

School Council Meeting

Minutes – March 12th 2019
6:00pm

1. Working toward digital wellness - *Presentation* - Jonathon Thomas

Resources:

- iGen – Jean M. Twenge PhD
- Social Media Wellness – Ana Homayoun
- Growing up digital Alberta –
[https://www.teachers.ab.ca/Public%20Education/EducationResearch/Pages/GrowingUpDigital\(GUD\)Alberta.aspx](https://www.teachers.ab.ca/Public%20Education/EducationResearch/Pages/GrowingUpDigital(GUD)Alberta.aspx)

2. Call to order – Jen. M – Chair – 6:22pm

Attendance:

Parents: 14 in attendance

Staff: Mrs. Kaye Schindeler – Principal, Mr. Matt Matheson – Assistant Principal, Mrs. Marlis Marler – Assistant Principal/Counselor, Mrs. Kristine Burke – Grade 3

Other: Don Irwin – School Trustee

3. Review of the agenda – Jen. M

Cross off budget – to be discussed during Fundraising's meeting

4. Approval of last meetings minutes

Motioned – Crystal. W

Seconded – Courtney. M

5. Trustee Report – Don Irwin

- Board Highlights – February 21st 2019 ***document attached***
- Edmonton Public Schools and EIPS have different dates for Spring break – Don Irwin to look into

6. Admin Report – Mrs. Kaye Schindeler

- 2019/20 Field Trip, Noon Supervision & Extra Curricular Fees - ***documents attached***
- Swimming program – parents to run and organize
- Upcoming Election – look into government changes potentially resulting in larger and/or combined classes
- 569 students registered for the 2019/20 school year



7. Wellness Committee Report – Sara

- Buddy bench pricing has been quoted at \$1437.60 – includes materials, installation and plaque. Wellness will look into having the bench sponsored – the company will gain recognition via the school website and updates. Erin. W to look into grants – potential grant for up to \$30,000
- Next Wellness meeting to be determined for April

8. Club Moo – Jen. M on behalf of Nadine

- There are currently 8 volunteers helping to run the program
- Grade 4 & 5 student volunteers
- \$3030 worth of milk has been sold – bringing in a profit of \$606

9. Chair Report – Jen. M

- Upcoming meeting for the Summer Sizzler event – date to be determined

10. Financial Liaison Report – Sarah. A on behalf of Melissa. P

- There are currently \$27,548.66 in available funds

Next meeting: April 9th 2019

Meeting adjourned @ 6:53pm.



Board Highlights

ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Feb. 21, 2019

Your Future in MIND

Board Members

Trina Boymook, Chair
Heather Wall, Vice-Chair
Randy Footz
William (Skip) Gordon
Colleen Holowaychuk
Annette Hubick
Don Irwin
Jim Seutter
Harvey Stadnick

For more information
please contact:

Trina Boymook
Board Chair
P 780 417 8101

Laura McNabb
Director, Communication Services
P 780 417 8204

www.eips.ca



Chair's Report

Recent Events

Chair Trina Boymook highlighted some recent events:

- On January 25, Chair Boymook and Superintendent Mark Liguori met with Strathcona County Mayor Rod Frank and Rob Coon, the Chief Commissioner for Strathcona County. The focus: The Division's request for a Sherwood Heights Junior High replacement school.
- On January 25, Chair Boymook attended Clover Bar Junior High's production of *Wizard of Oz*, which was outstanding. She thanked the school for inviting her and congratulated students, staff and volunteers involved in the production.
- On February 5, Chair Boymook attended Lakeland Ridge's production of *Willy Wonka Jr.*, which was both fun and exciting. She thanked the school for the invitation.
- On February 8, Chair Boymook attended a Partners in Education luncheon, hosted by the Alberta Teachers' Association.
- On February 20, trustees attended an Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) drop-in feedback session in Andrew to continue discussions about programming for senior high students living in the Andrew School attendance boundary.

Superintendent's Report

Recent Events

Superintendent Mark Liguori highlighted recent events:

- On January 25, Chair Boymook and Superintendent Liguori attended a meeting with Strathcona County to discuss a replacement school for Sherwood Heights Junior High and related infrastructure needs.
- On January 28, Superintendent Liguori and Calvin Wait, the Director of Facility Services, attended an area redevelopment plan meeting hosted by Centre in the Park.
- On February 13, Superintendent Liguori and Sandra Stoddard, the Associate Superintendent, toured Sherwood Park-based Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health House, a specialized in-patient program for adolescents.
- On February 14-16, Superintendent Liguori took part in a Leadership Certification In-Service Program mandated by Alberta Education. He was also selected as an instructor for the leadership program and superintendent program.

- On February 20, the Division hosted a drop-in information session at Andrew School. At the meeting, the Division presented three preliminary options to address programming for senior high students living in the Andrew School attendance boundary. The options presented are based on feedback the Division received from public consultations conducted last fall.

