

## **COSC REPORT, Oct.4/23**

### **ELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND SECRETARY**

The meeting started with the election of the COSC Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary for the 2023-24 school year. The positions are as follows:

- *Chair:* Kendra Roemer, Mills Haven Elementary
- *Vice-Chair:* Dallas Kirtz, Fort Saskatchewan Elementary
- *Secretary:* Chelsea Pretzlaw, Ardrossan Elementary

The new role of COSC Technician was also created to assist with hybrid delivery of meetings. The COSC Technician will let participants into the meeting, monitor the chat and ensure audio is working properly.

- *COSC Technician:* Aileen Bozic, SCA Secondary

### **2023-24 COSC MEETINGS: Dates and time**

Meeting dates for 2023-24:

- Nov. 1, 2023
- Jan. 10, 2024
- Feb. 7, 2024
- March 6, 2024
- April 3, 2024
- May 1, 2024
- Meeting times: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Meeting format: hybrid—both in person and virtual. During bad weather, meetings may take place entirely virtual.

### **ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION**

Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) is the provincial organization for families on school council.

Below may be of interest to COSC members:

- The ASCA website offers various resources for school council members designed to enhance school council effectiveness and parent engagement.
- Particularly useful is the "[School Council Resource Guide](#)," which steps members through the purpose and role of a school council.
- Accessing an ASCA membership is as simple as sending an email to Emma Small that your school council—including your school council name—wants a membership to ASCA for the 2023-24 school year. EIPS will take care of registering your school council and covering the costs. As requested, the Board of Trustees and EIPS senior administration will investigate having ASCA memberships for all school councils as opposed to on request.
- Accessing the Members-only section of the ASCA website:
  - If your school council had an ASCA membership last year and you've requested a membership for this year:
    - (Chair) You should be able to log in with your username and password from last year. Your username will be the email ASCA has on record. If you've forgotten your password, send an email directly to [support@albertaschoolcouncils.ca](mailto:support@albertaschoolcouncils.ca). They can help you reset it.
  - If your school council did not have an ASCA membership last year:

- You'll receive an email prompting you to log in and create a password.
- If you haven't received this email, or may have deleted it by mistake, complete the [Update School Council Contact form](#) on the ASCA website. This will trigger the next step in the process.
- ASCA is also piloting a project called Walk Alongside Alberta. Stay tuned for more details.

### **CAREGIVER EDUCATION SERIES: October**

Alberta Health Services is hosting 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, ADHD, depression, self-harm, technology, teens and teaching leadership skills, communication, resiliency and more. [Learn more](#)

### **SCHOOL COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT GRANT**

Alberta Education is providing school councils with a \$500 School Council Engagement Grant. Those school councils interested in accessing funding must meet [grant criteria](#), which essentially means opportunities that help build capacity and strengthen engagement. To administer the 2023-24 grant, EIPS first needs to collect contact information from school councils in the Division. (Chair) Have one member from your school council complete this [contact form](#) by **Monday, October 23**. More information about applying for the grant will be shared in the November COSC meeting package.

### **BOARD REPORT**

EIPS has a new Board Chair, Cathy Allen. Chair Allen reported on the board retreat where they review board evaluations and establish the work plan for the year identifying areas of strength and opportunities for growth. She referenced the mandate letters from the departments of the government that mentioned education including education, advanced education, children and family services, and mental health and addiction. Chair Allen also discussed a meeting with MLA Kazawski and the attending the AB Student Transportation Advisory Council.

### **EIPS THREE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

Superintendent Sandra Stoddard discussed the [EIPS Three-Year Engagement Plan](#). The discussion outlined five projects the Division is undertaking to identify areas where the Division can improve operations to best serve students, including programming and school capacity considerations. This includes the work done around relocating the 7-12 french immersion program from Ardrossan to a new location. A recommendation report will be given to the board at the Oct.19 board meeting, the package will be released to the public on Oct. 16 and can be found at that time on the district website under board packages. In referring to the Systems Program Review, Superintendent Stoddard highlighted the many [Specialized System Programs](#) the Division offers. The board is reviewing the system programs to align feeder schools with demographic and growth patterns. Superintendent Stoddard also discussed balancing Senior High utilization. Once some decisions have been made regarding French Immersion there will be action to engage families in order to create balance in high school attendance across the district. Watch for more information to come via the district website and EIPS communications.

## **NEW CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT TOOLS**

Associate Superintendent Ryan Marshall spoke about resources the Division has created for the new curriculum and the assessment tools being used for the school year. He included information on the [Partners 4 Science program](#), which encourages hands-on science learning through interactive kits.

## **\*IMPORTANT REMINDERS AND OPPORTUNITIES\***

### **Alberta Education Focus Group**

On **October 30**, Alberta Education will host a focus group to collect insight from parents about updates to the old [My Child's Learning: A Parent Resource](#) website into a brand new space hosted on [new.LearnAlberta.ca](#). The focus group will meet from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Zoom. The Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) has been asked to identify 10-12 parents from metro, urban and rural school divisions, representing students from kindergarten to Grade 12 to participate in this focus group. Complete this [application form](#) if you'd like to be considered for the group.

### **ASCA Membership**

For any school councils that haven't expressed interest in an ASCA membership, there's still time. Accessing an ASCA membership is as simple as sending an email to Emma Small that your school council—including your school council name and email address—wants a membership to ASCA for the 2023-24 school year. EIPS will take care of registering your school council and covering the costs. (Chair) Express your interest by **October 31**.

### **School Council Engagement Grant: Contact form**

A reminder to school councils, Alberta Education is providing councils with a \$500 School Council Engagement Grant. Those school councils interested in accessing funding must meet [grant criteria](#), which essentially means opportunities that help build capacity and strengthen engagement. To administer the 2023-24 grant, EIPS first needs to collect contact information from school councils in the Division. Have one member from your school council [complete this contact form](#) by **Monday, October 23** (Chair). More information about applying for the grant will be shared in the November COSC meeting package.