

**Bev Facey School Council Meeting  
Minutes for November 28, 2023**

**Attendees**

Families: Tiko Bielecki, Cecile Palm, Amy Dieser, Jennifer Daly, Krista Scott

Staff: Paul Schwartz, Corey Kropp, Deanne Bennett

Trustee: Don Irwin

Students: Alex Mailo (Grade 11) and Elena Anthony (Grade 11)

**Call to order at 6:00pm by Corey Kropp**

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Treaty 6 Acknowledgment

I would like to acknowledge that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and show respect to the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community here at Bev Facey.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Amy Dieser

Second: Cecile Palm

4. Approval of September 19, 2023 and October 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Cecile Palm

Second: Tiko Bielecki

**5. Student Report**

Alex Mailo (Grade 11)

Alex is in Welding and likes the trades in general. Loves to create things. Hopes to join RAP next year and be able to work. Alex is in Mechanics as well. Fun to create structures and put them together. He was in a competition called Wicked Welding, where he and three teammates created a Halloween structure. They built a skeleton holding an axe with acetylene gas. There's a Skills Competition for all grades and he would like to do it this year. Registration opens in January for March competition.

Elena Anthony (Grade 11)

Elena is in Drama. She says we have something special at Facey. It's great to have so many opportunities to perform: Drama 10 20 30, Advanced Acting 15 25 35. Combined Musical Theatre can learn a lot from other grades and the teacher, Mr. Frank. There are

four shows per school year. One show per class (approx. 30 students per class): Drama 20-30 and Advanced Acting 25-35, Grade 10s do Elementary performances, and Musical Theatre from Jan-May (Festival Place – this year it's 'Grease'). Also have Tech Theatre at lunch. 'To See The Stars' will run from Dec 4-7. Elena loves to perform and thinks it's great to have so much opportunity to do it here at Facey.

## 6. **Trustee Report – Don Irwin**

One of the roles of trustees is to advocate for Public Education. The Board of Trustees create an Advocacy Work Plan each year that identifies the priorities and strategies for this work. One aspect of this advocacy takes place in conversations with other elected officials and community stakeholders. During October, trustees had opportunities for conversation at the following events:

Sherwood Park Chamber of Commerce meeting

Vegreville Chamber of Commerce meeting

Meeting with the Honourable Demetrios Nicolaidis, Minister of Education and members of his team

Meeting with the Board Chair and Superintendent of Elk Island Catholic Schools

The mandate letters, for the following Alberta government ministries, have helped inform the 2023-24 Advocacy Work Plan: Education, Advanced Education, Mental Health and Addictions and Children and Family Services.

The Elk Island Public Schools Assurance Review meetings provide the Board of Trustees with the opportunity to see how departments and schools did in meeting their 2022-23 goals and priorities. These presentations include strengths and successes, areas for growth and challenges that were experienced. The trustees met with the following departments at the end of October as part of the Assurance Review process: Business Services, Communication, Finance, Human Resources, Informational Technology, Student Transportation and Supports for Students. Through the Assurance Review, areas of advocacy are identified and the trustees continue to refine the 2023-24 Advocacy Work Plan.

Remembrance Day Services

I attended Wes Hosford service on November 3 and presented the EIPS wreath at the ceremony at Millennium Place on Saturday November 11.

Questions/Suggestions

Please feel free to email, text, or phone me at [don.irwin@eips.ca](mailto:don.irwin@eips.ca) or 587-986-3900.

Q: What did you hear at Assurance Review that needs to be focused on?

A: Facilities, diverse classrooms, things that are going well, schools are getting older (it took 10yrs to get new Sherwood Heights). There was a parent portion to Assurance

Review as well.

Q: After the last meeting the board was going into a new meeting about French immersion, then the Chair sent out that letter, when will the information be evaluated and shared, as it affects Bev Facey?

A: January, putting together extra information from parents. This is two years away and we want parents to be prepared. A recommendation will come to the Board at the January 4, 2024 meeting. Could possibly vote that night, but not for sure.

Q: If new information results in different outcome than previously thought, will it be brought back to parents/stakeholder (surveys etc)?

A: The new information includes sites for Jr and Sr high French immersion but we don't know exactly what it is.

A: Krista – parents should be asking for the information/feedback.

Krista to Don Irwin: Take to Board that Bev Facey parents are really engaged in this topic, really care about what the outcome could be and how it could affect future of Bev Facey. Because they are so engaged, we want more information on potential outcomes and how they could affect Bev Facey before the recommendation goes to board. We want real time information, and we are entitled because Superintendent already told us it exists, and shouldn't be kept to the Board as that would not be respectful of Bev Facey parents.

Q: Will more letters be better?

A: Yes! Even send a letter to every trustee.

