



# Meeting Minutes

Central Office Boardroom, Sherwood Park

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

7 p.m.

## In Attendance:

Jacque Surgenor, Westboro Elementary

**chair**

Sally Navis, Strathcona Christian Academy Secondary

**co-vice-chair**

Krista Scott, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High

**co-secretary**

Bruce Audley, Strathcona Christian Academy  
Secondary

Natalie Bos, Wye Elementary

Becky Galbraith, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High

Kathy Gunderson, Ardrossan Junior Senior High

Kaya Kasook, École Élémentaire Ardrossan  
Elementary

Nicola Moore, Strathcona Christian Academy  
Elementary

Trina Boymook, board chair

Corrie Fletcher Naylor, communications specialist

Lynne Kaiser, public representative and member of  
Alberta School Councils' Association

Mark Liguori, superintendent

Barb McNeill, trustee

Jim Seutter, trustee

Bill Shields, president, Alberta Teachers' Association  
Local

Harvey Stadnick, trustee

Eileen Zimmerman, associate superintendent,  
Instructional Services

## Welcome

COSC Chair Jacque Surgenor called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Surgenor then thanked the Board for their public stance on the budget, specifically its opposition over the government's decision to no longer fund enrolment growth. Surgenor said: the Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Board of Trustees sent a very clear message as to how our students would be negatively impacted by the proposed budget. Other comments from COSC members supported Surgenor's statement of thanks and indicated appreciation for the Board's advocacy and decision-making.

## Additions to the Agenda

Jacque Surgenor asked if there were any additions to the May 6, 2015 agenda.

- No additions were added.

**Motion:** To accept the May 6, 2015 agenda as presented.

Moved: Bruce Audley

Seconded: Natalie Bos

**Motion Carried**

## Approval of April 8, 2015 Minutes

Jacque Surgenor asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the April meeting.

- No changes were made.

**Motion:** To accept the April 8, 2015 minutes as is.

Moved: Kaya Kasook

Seconded: Becky Galbraith

**Motion Carried**

## **Board Report: Presented by Trina Boymook, board chair**

EIPS Board Chair Trina Boymook highlighted a number of events and initiatives the Board of Trustees participated in throughout the months of April and May:

- On April 14, the Board of Trustees met to approve budget assumptions, school allocations, and division fees (Learning Resource fees and Student Transportation fees have been held at 2014–2015 rates).
- On April 16, the Board of Trustees finalized its 2014–2015 school tours with visits to Bruderheim School, Next Step Senior High – Fort Saskatchewan, Fort Saskatchewan High, and James Mowat Elementary. The tours will resume in the 2015–2016 school year and include visits within Sherwood Park and Strathcona County.
- Since the announcement of the 2015 provincial budget in March, the Board of Trustees have undertaken a number of advocacy efforts. On April 20, the EIPS Board joined 18 school boards across the province and issued a joint media release advocating the provincial government reconsider its decision to freeze school board reserves and no longer fund enrolment growth. A joint news conference followed. Both the media release and news conference garnered substantial media coverage. The Board also answered a call-to-action letter and sent letters to the premier, the education minister, the finance minister, all regional MLAs, and all candidates running in the provincial election.
- Board Chair Boymook and trustees attended the ATA Local's Cocktails and Candidates night. At the event, the Board spoke to candidates running in the region and discussed what the budget means for school boards across Alberta.
- Board Chair Boymook spoke at a rally at the provincial legislature. The rally was intended to encourage people to get out and vote—the education budget was discussed there too.
- On April 30, the Board of Trustees met again to discuss the impact of the 2015 budget.
- On May 1, in a special meeting, the Board voted unanimously to use approximately \$1.5 million of its reserves in the proposed 2015–2016 budget. The added funds will help cover shortfalls in funding from the provincial government to maintain division services, programming, and supports for students.
- The Board will be launching a survey to determine the community's interest in a full-day Kindergarten program, operating on alternating days versus the current half-day Kindergarten program. The survey will be posted on the division website from May 11 to May 29.
- On May 4, the Board hosted a joint meeting with Strathcona County Council at Bev Facey Community High. Highlights of the meeting included: a discussion around spacing issues, how schools are funded, and an update on the division's capital projects.
- On May 5, EIPS held its Employee Recognition and Retirement Event.
- Board Chair Boymook ended by saying she anticipates some revisions to the 2015 education budget given the new NDP government.
- COSC members thanked Chair Boymook for the Board's advocacy efforts and for its transparency.

