

Bev Facey School Council Virtual Meeting

Minutes for September 15, 2020

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

Families Represented: Cecile Palm, Amanda Beck, Wendy Gyte, Marlene Crippin, Sivanthy Suntharalingham, Cathy Jones, Colleen Helwig, Brandi Mah, Noreen Hendershot, Krista Scott, Elaine Hubercheck, Trish Kuhn, Tara Radtke, Pam Smith, Tammy Parker, Sheri Cholin, Rochelle Hocker, John Meston, Karen Tomnuk, Kelli Brons, Sheri-Dawn Annett, Barb Patterson, Wendy Allen, Joceltn Rayan

Trustee: Trina Boymook

1. **Call to order** at 6:03 by Barclay Spady. Welcome all to Bev Facey and welcome to the first meeting of the council. Matt Shudra – the grade 10 administrator, Cherum Orr – the grade 11 administrator and Trudi Williamson the grade 12 administrator will monitor the chat window.
2. **Additions to the agenda** – none
3. **Elections and Volunteers of positions** –
Bev Facey School Council for 2020 – 2021
Chair: Karen Tomnuk
Vice Co-Chairs: Brandi Mah and Amanda Beck
Secretary: Cecile Palm

Marlene Crippin and Cathy Jones volunteered to organize the staff appreciation event this year.
4. **Approval of May 26, 2020 minutes** – Motion to approve put forward by Matt Shudra, seconded by Amanda Beck.
5. **School re-entry and COVID protocols** – Barclay Spady.
This will continue to be an ongoing and adaptive document.

Due to the number of people in the building social distancing is not possible so the use of masks is mandatory. Good start to the year with students adapting well to the changes and the routine and following the rules and the new normal. We reworked the

main areas re. chairs and tables, have grade specific entrances and exits. There are hand sanitizer stations everywhere and students are very vigilant about hand sanitizing, cleaning desks and wearing masks. There are staggered break, lunch and end of day times. These are working very well and there is consideration to keeping these in place after COVID. Flow and interactions are going very well and there have been no issues in the parking lots. Staggered times have also helped with congestion with after school pick-ups. Students are finding it difficult not having after school activities such as sports, drama, band and visiting.

Cleaning is ongoing, by staff, students and custodian. Using new spray packs to spray down main areas often. Doing everything we can to protect the students and we feel the school is safe.

Grade group meetings were had – reinforced that this was necessary for now, as opposed to full school assemblies.

In the event a positive case the student, class and teacher will have to have a 14 day isolation. This is directed by Alberta Health Services. Working to be prepared for online learning scenarios. Will adjust as the school year progresses.

The re-entry plan, which was worked on throughout the summer, is a well thought out plan and we are confident it will meet the needs of our school.

Parent comment: I appreciate the school's efforts to include students in the conversation. Seems like most students have been left "voiceless" in media reports and community conversations.

Parent Question: What percent of your enrollment decided to do the home learning in term 1?

Answer: We are at 7.5% for Quarter 1 who are choosing out of class learning. We started with 5%. Some plan to return to in school at some point while others for personal or medical reasons will stay with online learning. We will support all families whether online or in person. We recognize that some may decide after quarter 1 to move to online learning. We will work with all students to support them with all their routes.

Parent Question: Do all teachers have a plan to transition immediately to online learning if possible?

Answer: Yes. We are working with a 40 day instructional plan. Teachers are currently working on it and some are ready now.

Parent Question: I am wondering about runny noses, coughs, that come with cold weather – do those require 10 days isolation?

Answer: Yes. Will need to isolate for 14 days (which would actually be 10 instructional day) or have a negative COVID test. Students will continue leaning online with their teacher. Assessments will be pushed to when they return to class.

Parent Question: If my child's class is sent home to self isolate will there be online classes for both the morning and afternoon classes?

Answer: Yes. The teacher will work with the student through Brightspace to complete course work.

Parent Question: Does the school have to have a specific number of cases which would cause the school to close, or will they stay open and just isolate cases and carry on?

Answer: No specific number at this time. So far we are doing well, stay vigilant.

Parent Question: How many instructional days in each quarter?

Answer: Approximately 42.

Parent Question: What happens if a class needs to isolate around diplomas?

Answer: The class can submit a group waiver or defer to the next writing.

Parent Question: Is there support for for diploma prep? Previously kids went to McEwan etc. to prep but I am unaware of what is happening now. I would imagine they will require diploma prep if they defer.

