

**Bev Facey School Council  
Virtual Meeting  
Minutes for November 17, 2020**

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

Families Represented: Karen Tomnuk, Cecile Palm, Amanda Beck, Marlene Crippin, Cathy Jones, Krista Scott, Tammy Parker, Sheri-Dawn Annett, John Meston, Colleen Helwig, Noreen Hendershot, Elaine Hubercheck, Trish Kuhn, Kelly Micetich, Pam Smith, Sheri Cholin, Rochelle Hocker, Jocelyn Rayan

Trustee: *Trina Boymook – absent but report sent in*

1. **Call to order** at 6:00pm by Karen Tomnuk. Round “table” introductions were made.
2. **Additions to the agenda** – none. Approval of agenda by Cathy Jones, seconded by John Meston.
3. **Approval of October 20, 2020 minutes** – Motion to approve put forward by John Meston and seconded by Amanda Beck.

**4. New Business**

a) Amended School Council Operating Procedures

There was one change made to the 8A definition. It now reads: “A quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Council is 50% of the elected officers including one staff member and one attending parent.”

There were no other changes put forward. Krista Scott motioned to accept the School Council Operating Procedures as presented, Cathy Jones seconded. All in favour.

b) BFH Results Review

Results review is November 24, 2020 at 1:00pm. Schools are required to meet with the Superintendent, Trustees and senior administration. We will share the good, bad and otherwise of the Education Plans, did we achieve our goals and how did we measure success.

Challenges the school faces are gaps in learning from the spring, especially math and sciences and student mental health.

After the review the results will be posted to our website.

Overall the results are positive. There is a lot to celebrate but there is also a lot we can still work on and improve. The School Goals will be posted along with the results.

**Parent Question:** What is the action plan now regarding Diplomas? Without this data from last year will you be looking and gathering data both quantitative and qualitative for next year?

**Answer:** There will likely not be diplomas this year. Because of the high number of students in remote learning. Right now 9% are at home and it is higher in other areas. Teachers plan to teach with diplomas in mind so students will be prepared to write them if they choose. 10 and 20 level finals will also be optional due to challenges with students going on and off of isolation.

Collecting data moving forward – we will see how students do. We will evaluate the quarter system, talk to all stakeholders and engage on a wider scale before any decisions are made.

**Parent Question:** I would like to attend the Results Review. Can I get a copy of the results prior to prepare? I was told to request a package from our Principal.

**Answer:** Yes. Anyone interested in attending can email Cherum Orr or Barclay Spady and they will forward you a copy.

**Parent Question:** Will the 2020/21 results review include reporting on the challenges students and teachers experienced with the quarter semester system? For example: I'm thinking about the challenges of delivering AP classes in a condensed timeline.

**Answer:** Yes, absolutely! That will definitely be included in next year's review.

c) Quarter 1 Feedback

We are collecting data from staff and students on how quarter 1 is going. There are some issues with the core courses but the option courses are going really well. Math - the pace is brisk, to say the least, quarters one and three are good but two and four are not as good for time due to the diploma scheduling. We will decide if we will be staying with the quarter system before June due to the scheduling timeframe. We will have to make a decision so we would really like to get feedback.

**Parent Comments:** -My son is in math and English AP and found it very difficult, much too rushed. It was, learn a concept and have the exam, there was no time for practice or retention.

-I agree about math. My son was very stressed and he is a strong student.

-I agree, the quarter system was not good for math and physics. Very stressful for the kids.

-The mental shift for grade tens was quite stressful, especially with the added transition from school at home in the spring. With that said, it is so new and hard to evaluate after only quarter.

-I liken it to asking someone to win a marathon without training. It was a lot to ask of everyone but I think overall, it went very well (my perspective).

-Yes agreed. Except our kids didn't have running shoes because they rode the couch since March, lol. Learning muscles were out of shape.

- I agree. My son does well throughout the semester but has anxiety and stresses; sometimes doing poorly on the final and bringing his mark down. The unit finals being used like Q1 makes it less stressful for sure.

-Really appreciate Facey admin learning and adjusting.

**Reply:** The spring session definitely required better planning, we did go into it with such short notice. Now we feel the school is a much safer environment and is working much better. We will continue to be better prepared as we go along, live and learn.

**Parent comment:** I feel this was the best response for students for in school learning. As a parent I don't feel we have the data regarding retention of information as this is happening. We know condensed learning is not the best practice for deeper learning, more repetition equals more or better data retention. The data supports the longer semester is better for data retention.

**Answer:** Right now the courses are similar to a summer school style. We recognize things are not ideal and will continue to work to ensure student successes. We did make math and science final exams optional for the 10 and 20 levels as well.

