



# MEETING MINUTES

Elk Island Public Schools, virtual meeting  
March 2, 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

Jacque Surgenor, Salisbury Composite High,  
Sherwood Heights Junior High  
Brian Vick, Brentwood Elementary  
Sara Witholt, Heritage Hills Elementary

### SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ken Allan, A.L. Horton Elementary  
Jackie Anderson, Ardrossan Junior Senior High  
Heather Bayne, Ardrossan Junior Senior High  
Karry Biri, Westboro Elementary  
Aileen Bozic, SCA Secondary  
April Childs, Lakeland Ridge  
Maria Dytiuk, Mundare School  
Lori Lehman, Woodbridge Farms Elementary  
Jami McLaren, Ardrossan Elementary  
Tracey Neilson, Clover Bar Junior High  
Kimberly Scott, Westboro Elementary  
Krista Scott, Bev Facey Community High, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High

### ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trina Boymook, 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  
Sandra Stoddard, Associate Superintendent  
Deneen Ziekle, ATA Local No. 28 President  
Corrie Fletcher, Communications

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 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 Feb. 2, 2022 meeting minutes.

MOTION | The minutes be approved, as circulated.

*Motion CARRIED*

# Board Report

Board Chair Trina Boymook presented the Board report.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- At the February Board Meeting, trustees approved sponsoring the registration fees for school council members to take part in the 2022 Albert School Councils' Association (ASCA) Conference and Annual General Meeting on April 22-24. The Board will fund the cost of one registration fee per EIPS school—up to a maximum of \$5,000. EIPS will send registration information in the followup email.
- On February 7, Chair Boymook met with Strathcona County Mayor Rod Frank and Darrell Reid, the CAO of Strathcona County. Topics discussed: future school sites, Sherwood Heights Junior High, Division facilities within Sherwood Park, and priorities and goals for the county and Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS).
- On February 16, Chair Boymook met with Jordan Walker, the member of the legislative assembly of Alberta for Sherwood Park. The two discussed Sherwood Heights Junior High, the Division's experience dealing with COVID-19 and EIPS' recovery plan. Tomorrow, she meets with Nate Glubish, the Minister of Service Alberta and member of the legislative assembly of Alberta for Strathcona-Sherwood Park, to discuss the same topics.
- On February 23, Chair Boymook and Trustee Randy Footz attended the Vegreville and District Chamber of Commerce annual general meeting. The highlight: meeting Chris Leggett, the new Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Vegreville, and learning more about the town's long-term strategic plan. The Board meets with Vegreville's council in May.
- Throughout February, Chair Boymook took part in meetings with Adriana LaGrange, the Minister of Education. The meetings included school board chairs and superintendents from across the province and offered a high-level overview of the province's education budget for the next school year and changes to COVID-19 protocols for schools.
  - Overall, the province's education budget has a modest increase of 1.7 per cent.
  - The budget announcement included dollar amounts for a three-year period, which isn't evenly divided.
  - The province hasn't released the funding manual. So, little is known at this time.
  - It appears there is funding for the new curriculum implementation, student well-being and student transportation.
  - The Board hopes to have more information for the next COSC meeting.
- Throughout March and April, several budget working sessions are planned for trustees. EIPS must submit the 2022-23 spring budget to Alberta Education by May 31.
- The province moved to Phase 2 of its lifting of public-health restrictions on March 1. As such, the EIPS Boardroom will reopen to the public for Board meetings. The next Board meeting takes place on March 17. Meetings will no longer be livestreamed.

# ATA Report

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

## HIGHLIGHTS

- On February 26, the province announced its Budget 2022. Many teachers are concerned:
  - redirecting funding to charter schools and homeschooling initiatives, will undermine the public education system; and
  - with such a significant amount of funding directed to charter schools and homeschooling initiatives, it negatively impacts supports and services available in the public education system.
- On March 11-12, the ATA will host a political engagement session. Keynote speakers include former Calgary mayor, Naheed Nenshi; Todd Hirsh, the Vice-President and Chief Economist at ATB Financial; and Janet Brown, a reporter and pollster.
- Zielke also wished everyone an enjoyable and relaxing upcoming spring break.