## 7. Information Reports

### **Administrative Reports**

Principal's Report – Mr. Wlos – Regrets (Ms. Kropp and Mr. Schwartz presented on his behalf)

- Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences were held October 25-26  
It was great to have all the parents/guardians in the building.  
845 interviews were conducted over the two days with over 333 families taking part.  
We used our North Gym
- Halloween (October 31)  
Competitions and contests, lots of staff dressed up. Mummy with staff – donate money to wrap a staff member
- Remembrance Day Ceremony (November 3)  
Student centered ceremony – all student run and led, very inclusive participation (speakers, laying wreaths), it was a really great ceremony.  
600 of our students took part in the gymnasium, the rest took part in the "Live Streamed" ceremony within their classrooms.
- Awards Night (November 15)  
We had a return to one Awards ceremony including each Grade level.  
It was great to see our Grads from last year come to accept their awards and

scholarships.

We streamed the event – with Digital Media production team.

Feedback: seating for parents who may come late due to work commitments, time frame adjustment (the 3 hour time slot on the invitation deterred some families from attending). This was the school's first in-person presentation since COVID so they weren't sure how long it would take, they will definitely adjust it for next year. It was good that it was during Post-Secondary Reading Week, it was good to see so many of last year's Grads back for the evening.

- Bullying Awareness and Prevention week, included such things as Art, Concert Band, and some short skits from the play if students are not able to attend the performance.

Wear a Pink article of clothing on Friday, November 18.

Mrs. Bennett Update:

- Assurance Review – hosted it in school last week. Not as intense as in the past. Trustees were dressed down a little bit, not so much a “grilling” scenario. Lots of conversations. Our data was really good, we had the most number of students who are eligible and qualify for Rutherford Scholarship. It included Bev Facey, Sal, Fort High and Next Steps (diverse as far as demographic). Mental health in schools (Reset rooms – for dysregulation) was a concern that kids had no place to go for quiet/reset time. Discussed the demands of Sal getting to capacity and what that means, where they will go, French immersion...will be revisited shortly. Bev Facey has amazing facilities here compared to Fort SK and kids need it...equal opportunity...CTS (mechanic, welding). Next Steps spoke about their enrollment, they have a physical site in Sal, and their numbers are growing. Career pathways to push for skilled trades and to get students interested/focused on skilled trades.

French Immersion update “new information” – not in board package for Nov 30. Some questions were asked regarding the new information and has been invested by senior members? It will go to board meeting in December. Parents asked that the board please delay if you have not had opportunity to have those conversations at school council meetings...parents want to know the impact for the future of their respective schools.

Jennifer was in attendance at the Assurance Review and noticed it was a less intimidating atmosphere than in the past. Learned a lot about other schools. She thought there should have been more time to talk about struggles, and the nitty-gritty of where help could have been sought.

- CAREERS Presentation yesterday – outside agency that helps students connect with internships and apprenticeships (go to CAREERS website)  
Skilled Trades Internships & Apprenticeships (RAP – Registered Apprenticeship Program)  
Get Paid – Minimum wage or higher  
Get Credits – Earn up to 40 RAP credits towards a high school diploma

Get Experience – Bank up to 1000 hours towards apprenticeship training  
Get a \$1000 Scholarship – Students will be notified by Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT) if requirements are met for the High School Apprenticeship Scholarship

Get a Head Start on a Career – Outcomes aligned with 1<sup>st</sup> year apprenticeship training

Opportunity Board is posted on Smore

- Athletics  
Basketball teams have been formed  
Curling is up and running, they are at their 3<sup>rd</sup> competition tonight  
Swim Team is competing in the Metro Semi-Finals on Thursday, November 30, Finals are on Friday, December 1.
- Christmas Band Events:  
Dec 8 is the Winter Winds Concert at 7:00pm  
Caroling at lunch – TBD  
Year End Rock Concert - TBD

Mr. Schwartz Update:

- Graduation 2024  
Starting to setup plan at EXPO.  
Rehearsal is at Facey.  
For the most up-to-date information:
  - Grad SMORE Link: Will be updated next week
  - <https://www.smore.com/sj8w2>
  - Grad Instagram – “faceygrad24”Grad Wear order has arrived and been handed out. We will do another store in Feb/March  
Thoughts on Grad BBQ after our ceremony rehearsal on Wed June 5, 2024. BBQ organized by parents with support of school
- Student Teachers:
  - Welcome to Korah Sanderson who is teaching Math is being mentored by Ms. Schafer.
  - Welcome to Matt Murphy who is teaching Social Studies is being mentored by Mr. Huie.

Ms. Kropp Update:

- January 2024 Final Exam Schedule will be posted on the school website by the end of the day December 1.  
Last instructional day is Thursday, January 19, 2024
- Advanced Placement:  
Meeting for current AP students registered in exam courses this year was held on October 25 at 7:00pm in the Library

74 students are writing a total of 139 exams for Semester 1 courses and exam only. The deadline to register for AP exams next semester is February 28, 2024.