Comments from the Public

Warm Hands, Warm Hearts

The Board heard a presentation from Carole Bossert, a teacher at SouthPointe School and students Austin Nelson and Cooper Hogg. They shared information about a recent grant the school received from the United Way through the Denton's Make Your Mark on Poverty initiative. The \$1,000 grant was used to launch the school's Warm Hands, Warm Hearts program. Seventeen students in grades 3 and 4 collected mittens and winter gloves to distribute to young people in Fort Saskatchewan. The goal: To gather at least 50 pairs for each elementary school within the city—a figure they more than doubled. To date, students have distributed more than 1,000 pairs of mittens and gloves throughout the community. The Board congratulated the school for a job well done and thanked the trio for sharing their story.

Sherwood Park Elementary French Immersion Enrolment Pressure Management Plan

The Board heard a presentation from Joanne Smith, a parent from École Campbelltown. She discussed concerns about capping French immersion classes at both École Campbelltown and the replacement school being built in Heritage Hills. The Board thanked Smith for her presentation.

Business Arising from Previous Meeting

Notice of Motion

The Board defeated the motion "that the parents of students attending the new Wye Elementary replacement school be given an opportunity to offer their input for the renaming of the school by way of a new survey."

New Business

The Policy Committee

The Board approved amendments to the following Board policy:

- [Policy 15, Program Reduction and School Closure](#): The revisions strengthen the language and clarity within the policy.

Borrowing Resolution 2018-19

The Board approved the Division's borrowing resolution to meet expenditures during the 2018-19 school year. Annually, the Bank of Montreal requires the Division to submit a borrowing resolution for its credit-facility agreements in place.

Division Calendar: 2020-21 & 2021-22

The Board approved the 2020-21 Division calendar and the 2021-22 Division calendar, in principle. Highlights from the 2020-21 calendar include:

- first day of school – Sept. 1, 2020
- fall break – November 9-13
- Christmas break – December 23 to January 5
- Teachers' Convention – February 4-5
- spring break – March 29 to April 2
- last day of classes – June 25, 2021

The 2020-21 calendar is available at www.eips.ca.

Sherwood Park Elementary French Immersion Enrolment Pressure Management Plan

The Board of Trustees approved capping French immersion at two schools in Sherwood Park. The Division will introduce a cap of three French immersion classes per grade at École Campbelltown, starting September 2020. In addition, the replacement school being built in Heritage Hills will open with a cap of two French immersion classes per grade (see pg. 29, "[Sherwood Park Elementary French Immersion Enrolment Pressure Management Plan](#)").

Committee Reports

Policy Committee

The Board received for information the report from the Policy Committee meeting on January 29 and February 19. In total, 10 policies were reviewed. *Policy 15, Program Reduction and School Closure* required revisions. Other policy revisions will come forward in March.

Advocacy Committee

The Board received for information the report from the Advocacy Committee meeting on January 29. The committee reviewed its focus areas, prioritized tactics for the rest of the school year, and discussed an education-funding awareness tool it plans to develop with the Committee of School Councils.

Student Expulsion Committee

The Board received for information the report from the Student Expulsion Committee on February 5.

Trustee Reports Roundtable

Trustees shared information and highlighted recent events:

- *Trustee Randy Footz* attended school council meetings at Vegreville Composite High and A.L. Horton Elementary. At the A.L. Horton meeting, parents who have children in the Ukrainian Bilingual program expressed concerns about the program's longevity. He also attended Vegreville Composite High's open house on February 12.
- *Trustee Colleen Holowaychuk* extended her thanks to EIPS administration for the excellent work done organizing the Andrew School drop-in feedback session on February 20.
- *Trustee Annette Hubick* attended Lakeland Ridge's production of *Willy Wonka Jr.*, which was excellent; the February COSC meeting; school council meetings at Wes Hosford Elementary and Lakeland Ridge; and the drop-in feedback session at Andrew School. She also attended Next Step's art showcase, which featured student-created skateboard decks.
- *Trustee Don Irwin* attended school council meetings at Strathcona Christian Academy (SCA) Elementary, SCA Secondary, Davidson Creek Elementary, F.R. Haythorne Junior High and Glen Allan Elementary. He also attended SCA Secondary's production of *Cinderella*, which was excellent.
- *Trustee Harvey Stadnick* attended a fantastic performance of *Bedtime Stories* by Rudolph Hennig Junior High students at the Dow Centre. He also attended school council meetings and the drop-in feedback session at Andrew School. In addition, he requested information from administration about school donations and how receipts are issued.

What does it mean for school boards to have stable, predictable and adequate funding?