Answer: Castlerock, the same company that sell the KEYS Study Guides, will provide a digital version. For \$20 they will give you access to up to 10 courses. As soon as you order you will have online access. This will be set up soon

Parent Question: I realize it is early but how is it going with the extended class times? How does this work for kids who need to move around and stretch for learning success?

Answer: Both teachers and students are working together to adapt to the new class length. Students find it gives them more time to concentrate on the subject matter. Some classes are more challenging than others, it is a work in progress. I believe the quarter system is very good. Some of the option classes are finding they are moving quicker as they can work on their projects for a longer stretch and since there is one set up and clean up time instead of two for that amount of class time.

Students still get up to the board and are moving within the classroom. The class takes a 10 minute break as needed.

Parent Question: Is Brightspace having some challenges that you are aware of with the influx/beginning of the school year?

Answer: Yes. All are working together to adapt to the new program. We expect to have the glitches worked out by the end of the first quarter.

Parent Question: Has the deadline for dropping classes come and gone?

Answer: We are working with students on an individual basis for dropping classes.

Parent Question: Can treats be sent in for the staff as a big thank you for all they have done and gone through for our kids?

Answer: We certainly won't say no to treats! What we are being told is that as long as they are pre-packaged treats then it meets requirements. Thank you!

Parent comment: Minister La Grange stated via a Global TV interview today that she has not visited schools because she hasn't been invited by school boards. Will EIPS be inviting Minister LaGrange to meet one of our schools?

Answer - Trina Boymook: I will be sure to send her an invitation to come to EIPS for a visit. She met with the Board last year, but haven't heard anything about her setting up meetings for this year.

6. School Council Operating Procedure review for 2020 – 2021

There are some small changes to be made along with a few additions. Workshop is scheduled for October 1, 2020.

7. Alberta School Council Presentations – all parents and staff welcome to attend

- Tuesday, September 29th from 6-9pm. School Council Purpose and Tools for Effective School Councils.
- Thursday, October 1st from 6-7:30pm. School Council Operating Procedures
The second part, Creating School Council Plans has been postponed to a later date, to be announced.

8. Reports

A. Trustee Report- Trina Boymook

I want to welcome everyone back for another school year. With this year being like no other, I encourage you to make it a priority to attend school council meetings. It will provide opportunities to learn to a greater degree of efforts being taken by the school

and the Board to provide a safe and positive learning environment and to prevent any further disruption to learning as we experienced in the spring.

The guide for re-entry is a living document on EIPS website. We have created a log of the dates of revisions and what the revisions are for ease. Please always refer to the guide on EIPS to access the most current version. We do expect practices will be modified throughout the school year to respond to new requirements by the Minister or any that has been determined by senior administration in our efforts to provide a safe, caring and positive learning environment. Also, on that dedicated section of the website there is a FAQ. If you have questions, please consult this document to see if the answer to your question has been already captured. We encourage you to work with your school throughout the year.

Over the summer the Board met to approve the use of \$395,000 from unallocated reserves to cover a number of COVID related costs to set us up for the first four months of the school year. This included purchase of a new learning platform to support out of school learning, access to Edmonton Public out of school resources, PPE, extra custodian costs and the cost of the re-entry working group that functioned during the summer.

EIPS will be receiving \$6.1M from the funds that have been provided by the Federal government. We are currently examining where our pressure points are. The province has provided us four broad categories that the funds can be spent. This funding will allow school authority to address

- staffing,
- adapting learning spaces and personal protective equipment, cleaning and safety considerations for schools and buses,
- supports for special needs students,
- online learning and teacher training.

At the August 27 Board meeting the Board approved the introduction of Policy 26 School Dispute Resolution. This replaces the previous Administrative Procedure. The Board also approved the suspension of rules that limit the number of meetings that can be attended electronically for the entire school year. Trustees will choose either to attend in person or virtually via Zoom. As result of reducing the number of visitors to our facilities the boardroom is closed to the public and all public meetings will be livestreamed through EIPS YouTube account. We have also set protocols to hear delegations from the public.

Board will be conducting a survey in October to inform the establishment of a Division Junior High Honours Alternative Program.

The Board will be holding a Value a 2-day value scoping session to evaluate alternative solutions for the replacement of Sherwood Heights Junior High.