- AP Open House for incoming Grade 9 students will be held on Thursday, January 25, 2024 6:00-7:30pm.
- Career Fair will be held tomorrow

### **Upcoming Important Dates**

- November 29, 2023 – Bev Facey Career Fair 2:00-3:17pm
- December 4-7, 2023 – Bev Facey Drama Production: “To See the Stars” 7:00-9:00pm
- December 6, 2023 – Staff Meeting Early Out
- December 8, 2023 – Bev Facey Concert Band “Winter Winds Concert” 7:00pm
- December 14, 2023 – Bev Facey Drama Presents “The Brothers Grimm – Out of Order” 6:00pm
- December 18, 2023 – Part A Common English Exam (English 10 and 20)
- December 19, 2023 – Part A Common Social Studies Exam (Social Studies 10 and 20)
- December 25-January 5 – Winter Break
- January 16, 2024 – School Council Meeting
- January 19, 2024 – Last Day of Classes
- January 22-29, 2024 – Final Exams and Diplomas

8. **Committee of School Councils (COSC) Report** – Krista Scott (first Wed of every month) Fantastic reports from Superintendent

### **BOARD REPORT**

EIPS Board Chair Cathy Allen presented the Board Report. She highlighted the Board of Trustees’ Advocacy Work Plan and plans to bring advocacy topics to future meetings. Chair Allen shared that the board has identified to the government a need to adequately fund CTF and CTS programs as the current funding model (rolling weighted average) is not sufficient. The board has also advocated for wrap around services to rural communities at no cost.

### **ATA REPORT**

ATA Local No. 28 President Deneen Zielke presented the ATA report. Zielke detailed what happened during the 1 Million March for Children protest on September 20. This included the tearing down of the ATA’s pride flag—an action being investigated as a hate crime. She also spoke about a movement called Take Back Alberta, which seeks to target school authorities across Canada. The movement’s goal is to take over and impose its views of public education on administration, removing anyone who would oppose those views. The ATA is working on a strategy to engage members and prepare for the election in spring 2025. Zielke encourages parents and caregivers to research Take Back Alberta, dispel the misinformation being spread and remain advocates for the safety of all students. For more information, contact [Deneen Zielke](#).

## ASCA UPDATE

The [Alberta School Councils' Association](#) (ASCA) is the provincial organization for families on school council. Below may be of interest to COSC members:

- ASCA's [Walk Alongside Engagement Event](#) takes place online from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on November 18. There's no cost to register. Engage with the ASCA Board of Directors on topics of importance to school councils and their communities.
- COSC members can reach out to ASCA to schedule a virtual drop in from one of its board members to explain the role of ASCA and how the organization helps school councils.
- ASCA learning [opportunities](#) and [supports](#) can be paid for using the \$500 Alberta School Council Engagement grant. Workshops are offered online, scheduled weekly throughout the year.
- The [ASCA Conference and Annual General Meeting](#) will be held April 26-28, 2024.

## CAREGIVER EDUCATION SERIES: November

Alberta Health Services hosts a series of virtual caregiver information sessions focused on ways to support students' mental health. The sessions are free and geared toward parents, caregivers, teachers and community members who want to learn more about challenges impacting children and adolescents. Session topics include anxiety, depression and technology, while teaching leadership skills, communication, resiliency and more. [Learn more](#)

## SCHOOL COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT GRANT

On November 2, school councils should have received a School Council Engagement Grant application to the email they provided in the contact form. If you didn't receive this email, contact [Emma Small](#). As stated previously, ASCA learning [opportunities](#) and [supports](#) can be paid for using the grant. However, each school council will have the best idea for how grant funds could be used in their school context. Complete the application form by December 31. For more information, refer to the [November COSC Meeting Package](#).

## EIPS ASSURANCE REVIEW

EIPS Associate Superintendent Ryan Marshall discussed assurance reviews in the Division, including what an assurance review is and how to read your school's result. He highlighted diving deeper into the data and figuring out the story behind it. A copy of the presentation is on the [EIPS website](#). For school councils looking to know more about school fees, refer to [Administrative Procedure 505: School and Administrative Fees](#). A discussion was had about making results meaningful to our respective school councils and communities by asking :

- what does [this specific result] or trend mean to us?
- what could have impacted [this specific result]?

## COSC SHARING: School council roles

COSC Vice-Chair Dallas Kirtz asked what school councils have done in the past for holiday events. Other members shared what they've done historically, such as winter festivals and concerts. COSC Secretary Chelsea Pretzlaw shared her school council had an informal picnic at lunch hour where families could come read a book with their children for Read In Week, and she suggested informal cookie-decorating could be simple and easy to plan for a holiday event. Members also highlighted the importance of engaging with not only other parents and caregivers, but asking what the students themselves would like to do. When you have student engagement, investment from parents and caregivers naturally seems to follow. Members

**shared that they require more support around how to run an effective school council meeting and potentially be matched with a mentor.**

9. Meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm

**Next Meeting: January 16, 2024 at 6:00pm** in the Bev Facey Library

Upcoming Meetings: February 20, March 19, April 16, May 21

Minutes prepared by Tiko Bielecki.