

# Bev Facey School Council

## Minutes for May 26, 2020

**Attendees:** Staff: Barclay Spady, Cherum Orr, Matt Shudra, Trudy Williamson, Candida Shepherd

Families Represented: Jeff Hanrahan, Cecile Palm, Amanda Beck, Tara Whitford, Kim Thompson-Springer, Sherrilyn Job, Stephanie Spilchak, Kelly Dyjur, Glenda Kern, Wendy Gyte, Marlene Crippin, Sivanthy Suntharalingham, Natalie, Bos, Cathy Jones, Ken Glover, Jackie Mill, Sherry Janke, Kerri Remeika, Elaine Hubercheck

Trustee: Trina Boymook

Barclay Spady: Welcome message. Note – Cherum and Matt will monitor the the chat window and will bring forward the questions or will answer them as they come up.

1. **Call to order** at 6:05pm.
2. **Additions to the agenda** – none
3. **Approval of April 28, 2020 minutes** – Motion to approve put forward by Marlene Crippin, seconded by Cathy Jones.
4. **Alternate council meeting attendance platforms** – COSC action item – to look at forming a committee to help school councils to expand attendance profile by using virtual platforms.
5. **2020 -2021 Council Executive and attendance-** Jeff H – seems the council attendance is sparse when things are going well and well attended when there are outstanding issues. I feel our administration is doing a great job and as such parents seem to think there is no need to attend right now.

Even when things are going well there is a lot of great information provided at the meetings. Parents, please consider attending and perhaps helping out on the council.

Positions on the council are:

Chairperson – chair all meetings, coordinate with the Principal to establish meeting agendas, council communications, prepare an annual report in conformance with regulations summarizing the activities of the council, represent the school council on

EIPS Committee of School Councils, be the official spokesperson of the council, decide all matters relating to rules of order of the meeting.

Vice Chairperson – act in the absence of the Chairperson, aid the Chair and undertake tasks assigned by them and in the event the Chairperson resigns, fulfill the Chairperson’s responsibilities.

Secretary – prepare the minutes of each meeting of the council and maintain the records of the meetings.

Members at Large – attend the school council meetings and assist with the work of the School Council.

**Parent comment:** I think this year’s attendance was different from previous years due to circumstance and availability. This format (online) is beneficial to all.

**Barclay Spady:** Administration does value parent input and engagement. It has been helpful in moving forward on some of our decisions. There will be a survey going out to parents in September to get input on dates, times and digital options for future meetings.

6. **Operating Procedures Approval ASCA Approval of Motions** – Councils across the province have been asked for input on which motions to forward to the minister. These have been deferred to next year due to COVID-19.
7. **School Council Operating Procedure Review** – Jeff suggested having ASCA in to do an Operating Procedure workshop and to complete the update in the next year. Are parents interested in doing this and delaying completion?

**Parent comments:** Yes, wait to complete in the next year.

**Motion** made by Kim Thompson to table Operating Procedures update until next year, seconded by Cecile Palm.

Link for ASCA Workshop information - <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/school-councils/workshops>

Link for ASCA Workshop request - <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/school-councils/workshops/request-a-workshop>

8. **EIPS 2019 – 2020 Parent Survey results** – The results have been posted on the school website. 190 people responded although not everyone responded to every question. The data is quite positive as there is a definite trend of increased satisfaction of parents in many areas compared to survey results from 2016 – 2017. Staff worked very hard on

building relationships with students and parents and adapting instructional practices. Looking at the survey results parents are happy with our efforts.

**Parent Question:** Based on the survey results what areas will you be focusing on next year?

**Barclay Spady:** Relationships continue to be our number 1 focus due to the impact/trauma kids are facing now and as they transition back to school. We will continue to work on instructional practices, some element of remote learning, refining the process and to work around individualized learning. We will also address learning gaps – what are strategies on how to deal with these. It will be identified on the School Education Plan. We will share with the group the goals and plans on how to achieve these.

**Parent Comment:** Great report, congratulations on the results.

## 9. Reports

**A. Trustee Report** – Trina Boymook - Bev Facey should be proud of the results of the EIPS Parent Engagement Survey. Well done.

- i. The Board will be approving a \$196M budget at the Board's regular meeting being held on May 28 that draws \$4.7M from reserves. Board's reserves have been frozen by government as result of Bill 5 and can only access them with Minister's approval. Boards are to make their request with as part of May 31 budget submission.
  - a. It is expected that schools and departments will be ending this year with a small surplus. The schools will be allowed to retain the surplus up to 1% (\$2.56M) of their operating budget for next school year.
  - b. Schools will use up to \$819K of their school generated funds.
  - c. \$355K allocated reserves
  - d. \$1M from unallocated reserves earmarked for emergent needs as we respond to rising insurance costs and COVID additional costs.
  - e. Central departments allocations have been decreased by 20.3% and allocations to schools have decrease by 2.9%.
  - f. In the fall we seen a reduction in funding and the Board was required to \$7.96M from reserves to complete the year.
- ii. The Board reviewed the Junior High Honours pilot on May 7. The Board has determined that it will be establishing a Division Junior High Honours Alternative program for Grades 8 and 9 to be introduced for the 2021-22 school year. The Board will be looking at a few developed programs that are being offered in other school division and engaging parents and students in the fall to inform decisions on what will be offered. The current school Junior High Honours program will

continue next year for Grade 9 only. Part of the Board's decision will include whether to congregate the program at one school site or will we have it offered at multiple school sites.

