



MEETING MINUTES

Elk Island Public Schools, in-person and virtual meeting
April 6, 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
Deniene Zaseybida, Vegreville Composite High

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jackie Anderson, Ardrossan Junior Senior High
Aileen Bozic, SCA Secondary
April Childs, Lakeland Ridge
Karen Green, Davidson Creek Elementary
Cara Kern, Pine Street Elementary
Natalie Manuel, Fort Saskatchewan Elementary
Tracey Neilson, Clover Bar Junior High
Kimberly Scott, Westboro Elementary
Krista Scott, Bev Facey Community High, Fultondale Elementary Junior High
Amanda Shand, École Parc Élémentaire

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
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 6:33 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 March 2, 2022 meeting minutes.

MOTION | The minutes be approved, as circulated.

Motion CARRIED

Board Report

Board Chair Trina Boymook presented the Board report.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Throughout March, trustees took part in budget working sessions. More are scheduled throughout April. EIPS will submit a spring budget to Alberta Education by May 31.
- On March 3, Chair Boymook met with Nate Glubish, the Minister of Service Alberta and member of the legislative assembly of Alberta for Strathcona-Sherwood Park. The two discussed the Division's experience dealing with COVID-19, EIPS' recovery plan and the design phase for a new K-9 replacement school in Sherwood Park—replacing Sherwood Heights Junior High and École Campbelltown.
- On March 11, Chair Boymook met with Jordan Walker, the member of the legislative assembly of Alberta for Sherwood Park. The two discussed the province's recent announcement to fund the design work for a K-9 replacement school in Sherwood Park. He also invited Chair Boymook and school council chairs from École Campbelltown, Pine Street Elementary and Sherwood Heights Junior High to attend his Member Statement in the legislature on March 28—about the replacement school and recognizing all those who advocated for it.
- On March 14, Chair Boymook, Vice-Chair Colleen Holowaychuk and Superintendent Mark Liguori attended a meeting with the Town of Mundare. Discussion topics included: EIPS focus areas, achievement results, community facility use, Division plans, and ways for EIPS and Mundare to continue to work together.
- At the March 17 Board meeting, trustees approved the EIPS Three-Year Capital Plan. The top three capital priorities for the Division are:
 - Priority 1:* Construction funding to replace Sherwood Heights Junior High and École Campbelltown
 - Priority 2:* A replacement school for Rudolph Hennig Junior High and Fort Saskatchewan High.
 - Priority 3:* A replacement school for James Mowat Elementary.
- On March 30, Chair Boymook, Vice-Chair Colleen Holowaychuk and Superintendent Liguori attended a meeting with the Village of Andrew Council. The meeting was a followup to a recent Board delegation by the village and a discussion on ways they continue to work together.
- Also, in March, the Board received notice from Education Minister Adriana LaGrange about the 2021-22 diploma examinations and the roll-out of the new curriculum, starting fall 2022. The Board responded by mail to express its concerns and requested the province delay the roll-out. Instead, it asked Alberta Education to continue piloting the curriculum—mathematics (k-3), English language arts and literature (K-3), and physical education and wellness (K-6).
- At the April public Board meeting, trustees will review budget allocations and administrative fees for the 2022-23 school year, including: Facility Rentals, Specialized Support, Partners for Science, Alberta Non-Resident and International, Play and Learn at School and Student Transportation. The recent increase in fuel prices, coupled with rising inflationary costs and higher insurance rates, has school boards struggling provincially. As such, the Board is exploring solutions to best manage the higher costs for Student Transportation.
- National Volunteer Week is April 24-30. This year's theme: Empathy in Action. As such, Chair Boymook thanked COSC members for the time they give to EIPS and Division schools. That empathy, compassion and generosity helps create connected communities and makes the Division and its schools stronger.

ATA Report

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- On March 11-12, ATA hosted a political engagement session. The highlights:
 - Former Calgary mayor, Naheed Nenshi, spoke to an upcoming protest opportunity for those opposed to the new K-6 curriculum—on April 2, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., at the Alberta Legislature Building.
 - Todd Hirsh, the Vice-President and Chief Economist at ATB Financial, spoke about the current Russia and Ukraine conflict.
 - Janet Brown, a reporter and pollster, discussed political trends and offered election insight.
- Zielke said it's nice to see things return to normal—field trips, extracurriculars—and the warm weather. It will make for a nice end-of-year for students.

