



MEETING MINUTES

Elk Island Public Schools, in-person and virtual meeting
May 4, 2022 | 6:30 p.m.

In Attendance

SCHOOL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

Chair: Lesley Bowman, Pine Street Elementary

Vice-Chair: Devon Marshall, SCA Elementary

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ken Allan, A.L. Horton Elementary
Jackie Anderson, Ardrossan Junior Senior High
Aileen Bozic, SCA Secondary
Leanna Bechtel, École Parc Élémentaire
April Childs, Lakeland Ridge
Curtis Christopher, École Campbelltown
Karen Green, Davidson Creek Elementary
Tracey Nielson, Clover Bar Junior High
Kimberly Scott, Westboro Elementary
Krista Scott, Bev Facey Community High, Fultondale
Elementary Junior High

Jacque Surgenor, Salisbury Composite High,
Sherwood Heights Junior High

ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trina Boymook, Chair
Colleen Holowaychuk, Vice-Chair
Cathy Allen, Trustee
Randy Footz, Trustee
Don Irwin, Trustee
Jacqueline Shotbolt, Trustee
Ralph Sorochan, Trustee

ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sandra Stoddard, Associate Superintendent
Corrie Fletcher, Communications
Brenda Kell, Alberta School Councils' Association

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

AGENDA

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

- Krista Scott asked she and Jacque Surgenor's titles change to "COSC members" from "ASCA directors" as their term ended at the end of April.
- Bowman noted the person presenting from ASCA changed to Brenda Kell.

MOTION | The agenda be adopted, with the noted change.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COSC Chair Bowman called for approval of the April 6, 2022, meeting minutes.

MOTION | The minutes be approved, as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

Board Report

Board Chair Trina Boymook presented the Board Report.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- On April 12, close to 80 junior high and senior high school students throughout the Division gathered to share ideas at the EIPS Student Forum 2022. Led and facilitated by Elk Island Public Schools, students engaged in a conversation about preparing for life after senior high and student mental health. The Board will review the feedback at the next Caucus meeting. The feedback will then help inform future decisions about the Division's Career Pathways Strategic Plan and Mental Health Strategic Plan.
- Recently, the Board sent a letter to the Minister of Education requesting it delay implementing the new curriculum—mathematics and English language arts and literature (kindergarten to Grade 3) and physical education and wellness (K-6). Board wants to have a second year to pilot the curriculum.
- On April 14, Chair Boymook joined school board chairs across the province in a virtual meeting with Education Minister Adriana LaGrange. The focus: The release of the new curriculum, its implementation, and available supports and resources.
- At the Board's April 21 Board meeting, trustees approved:
 - allocating \$200.57 million to schools and departments for the 2022-23 school year. Of that, \$6.43 million will come from operational reserves;
 - the system administrative fees and school fees—rising busing expenses led the Board to increase Student Transportation fees, up by \$21; and
 - a budget reallocation of unanticipated surplus to cover the costs for a divisionwide enhanced kindergarten initiative; renovations to the Connections and Play and Learn at School programs at Pine Street Elementary; and schools to enhance student achievement and school supports.
- Throughout the week, the Board celebrated Driver Appreciation Day. Trustees and staff attended schools and transfer sites thanking bus operators for keeping the safety of students their first priority.
- In June, the Board is meeting with Vegreville's council to discuss ways to continue collaborative efforts.

School Council Engagement Grant Speaker Series: Part 3

ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK – Brenda Kell, Alberta School Councils' Association

- Alberta Education replaced the Accountability Pillar with the Assurance Framework in September 2020.
- The basic requirement of accountability didn't change, but the focus shifted to:
 - show all Albertans the education system is good;
 - include a broader stakeholder base, including school councils;
 - require stakeholder engagement; and
 - focus more on the local and societal context.
- The framework includes a collaborative planning model, which involves checking in with stakeholders and getting feedback.
- The Annual Education Results Report provides evidence and results from the plan.
- School councils have a legislated role in advising the principal about school matters, therefore, school councils have an essential role in the new framework.
- School councils can invite trustees to attend school council meetings, provide Board updates and ask them to invite parents to engagement opportunities.
- There is no fixed template, model or process to follow—allowing school divisions flexibility to meet the requirements while considering local context.

For Information

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

- To date, Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) has not received any funding from Alberta Education.
- At the ASCA conference, Krista Scott and Jacquie Surgenor presented, “One Small Thing,” which was well received. The staff recognition program started at Salisbury Composite High and has since spread to various EIPS school councils. The hope is it will spread across the province.
- Scott and Surgenor both completed their terms on the ASCA Board of Directors.
- The conference and AGM were held in April. ASCA will post advocacy resolution results on its website.

CAREGIVER SERIES UPDATE – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

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

SCHOOL COUNCIL GRANT – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

- COSC organized a three-part speaker series as part of the School Council Engagement Grant.
- Tonight’s Assurance Framework session was the final presentation.
- Bowman thanked all the school councils who contributed and helped with the presentations.
- The School Council Engagement Grant posed many logistical challenges for school councils and EIPS. It also took significant resources to organize and manage.
- Bowman encouraged school council members to share their experience with the grant with their local member of the legislative assembly.
- The grant will continue next year.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORTS – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

- School councils are required to submit an annual report to the Superintendent by June 28.
- There is a sample from ASCA in the package and online in ASCA’s members-only section.
- The financial statement is just for the school council if they handle money—not for the fundraising society.

COSC Sharing

ASCA SCHOOL COUNCIL CONFERENCE AND AGM: HIGHLIGHTS – Lesley Bowman, COSC Chair

Members discussed highlights from the ASCA School Council Conference and annual general meeting, which took place April 22-24:

- The debate surrounding the advocacy resolutions was vigorous and at times, unpredictable.
- Attendees shared their comments about the conference and AGM.

New Business

DRAFT SPRING BUDGET: HIGHLIGHTS – Sandra Stoddard, EIPS Associate Superintendent

- The Division’s budget supports the Board’s priorities and goals, as listed in the *EIPS Four-Year Education Plan*.
- The Board’s role is to decide what to do, how to do it and evaluate if what the Division is doing is working.
- As part of the Assurance Framework, EIPS conducted online surveys with families, staff, Grade 12 students and community members in March 2021. Questions were asked relating to priorities and outcomes. The feed then went to the Board.
- The Board reviewed the data in December 2021. It also presented about it at a COSC meeting.
- The surveys asked the top priorities the Board should consider, which then informed how the Board allocated the budget and reserves.

- In November, EIPS looks at the results and develops the *Annual Education Results Report*. It also conducted surveys with families, students and staff gauging overall confidence in EIPS' ability to achieve its priorities and goals.
- Funding is based on a three-year weighted moving average: 20 per cent past, 30 per cent current, 50 per cent projected enrollment.
- Current enrollment is finalized every year on September 29.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:44 P.M.

Next COSC Meeting

DATE: October 5, 2022

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

LOCATION: EIPS Central Services building, boardroom.