals under the "Priority Strategy for Education Plan" and some of the initiatives the Division has done to further help meet the goals.
- Lastly, he reviewed the Alberta Education Assurance Measures Summary—the data presented compares EIPS to the province.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: I am curious what strategies and initiatives the Board's looking at to increase parental involvement as it's at the intermediate level?

Answer: Surveys, COSC, continue to inform families about initiatives and events taking place throughout the division and professional learning sessions.

Q: What sort of assessments has Supports for Students been able to do for those grades that have been missing PATs and diploma examinations? EYE-TA is definitely a great assessment for early learners, but in terms of older grade students, are there any other assessments other than Star 360 or MIPI? Does EIPS have any assessments to replace or replicate data missing from the PATs and diplomas?

A: EIPS uses the Star 360 data, MIPI data, and the math department has developed evaluations and exams that are used across the Division.

YEAR IN REVIEW SURVEY 2020-21 – Mark Liguori, EIPS Superintendent

- The due date to complete the Year in Review Survey is January 18.

- The survey provides an opportunity for families to respond on how they feel about what is being asked. The survey gives families opportunities to make informed comments and answers by providing links to direct information.
- Board Chair Boymook added this is the Board’s first attempt at this type of survey. She asked for feedback on how it can improve the survey next year—the Board appreciates any input from the group. To provide feedback, email Chair Boymook directly.

SCHOOL COUNCIL GRANT – Mark Liguori, EIPS Superintendent

- Each school council has the potential to receive \$500 from the province.
- It’s problematic to distribute the money to school councils as some do not have a bank account.
- There’s a letter included in the [January COSC meeting package](#) that explains the process school councils need to do to access the money.
- A [form](#) needs to be completed and submitted for approval. Once approved, EIPS will pay the bill on the school council’s behalf. The sooner the form’s submitted, the better.
- Leslie Bowman reviewed a recommendation speaker package, put together by Bev Facey Community High’s school council chair, Karen Tomnuk—thank you to Tomnuk for the research and putting together recommendations for potential speakers and presentations.
- There’s an opportunity to pool money together to collaborate on the initiatives Tomnuk researched.
- If a school council pools the grant, any parent can attend.
- The grant money needs to be spent in the 2021-22 school year. Otherwise, the funds are returned to the province.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: Will there be feedback on the logistical challenges of distributing or administering this grant sent to the Minister of Education?

Answer: Board Chair Boymook said feedback can be provided after the Division finishes working through the process. Waiting until after allows the Board to provide concrete information to the Minister of Education. Superintendent Liguori added EIPS did express the Division’s concern about the grant to the Deputy Minister.

Q: Can we donate whatever amount of the grant we want to ASCA?

A: No. You can’t donate the grant money directly to ASCA. You can use the grant money to pay for services from ASCA.

COSC Sharing

POSSIBLE WAYS TO USE THE SCHOOL COUNCIL GRANT – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

- The topic was discussed during the School Council Grant section of “New Business.”

ASSURANCE REVIEW EXPERIENCES – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

- The agenda topic was tabled because of a lack of time.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:38 P.M.

Next COSC Meeting

DATE: Feb. 2, 2022

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

LOCATION: Virtual meeting, link available in the February agenda