For Information

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

- Jacquie Surgenor and Krista Scott attended their final board meeting as directors. They only have meetings left pertaining to the ASCA School Council Conference and annual general meeting.
- ASCA is still in financial crisis. It has tried to be as responsive to school councils as possible with the resources it has. However, expect longer response times for school council requests and less time allocated to customized requests.
- ASCA has three director positions open.
- The ASCA Board decided membership fees will remain the same for next year as most school boards pay the fees for their school councils.
- The theme for this year’s conference is cultivating kindness. The conference is online and includes lots of great speakers. Scott and Surgenor are presenting on staff appreciation ideas they’ve implemented.

ASCA REGISTRATION AND PROXY VOTE – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

- If you register for the ASCA annual general meeting, you must submit the credential form.
- Registration and proxy vote must also be completed.
- The registration form must be completed and submitted back to Carol Langford-Pickering.
- By registering through EIPS, fees are covered.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: Can any school council members attend the conference with fees paid by the Board? Is there a limit per school?

Answer: It’s limited to one person, per school council. It doesn’t have to be the Chair.

CAREGIVER SERIES UPDATE – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

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

SCHOOL COUNCIL GRANT – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

- Fifteen schools allocated their school council grant funding to the collaborative initiative.
- Bowman thanked all school councils who contributed their funds.
- There will be a presentation on the Assurance Framework—scheduled during the May COSC meeting.
- If your school did not allocate your grant dollars to the COSC initiative, there is still time to apply for the funding to cover the cost of a school council initiative.
- Bowman encouraged COSC members to share their thoughts with the Minister of Education about their thoughts on the school council grant—how it was distributed and used.

New Business

WHY DATA MATTERS – Mark Liguori, EIPS Superintendent

- Superintendent Mark Liguori made a presentation on the importance of data and how school boards use it.
- Data helps develop curriculum year-over-year—consistent, coherent curriculum.
- Some data EIPS uses: Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT), grades 3, 6 and 9; diploma examinations, Western Canada Protocol for Collaboration in Basic Education, Programme for International Student Assessment, grade-equivalent tests, socioeconomic status and GAP scores.
- Data can tell school divisions how well students are doing compared to the province, and the world.
 - Alberta is launching the new curriculum in fall 2022. As such, Alberta Education will need to put forward new assessments to see how students are doing relevant to the new curriculum.
- Data helps school boards and divisions look at their practices and determine what needs adjusting.

- Data also reveal trends over time, which divisions can use to find trends and determine predictors.
- Divisions use the trends and predictors to make adjustments to improve outcomes.
- Sometimes too many adjustments can be detrimental, it's a fine line.
- PATs are a good way to assess and see what students have learned over the year.
- Student Learning Assessments (SLAs) help inform teacher instruction and understanding about where each student is relative to rest of the class.
- Superintendent Liguori explained how the Division looks at its data to ensure students within EIPS are as successful as possible.
- Superintendent Liguori also explained how the data looks and how it impacts Division decisions.
 - EIPS also uses data to implement new intervention strategies to ensure as many students as possible graduate from senior high.
- During the pandemic, the province cancelled PATs and diploma examinations. As a result, the province and Division have two years of missing data—there is no way to make up for that missing data.
- The Division also looks at socioeconomic status data—a family's education levels, parental makeup, income, housing—to determine other possible student interventions.
- Slowly, over time, the quality of data has diminished. As such, it's harder to get quality data. For example, the province is leaning toward using SLA data. However, SLAs are more diagnostic not summative.
- Analyzing data also helps school boards determine where to focus spending—for example, allocating more funding to specific intervention programming.
- Superintendent Liguori ended with a question for COSC members: Traditionally, Alberta had a world-class data system that demonstrated areas school divisions were doing well and areas requiring improvement. In the absence of quality data, how do families know how the Division is doing and what will families accept?
- In the interest of time, Bowman asked members to direct any questions to Corrie Fletcher.

COSC Sharing

ASCA RESOLUTIONS: 2022 – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

Members discussed the [proposed advocacy resolutions](#) for the 2022 ASCA annual general meeting:

- Bowman reviewed the proposed ASCA resolutions. This year, four resolutions being presented.
- Bowman encouraged COSC members to take the resolutions back to their school councils for discussion.
- Comment on P22-01: Universities prefer more weighting on the provincial exams. It's more reliable for applicant comparisons.
- Comment on P22-02: Superintendent Liguori summarized how the province funds operations and maintenance and pointed out the Board usually makes most of the decisions on how funding is spent in this area.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:34 P.M.

Next COSC Meeting

DATE: May 4, 2022

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

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