



TO BE RATIFIED

Meeting Minutes

Central Office Boardroom, Sherwood Park

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

7 p.m.

In Attendance:

Jacque Surgenor, Westboro Elementary

Chair

Sally Navis, Strathcona Christian Academy Secondary

Co-Vice-Chair

Lynn Coates, Ministik School

Co-Secretary

Natalie Bos, Wye Elementary

Dan Carter, Glen Allan Elementary

Dwight Dibben, Lakeland Ridge

Elwin Dziwenka, A.L. Horton Elementary and
Vegreville Composite High

Crystal Hudson, Win Ferguson Elementary

Milana Golembioski, Sherwood Heights Junior High

Kaya Kasook, École Élémentaire Ardrossan
Elementary

Tracey Misyk, Woodbridge Farms Elementary

Kayla Toews, Strathcona Christian Academy
Elementary

Sandy Stor, Bev Facey Community High

Linda Zimmerling, Ardrossan Junior Senior High

Corrie Fletcher Naylor, Communications Specialist

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

Mark Liguori, Superintendent

Karen Sand, Director, Communication Services

Jim Seutter, Trustee

Bill Shields, President, Alberta Teachers' Association
Local

Heather Wall, Trustee

Eileen Zimmerman, Associate Superintendent,
Instructional Services

Welcome

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

Additions to the agenda

Jacque Surgenor asked if there were any additions to the agenda.

- No additions were added.

Motion: To accept the March 4, 2015 agenda as is.

Moved: Elwin Dziwenka

Seconded: Natalie Bos

Motion carried

Approval of January 7, 2015 Minutes

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

- No changes were made.

Motion: To accept the January 7, 2015 minutes as is.
Moved: Sally Navis
Seconded: Kaya Kasook
Motion carried

Approval of February 4, 2015 Minutes

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

- No changes were made.

Motion: To accept the February 4, 2015 minutes as is.
Moved: Elwin Dziwenka
Seconded: Kaya Kasook
Motion carried

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

- Bill Shields reported on the ATA Convention. It was a success he said. Others who attended the Partners in Education Luncheon included Superintendent Mark Liguori and two COSC members—Jacque Surgenor and Sandy Stor.
- Shield reported that the ATA is in election mode. For the first time, ATA members are voting using an online elections platform. Two vice-president positions are available. EIPS Greg Jeffery is one of the candidates.
- The ATA is awaiting the provincial budget and anticipating impacts due to budget cuts.
- Jacque concluded with a heartfelt thank you to the ATA for inviting COSC to the ATA Luncheon. The COSC representatives had a wonderful time.

Board Report: Presented by Jim Seutter, Trustee

- Jim Seutter reported he is pleased that the Board of Trustees and Superintendent Mark Liguori are working together and forming a strong team.
- The Board recently met with Superintendent Liguori for a two-day meeting. The result: a shared vision and common goals for EIPS.
- The Board of Trustees and Superintendent Liguori visited five EIPS schools in March, which offered valuable insight into the schools and their programming. Another tour is scheduled in April. The Board was especially impressed with the bus transfer site at Salisbury Composite High—more than 2,000 students transfer there daily—and how efficiently it runs.
- Concerns were raised regarding busing in Fort Saskatchewan and the new 8-way flashing lights. The Board is not in favour of the change. Parents have raised concerns that drivers may be confused about the new rules, which could potentially cause a safety concern.
- Seutter updated COSC members on the Student Transportation budget. He noted the budget is doing better than expected because of lower fuel prices.
- He also mentioned that Provincial Achievement Tests will continue this year for Grade 6 and Grand 9 students; and 10 new modulares have been approved throughout the EIPS division.

New Business

ASCA Resolutions for the ASCA AGM: Present by Jacque Surgenor, COSC Chair

Two resolutions will be discussed and voted on at ASCA's upcoming AGM.