Although Alberta Education has provided funding for the growing number of students, it's difficult for school boards to make long-term strategic plans when other funding streams vary from year to year, or are unexpectedly discontinued.

Base grants have only received one small increase in seven years, and school boards are struggling to keep up with both inflationary pressure and increased expectations from Alberta Education.

Additionally, funding for student transportation has not kept pace with costs. Additionally, money designated for maintaining infrastructure is tied to student numbers rather than building condition.

Specific grants and funds are sometimes withdrawn mid-year when budgets are cut, leaving school boards scrambling to pull funding from other areas when these dollars suddenly disappear.

Sometimes, specialized grants are provided by Alberta Education, but the scope changes from year to year. What results: strong programs are discontinued or school boards are required to put the funding into one area when there's another area that needs it more.

School boards can't provide the best quality education—one that prepares students for an evolving economy—when the budgeting process becomes a series of one-year guesses.

Why does this matter for students?

While school boards do all they can to keep changes in funding from impacting classrooms, there are only so many dollars to go around.

A lack of stable, predictable and adequate funding means we can't invest long-term in the programs we feel best meet the educational priorities unique to the Division.

That could mean that while we can still meet the basics, we may not be able to offer specialized programs and opportunities to help students achieve success beyond high school. In turn, it limits our ability to provide effective interventions for students needing a little additional support.

When the scope of programs is changed or narrowed, the Board doesn't have the flexibility to invest dollars where it will have the greatest impact for students in the Division.

The "one size fits all" model rarely works as well as one that allows school boards to invest in specific areas—which will make the greatest difference and provide students an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to their communities.

When infrastructure dollars are tied to the number of students in a school rather than the infrastructure needs of the building, those schools with smaller student enrolment risk falling under disrepair.

It costs the same to repair a roof at a school with 1,000 students as it does in a school with 300 students—as a result, school boards must try to find additional dollars within existing budgets to properly operate and maintain buildings throughout the Division. Doing so means an infrastructure deficit is created at more schools.

Specific examples:

- EIPS used the Classroom Improvement Fund (CIF) to hire staff, purchase equipment and obtain materials to enhance literacy in Year 1—a priority for students in our area. In Year 2, however, the focus was narrowed significantly and the Division couldn't continue or grow the original initiative.
- In 2018, the Alberta Healthy Schools Wellness Fund, provided through Alberta Health Services, was ended mid-year, with a request to return funds when contracts had been signed and money already spent.
- The carbon tax further strained Division resources and had direct impacts on the level of transportation services provided to students—the first year it was imposed, the cost to EIPS was \$395,800, it's anticipated the cost to the Division will be approximately \$300,000 each successive year.
- Additionally, the transportation funding formula hasn't been reviewed by the province since 2004—but diesel fuel, school buses and contract costs continue to rise.
- In 2018, the government imposed new requirements for the training of school bus operators—but didn't provide funding to cover the costs of training. For EIPS, the cost will be \$77,000 annually. The change further strains the Division's budget and may require the Board to allocate funds for the training that was originally intended for the classroom.
- Any increases for student transportation have not matched the rate of inflation and we have to find more and more efficiencies every year. As a result, EIPS has fewer buses on the road, resulting in longer ride times for students. In addition, bell changes have students arriving earlier to school, meaning students have to be out the door even earlier in the morning and often arrive to school hungry and tired. For some schools, the tight schedules limit their access and experience in terms of field trips.
- Since the 2007-08 school year, base funding has been frozen three times—and in fact, it has remained the same for the last three school years. The allotment provided doesn't keep track with increasing costs, lowering the spending power of the dollars we are given. The one increase that was given over that time was earmarked to pay the increase in teacher wages negotiated by the province.

*Counted \$51.95
- \$1.00
Spring break*

Extra- Curricular Fees

Extracurricular Fees

- Running Club \$20
- Cross Country Running \$10
- Wisest Choices U of A \$40
- Swimming Lessons \$-- 100
- Basketball \$10
- Badminton \$10
- Volleyball \$10
- Young Author Conference \$20
- Field Trip - Skiing \$35
- Field Trip - Sunridge Snowboard ticket, helmet, rentals, transport \$45
- Field Trip - Sunridge helmet and transport \$35
- Field Trip - Sunridge ski ticket, helmet, rentals and transport \$45
- Field Trip - Sunridge transportation only \$5
- Lego Robotics \$20
- Grade 6 Farewell \$50

Activity Fees (Field Trips)

Field Trips

Field Trips - Kindergarten \$100
Field Trips - Grade 1 \$85
Field Trips - Grade 2 \$85
Field Trips - Grade 3 \$85
Field Trips - Grade 4 \$85
Field Trips - Grade 5 \$85
Field Trips - Grade 6 \$85

Noon supervision Fees

Noon Supervision

Supervision Grade 1-6 \$110

Supervision Kindergarten \$55