## **ATA Report: Presented by Bill Shields, president, Alberta Teachers' Association Local No. 28**

COSC Chair Surgenor acknowledged Bill Shields' retirement. She then thanked him for his years of service and for being the voice of the ATA at COSC. Shields then presented a report from the ATA Local:

- On April 30, Shields attended and was a judge at the EIPS/ATB Young Speakers' Invitational, which is a speech competition for students in grades 4 through 6.
- On April 23, the ATA Local hosted the Cocktails and Candidates night, which was a success. Approximately 140 people attended and many candidates made themselves available to teachers and parents.
- The ATA appreciates the courage and voice of the EIPS Board and believes the Board's actions made an impact.
- Shields then thanked parents and trustees for their involvement in COSC over the years. He said it was a great group to be a part of.
- On May 5, Shields attended EIPS' Employment Recognition and Retirement Event.
- On May 6, the ATA Local voted for a new president, that person will be declared on May 19.

## **New Business**

### **Budget Report: Presented by Mark Liguori, Superintendent**

Superintendent Mark Liguori presented the 2015 education budget to COSC members. Highlights include:

- Considering the recent change in government, EIPS' 2015–2016 budget could potentially change.
- The budget report presented is based on current assumptions and allocations of the proposed 2015 budget.
- The format for the presentation deviated from that of previous years. Instead of a line-by-line presentation, Mark Liguori presented a PowerPoint, which outlined EIPS' budget planning process.
- Using the criteria of the proposed budget, the presentation clearly outlined the impacts of the budget and how both central office and individual school programming will be affected.
- The presentation also clarified the purpose and importance of reserves.
- Superintendent Liguori then explained the reserve-to-expense ratio and how that varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.
- The full PowerPoint presentation is available at [www.eips.ca/files/COSC%20Budget%20Presentation,%20April%202015.pdf](http://www.eips.ca/files/COSC%20Budget%20Presentation,%20April%202015.pdf)
- Questions were posed about how a change in government, and subsequently, a change in the budget may affect EIPS' budget to date.
- COSC members will be informed of any changes as they are made and information will be shared as it's received.

## **School Council Sharing**

COSC members concluded the meeting with a roundtable discussion about the recent Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) Conference and AGM.

- A recap was given about the ASCA Conference and AGM held on April 24-26.
- COSC members thanked the Board of Trustees for funding individual School Councils to attend.

- Kathy Gunderson attended sessions on: *The School Act*, Supporting Students with Special Needs, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, and School Council Partnerships.
- Sally Navis attended sessions on: *The Education Act*, Supporting Students with Special Needs, Positive Mental Health Environments, and Engaging Community. She also commented on the keynote speaker, Debbie Pushor, who discussed parental engagement.
- Jacquie Surgenor attended sessions on: Traffic Safety and Safe and Caring Schools and Communities. She also referenced keynote speaker Pushor, who said the job of the school is to walk alongside parents as we educate our children.
- Krista Scott attended sessions on Online Education and Safe and Caring Schools and Communities. She also discussed the role of EIPS at the AGM and Brad Vonkeman's, the president of ASCA, call-to-action to oppose the government's 2015 education budget.
- The roundtable discussions led to an exercise where each member participated in voting for their topics of choice. The top five picks will be part of next year's COSC meeting agendas. An email option was sent out to receive a greater scope of interest. Topics include:
  - *School Act*: Issues for parents
  - Supporting Special Needs: Innovative ideas that don't involve money
  - Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: Students in our schools not yet diagnosed, how to help
  - Beyond the School: How School Councils can partners with other organizations
  - School Council Engagement: Rethinking parent involvement and innovative ideas to engage better
  - Positive Mental Health: Implementing programs to prevent problems later on
  - Online Education: What is it and how does it work?
  - Restorative Justice: Is a collective approach better?
  - Traffic safety: Tips to keep kids safe

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m. Kaya Kasook motioned to adjourn.

The next COSC meeting is Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Boardroom at Central Office in Sherwood Park.