## For Information

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

- The ASCA School Council Conference is taking place virtually on April 22-23.
- The annual general meeting takes place on April 24.
- Krista Scott reviewed the lineup of keynote speakers and highlighted the breakout sessions—these are also open to those not attending the conference, for a fee.
- For more information visit the Alberts School Councils' Association website: [Annual Conference](#) and [Annual General Meeting](#).
- Scott also thanked the Board for sponsoring the registration fees for school council members to take part in the conference.

**ASCA REGISTRATION AND PROXY VOTE** – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

- The March COSC meeting package includes the [EIPS-ASCA registration form](#) and [proxy vote form](#).
- Complete the enclosed registration form to take advantage of the Board's offer to cover conference fees. Once complete, submit the form to [Carol Langford-Pickering](#).
- If you can't attend the AGM and still want to vote on the resolutions and election for your school council complete [the proxy vote form](#). Someone attending from EIPS can vote for you. The proxy vote form is also included in the March COSC meeting package.
- The deadline to submit the proxy vote form is April 15.

**CAREGIVER SERIES UPDATE** – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

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

**SCHOOL COUNCIL GRANT** – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

- In total, 14 schools have allocated their school council grant funding to a speaker series.
- With 14, it's enough money to book Jody Carrington—tentatively booked as a virtual session on March 22 at 6 p.m.
- Bowman asked all members to share the information with their school councils and school communities.
- Carrington needs to know the approximate number of people attending. Bowman asked members to let her know rough estimates as soon as possible.
- The third speaker presentation is by ASCA and focuses on the role of school councils and the province's Assurance Framework. It takes place on April 6 during the COSC meeting.
- Bowman thanked all school councils that chose to allocate funds to the speaker-series initiative.

### COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

**Question:** Will there be an invite to send out to our school communities before then? How can we know potential attendance if parents don't know what they'll be attending?

**Answer:** We're working to get more information out soon.

**Q:** Can you get promotional materials directly from Jody Carrington to share?

**A:** Leslie will check with Carrington.

## New Business

**COVID-19 UPDATE** – Mark Liguori, EIPS Superintendent

- The province moved to Phase 2 of the lifting of public-health restrictions on March 1.
- As a result, a lot of the school health measures are now lifted.

- The reason why masking didn't continue is because the province is the adjudicator on whether masking can continue or not—it's the province that directs masking currently. In February, the province indicated students didn't have to mask anymore.
- EIPS continues with enhanced cleaning, hand hygiene and being as safe as possible with students.
- The only mask requirement is if someone tests positive—they still need to wear a mask as outlined in the provincial guidelines.
- EIPS will continue to monitor student and staff absenteeism to ensure everything is trending in the right direction—EIPS' focus is ensuring schools remain open.
- The April COSC meeting will occur using a hybrid approach—in-person and virtually through Zoom.

#### COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

**Comment:** I do hope these meetings will also be available virtually, even in the future, to make attending more feasible for members who live in rural areas or outside Sherwood Park.

**Question:** Do you need to register in advance before the in-person COSC meeting?

**Answer:** Yes, members can register in advance. Corrie Fletcher will send detail in the followup email.

#### **DRAFT FOUR-YEAR EDUCATION PLAN** – Trina Boymook, EIPS Board Chair, and Sandra Stoddard, EIPS Associate Superintendent