The discussions will take place on Monday, September 21 and Wednesday, September 23 and will involve the following schools:

- Sherwood Heights Junior High
- Pine Street Elementary
- Ecole Campelltown
- Salisbury Composite High
- Cloverbar Junior High

School Council Chair has received an invitation to attend.

Parent Question: What is the timeline to spend the \$6.1 million?

Answer: The province is still waiting to receive the funds. Half of the funds in September and the other half in December. A report will be sent on how it was spent. Once assured it was spent according to guidelines we will get the second half. Costs for subs will be a good portion of this amount, there would be no way to cover this expense otherwise. We are advocating to the Minister to increase testing turnaround time for teacher and students to decrease disruption to classes. Also, transportation; some drivers did not want to return. There was a lot of increased time required to clean the buses before and after that was without compensation. Retention and attraction of drivers is a priority.

Parent Question and Comment: Are the Board meetings live and are they saved? Thank you for funding the AP program.

Answer: They are not saved, we don't have the capacity to store them. It is the same as attending in person, if you join in you will see it otherwise not.

B. Administrative Report

Barclay Spady - Quarterly schedule – already covered; see agenda item 5
 Grad Update – We inquired at the Expo Centre and they will not book a group over 100 people so there will not be a large scale grad. It will look much like last year. It turned out quite well. Parents liked the no waiting, front row seats, picture opportunities and it was meaningful to families and grads.

We will build on these things and refine the production. It will likely be more than one day. We will proceed with measures that are meaningful to the students and families, might be able to allow friendship groups to go together. This will also mean a low cost. Last year was \$55, this year it is at \$80. We will still have a grad committee and student and parent meetings.

Cherum Orr – Advanced Placement – has been a challenge changing to the quarter system. Many classes alternate all year to be ready for May exams. Exam registration is due by October 28th for quarter 1 and 2. Will meet with all students to help them make decisions about writing. Will continue to have the AP graduation cords.

Off Campus Education, RAP, Green Programs – working together with division coordinator Kristen Oleksyn She will meet virtually with those students to support them. Facey has about 80 students currently in OCE.

Matt Shudra – Athletics – Alberta schools approving some team gatherings. EIPS has suspended them until the end of quarter one. We will re-evaluate but need to concentrate on staff and student health and safety. Scholarships will not look at sports right now for everyone. We understand it is tough for these students.

Facility – Air handling project finishing up in phase 2. It went well and are working with the company to change and adjust temperatures. Roofing of the gyms is currently being done. The changes also look nice, about 80% of the metal is gone and is now white tile. Phase 3 will go ahead next summer. Those areas will be in construction, horticulture and mechanics.

There was some vandalism over the summer. Someone climbed onto the roof with rocks and broke the windows in horticulture causing \$75 000 in damage. This did go through insurance and there are some nice new windows in place. There is still some painting and a few small projects left.

Trudi Williamson – Brightspace is being used exclusively by the at home learning. Teachers will be transitioning to it if they haven't already instead of using Google classroom. Brightspace is a better program for online learning than Google classroom, which isn't a true online learning management system. We are trying to accommodate students not coming back in and prepare for this kind of learning. EIPS has a great Brightspace guide for parents and students. Go to the EIPS website and type Brightspace into the search box. I can also help with any issues.

Awards – October 15th and are still in the planning stage. May live stream for smaller awards, an event for major awards. May do awards in person to students and live stream it out. Information will go out.

Focus right now is to try to stay in school for all of September, maintain a cautionary note. Things will return to normal but will take every precaution now to get there.

C. COSC Report – a great support group for school councils and to discuss what is coming re. education, often before it comes to the school meeting. COSC meetings are also a great place for the Board to get feedback from councils. Krista Scott volunteered to be our COSC representative. Next meeting is a Zoom meeting on October 7th at 7:00pm. All are welcome.

D. Chair Report – none

Questions

Parent Question: How are your actual enrollment numbers different from your projected enrollment numbers?

Answer: We budgeted for 1019 but have 1035. Some students might leave in Jan/Feb when other programs open up.

Parent Question: Once EIPS decides it's safe to proceed, will the sports begin from the beginning of the school year order (EG: vball, then bball, etc) Or will it just pick up according to the traditional season timelines?

Answer: We will have to wait and see. Some may be moved to the spring. It is unclear as the seasons of play between school and club sports can't overlap.

Next meeting is October 20th. It is likely to be online again, information will go out.

9. Adjournment at 7:30

Minutes prepared by Cecile Palm – secretary