**Parent Question:** Will grade 6's have the opportunity to apply for grade 7 honours?

**Trina:** Probably not. Grade 7's can apply for grade 8 honours. Next year the Board will look at and evaluate the programs already in place in Edmonton and will use or adapt a program that fits best for EIPS.

**Parent Comment:** Thank you for your support in keeping the honours program going. I think it gives students something to look forward to academically, it is a great program.

- iii. The Board has worked with the Superintendent to establish the guiding principles for fee refunds. Timelines have not been determined.
- iv. Board has been participating in the stakeholder engagement on the Alberta Education re-entry plan. The plan will focus around three scenarios. Boards will be expected to develop plans for each of the scenarios. A parent survey will be going out in the coming weeks to gather your thoughts on different elements that we will need to consider in building our plan. The results will inform the direction that will be taken. Please take time to complete the survey and encourage others to do the same.

**Parent Question:** How will the survey go out? Mail? Email?

**Trina:** Email

**Parent Question:** What are the 3 scenarios?

**Trina:** Scenario 1 is school back to normal, Scenario 2 is a combination of back to school and remote learning. Currently working with Dr. Hinshaw to develop protocols and guidelines for this and Scenario 3 is remote learning like we are currently doing. Areas around the Province may also differ in their Scenarios based on health and safety issues specific to each area.

**Parent Question:** Will teachers be expected to do double duty in a Scenario 2 situation? In class and online learning?

**Trina:** No. More information will be given for this Scenario once details have been established.

**B. Administrative Report** – Barclay Spady, Cherum Orr, Matt Shudra, Trudy Williamson  
We are very fortunate to have Trina. There is no greater advocate for education and schools, her experience and guidance is extremely valuable. Thank you Trina.

- i. Grad 2020 update – upon communication with the grade 12's things have evolved and we have a plan in place. Grad will take place over 3 days, with grads having the opportunity to walk across the stage to receive their diplomas. Social distancing measures will be in place. At this point the plan will be: the decorations (already purchased) will be put up, stage decorated, red carpet, caps and gowns handed out. Most grads have signed up for a time slot for their turn to walk the stage. Some grads have chosen to pick up their grad regalia and have their own celebration. AP students will get the chance to wear their honour cords. Grads will also get a ¼ page each in the yearbook. Some of the grad fee will be refunded. Central office is taking care of refunds and all concerns will have to be directed there. There are still details to pin down.
- ii. AP exams went well. They were done online with only 4 who had technical issues and will complete the make-up exams next week.
- iii. Grade 9's will get to join online meets next week. They will get to chat and ask questions.
- iv. Timetables – Matt and Trudi worked very hard on finalizing timetables. There are still a few changes needed but can report that about 98% of student requests have been accommodated. Thank you to them for staying late to go over them again and again to balance class sizes. Timetables will be shared with staff on Monday so they can start the planning process for next year due to the uncertainty of the Scenario. Administration will again go over each timetable to make sure it is as good as it can be. Hopefully timetables will be given out to students at the end of June perhaps in exchange for their textbooks. Grade 9's will likely get their timetables on the 25<sup>th</sup>.
- v. Textbook and Material Return – All materials need to be returned June 22 – 24<sup>th</sup>. No refunds will be given out if items are not returned. All refunds are being processed through Central office not the schools. Grads need to return their textbooks to receive their grad regalia. The teachers will be there to accept books which may help students with end of year closure. All materials can be dropped off early if you want. Bins will be left outside of the school for drop off which will then, for health reasons, be left for 3 days before being brought in.
- vi. Construction is currently being done in the school.

**Parent Question:** Parents would like to still do something for the staff appreciation, can we?

**Answer:** Thank you, with so much uncertainty please revisit this in the fall.

- C. COSC Report** – Jeff Hanrahan. There was a lot of discussion around the budget and talk about parents as partners. It was a good report for Bev Facey, strong. I challenge everyone to keep in mind for next year to enforce we are partners with administration to ensure success of our children.

Check out the Alternative Learning Toolkit on the EIPS website <https://www.eips.ca/alternative-learning-toolkit>. There is a lot of great information for parents.

Talked about remote council format – COSC can provide oversight and guidance and support for councils in navigating a remote meeting format.

- D. Chair Report**– Jeff Hanrahan. I am leaving the school this year but will be available to support the new Council/Chair next year. New Council will be formed at the September meeting. Council positions and duties are listed under number 5 of these minutes. Anyone interested please attend this meeting.

Thank you to all, it has been a pleasure working with you. I originally got involved due to a school in flux and it has been an eye opening experience, I've seen the value a council has and it was stimulating having conversations at the meetings. Thank you to all the staff and administration as well as the other council members for constant support. Thank you to every parent at the last 2 meetings. It was refreshing to have new parent's thoughts. I will be back in one year.

**10. Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm**

**Next meetings – to be finalized:**

September 15, 2020

October 20, 2020

November 17, 2020

Minutes prepared by Cecile Palm – Secretary