- Part of the process of developing the Draft Four-Year Education Plan was surveying staff, students, families, and stakeholders in spring 2021—trustees reviewed more than 336 pages of responses.
- As a result of the feedback, the Board drafted a new mission statement and tweaked the priorities.
- The mission statement is shorter and more memorable.
- Belief statements replaced “values.”
- For the draft priorities, goals and outcomes:
  - The Board made changes to the goals and added new or altered outcomes.
  - The changes made were based on feedback from the survey conducted in spring 2021.
  - For the most part, the changes make the goals and outcomes more specific or cast a wider net to ensure all students benefit—in terms of how they learn and where they learn.
- Chair Boymook asked for feedback from COSC members—specifically about Priority 3, Goal 1. The goal now references, “Caregiver Engagement,” instead of “Parental Engagement.” Members agreed caregiver is a positive change that reflects different family structures.
- Sandra Stoddard added the Division is currently working on the performance measures and their key priority strategies to accompany the priorities, goals and outcomes. The purpose: To develop a rigorous evaluation plan to determine how the Division's meeting the outcomes listed.
- Once finalized and approved, the plan is sent to Alberta Education for review.
- Chair Boymook thanked COSC members for their time and feedback and all those who completed the survey to help develop the new Four-Year Education Plan.

#### QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

**Question:** Will the plan be presented at school council tables by trustees or only presented at COSC?

**Answer:** It's up to each trustee if they want to share the plan. The changes won't be approved until later this spring. If trustees want to discuss the plan with their school council, it should be a separate agenda item versus being presented under the Trustee Report.

**Q:** Will there be a focus on developing student writing and reading using traditional paper?

**A:** The topic was raised in the feedback. Essentially, it falls under foundational skills. That's one of the reasons the Board broadened the literacy and numeracy goal and outcome—Priority 1, Goal 1.

### **ALBERTA EDUCATION'S CONTACT REQUEST** – Krista Scott, COSC member

- Earlier today, the Division sent an email to all EIPS school council chairs, on behalf of Alberta Education.
- The email asked chairs to provide their emails to the province.
- Alberta Education wants the information to communicate to chairs. Responses are due March 9.
- Some members feel the deadline is too soon and doesn't give chairs time to discuss the ramifications at their next school council meeting—most meetings take place later in the month.
- Channels already exist for school councils to receive information and announcements through the ASCA, the Division and Board.
- Bowman opened the floor for comments and questions.
  - Some people did not receive the email.
  - Some people opened and questioned why Alberta Education needed the email addresses.
  - Some people feel information from the province should go through the proper channels.

### **ASCA RESOLUTIONS** – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

- The topic was tabled, because of time, for the next meeting.

## **COSC Sharing**

### **SHARE THE POSITIVE WORK HAPPENING IN YOUR SCHOOL** – Devon Marshall, COSC Vice-Chair

Members discussed some of the positive work happening in schools. Comments included:

- *Sherwood Heights Junior High* – The school council created a Reset Room, which is a safe place for students to go if they need some time, a mental break or someone to go talk to. Currently, the school council is reaching out to families to find ways to further contribute to the room.
- *Salisbury Composite High* – The school council arranged for a teacher to attend a meeting to discuss what they're currently teaching students—it was pretty cool. There was also a yoga teacher who walked members through chair yoga and breathing exercises.
- *Bev Facey Community High* – The school council invited students to give a report at a meeting. The students are ambassadors for their options programs and presented on the different programs Bev Facey offers. Bev Facey's school council found hearing about how offering strong options helps with high school student retention and completion.
- *Fultonvale Elementary Junior High* – The school council launched a staff recognition initiative. So far, it's received 13 submissions—a similar initiative will launch at Bev Facey Community High soon.
- *Ardrossan Junior Senior High* – The school council launched a staff kudos initiative, after hearing about a similar program presented by Jacquie Surgenor at a previous COSC meeting. It has gone over SO WELL! The staff love receiving the uplifting messages from parents and students. And, as the chair, Jackie Anderson, is pleased to pass the messages along. As well, the Principal shared it's helped boost staff morale and overall, is well-received.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:31 P.M.

## **Next COSC Meeting**

**DATE:** April 6, 2022

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

**LOCATION:** EIPS Central Services building, boardroom. To join virtually meeting, see the link available in the April agenda