1. Provincial Dual Credit Strategy
 - Superintendent Liguori and Eileen Zimmerman explained the Dual Credit Strategy.
 - The resolution is asking for sustainable funding to keep this programming available.
 - Discussions raised a few more suggestions such as more marketing material to promote RAP programs, to inform parents and students, and to educate the business community about RAP programming and its benefits.
2. Wireless Technology Safety in Alberta public schools
 - The resolution is about finding ways to reduce student use of Wi-Fi and limit exposure to Wi-Fi transmissions.
 - The concern is that Class 2B carcinogens (an element that can be found in lead, diesel exhaust, and dill pickles for example) can be found in wireless frequency emissions and it's unclear if there are long-term side effects from exposure to those emissions.
 - During the discussion about the Wi-Fi resolution there was confusion around the logistics of implementing such an initiative, if limiting Wi-Fi is in the best interest of staff and students, and if it is even possible to limit exposure to Wi-Fi.
 - It was agreed more research on Class 2B carcinogens should be done.
3. Special issues resolution
 - There is a possibility that a special issues resolution may be brought up at the ASCA conference centred on ASCA's new bylaws, which may effect who can run for the board.

For Information

ASCA Conference: Presented by Karen Sand, Director, Communication Services

The Board will be sponsoring one representative from each school in EIPS to go to the ASCA AGM.

- Forms must be filled out and sent to Tanya Hunter (Tanya.Hunter@eips.ca) by April 10, 2015.
- If a representative from an EIPS school can't attend the AGM, the person can still vote on the above resolutions via a proxy vote. To participate by proxy vote, a Proxy Vote Form needs to be submitted. A representative can hold as many as five proxy votes. The forms are due April 21, 2015.
- After April 10, Communication Services will provide all COSC members with the list of school representatives accessing Board funds so other schools know who to approach concerning proxy voting.

Eight-Way Flashing Lights

Information was shared with the COSC group about the new eight-way flashing lights bylaw in Fort Saskatchewan.

- Fort Saskatchewan parents are encouraged to advocate to the city.
- Questions can be directed to Lisa Weder at Student Transportation.

Student Transportation Preparation: Presented by Karen Sand, Director, Communication Services

Karen Sand asked COSC members to suggest topics and questions they would like included in the Student Transportation presentation at the COSC meeting on April 8, 2015. Some of the topics raised included:

- Mechanisms to deal with issues on the bus, such as issues with drivers or other students;
- how routes are determined for each child;
- the first on, first off strategy;
- double runs;
- seating safety.

Communication Outside of COSC Meetings: Presented by Jacquie Surgenor, COSC Chair

Jacque Surgenor asked the COSC group if it was interested in communicating and sharing best practices outside of the COSC meetings. Interest was expressed.

- There is a platform already available on the ASCA website.
- Natalie Bos will research other online platforms to best share resources.

School Council Sharing: Successes from the past year

The COSC group split into three groups to discuss the successes that were most notable in the past year for them. Below are some of the successes discussed.

Group 1: Junior High and Senior High School Council Sharing Successes

- Advertising via broadcast email for upcoming school council meetings including a few point-form specific topics and issues that will be discussed at the next school council meeting.
- School council members attend Grade 7 or Grade 10 information sessions to foster interest and attendance at school council meetings.
- Marketing efforts are being executed that explain what School Council does.
- A “Leave a Legacy” program at Bev Facey Community High was launched where Grade 12 students erected wooden benches and planters at the school with a plaque.
- Bev Facey Community High School Council is having success with the school’s website. It recently held a web-based scavenger hunt. In order for participants to collect the prizes from the scavenger hunt, they have to attend the next School Council meeting.

Group 2: Elementary School Council Sharing Successes

- A Communication Protocol was developed at Westboro Elementary.
- A “Council” tab was added to the school’s website at Woodbridge Farms Elementary.
- At Ministik: There is a more focused effort on appropriate fundraising strategies; and presentations and food are now delivered prior to School Council meetings.
- Meetings are becoming more focused: 80% focused on principal/Council presentations and 20% on fundraising efforts.
- École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary has started to alternate meetings between mornings and evenings.

Group 3: Elementary School Council Sharing Successes

- Schools that have the “Leader in Me” program have added a standing agenda item for School Council meetings through which both teachers and school administrators can share information with parents about what is happening.
- Many School Councils are collaborating with school administration to decide on agenda topics.
- One member discussed increase attendance thanks to adding a social element post meeting.
- One school has introduced “PD for Parents” and are collaborating with other School Councils.
- Another School Council completely separated School Council from fundraising whereby different executives sit on the School Council and the Fundraising Society.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

The next COSC meeting is April 8, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Boardroom at Central Office in Sherwood Park.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to Spring Break, the April meeting is being held on the **SECOND** Wednesday of the month and not the first Wednesday.