Quarter two has seen a much smoother start, many concerns have already been addressed and routines established. This has decreased stressors to students and staff. We are better able to use Brightspace now as well.

We may look into a hybrid schedule down the road we will do what is in the best interest of the students. We will work with the math 30's to ensure success. Kids will be able to audit classes so they don't need to retake a whole class and we will adjust as we go.

**Parent question:** Do you plan to talk to students about how quarter one went and get their feedback?

**Answer:** Yes. A survey will go out to all students and parents.

Also the staggered break times are working very well. Breaks are less stressful due to the decrease number of kids in the hallways therefor less break time issues and it is then easier to deal with these issues.

**Parent Question:** How can schools influence the quarter system? Is this at the discretion of the school or EIPS?

**Answer:** That is a division wide decision.

d) Rutherford Scholarship Criteria

Thank you to Trudi who has done a great job of acknowledging students who can qualify for money.

Trudi – there are two levels that can qualify for money, honours and merit with the maximum amount being \$2500. There is no competition you either qualify or you don't. Your average is calculated from five designated courses, one being English, core subjects and two option classes. Your highest marks from these will be used.

Apply after graduation and after all marks are ready. Wait to apply if you are going to do upgrading or take a gap year. Apply after you are registered to post-secondary. Just go to [studentaid.alberta.ca](http://studentaid.alberta.ca), create an account, apply and about a month later your cheque arrives in the mail. If you are unsure if you qualify you can apply and see.

## 5. Information Reports

### A. Trustee Report – Trina Boymook – *report emailed in*

In preparation for the 2021 Municipal election the Board approved amendments to our Establishment of Wards and Electoral Subdivisions Bylaw. Amendments included our name change and other references to the Education Act. There are no changes to the electoral wards.

The Board sent a letter to the minister with a request to hold this year harmless due to COVID. The move to a weighted moving average will negatively impacted by the decline in the number of students than was projected for the next 2-3 years.

The Board reviewed the survey results for the Junior High Honours Division Program at our October 30 caucus meeting. We received 1410 surveys. The information we received guide Administration recommendation that the Board will consider at our December Board meeting. Parents expressed their interest in continuing with the program that was developed and piloted last year, strongly support that there should be a standardized rigorous entry requirements and would like to see the programs to be offered through multiple school site instead of being congregated at one school.

School Results Review will start Thursday and will end November 23.

The Board is continuing to monitor our COVID costs and projections as we prepare for the fall budget.

### B. Administrative Reports

i. Barclay Spady: Falcons View – tried out the new version and found it is working really well. There will be a new link each week. It is more user friendly and will be able to add more data. There is also the analytics where we can see how many people looked at it and which links they clicked on and for how long they looked at it. This will be useful to determine if people are liking the information we are presenting.

S.C.O.R.E. (Student Council On Race Education) – Meetings take place every Wednesday. Students engaging in discussion on race relationships in schools; how do we have tough conversations and how do we continue to celebrate diversity in school. Kids say - "I don't feel connected if I don't see someone like me on social media etc." We need to be mindful of this and continue this work.

COVID – We are currently in a good place with good processes in our practices.

**Parent Comment:** Thanks for all the school is doing to keep the school disinfected. I feel safe sending my kiddo to school!

**Parent Question:** Does Facey have a threshold number for sending an entire grade home, similar to what ABJ did?

**Answer:** That likely came from how they have alternating Day A and Day B so that essentially they have 4 cohorts per student which automatically increases the number of classes that have to go down due to close contact. We don't have that timetable which helps. We will close a grade only if we actually can't function as a class due to teachers being out.

ii) Cherum Orr: Advanced Placement – Registration for AP exams has gone up, 103 registered which is three times more than last year. This number may go down as students can cancel up to the exam date without penalty. Students that do well on the AP exam will bump up their class mark.

Exams – 11 student wrote diplomas for quarter 1, 3 were current students and the rest were upgraders or other. Looks like it will be the same for quarter 2.

iii) Matt Shudra: Occupational Health and Safety – AHS inspectors came and toured the school. They were very happy with all of our efforts. This was the second inspection, we are not sure why we had a second one and the inspectors were unaware one was already done. We are getting in a new sanitizing spray that is electronics friendly. Some of the products we have now aren't as good for our electronics. That should arrive tomorrow.

iv) Trudi Williamson: Awards - (*see 4d*)

Grad Council - Grad clothing sale closed on November 15<sup>th</sup>. This is the first round which we hope to have orders into the school before Christmas. Orders will open up again after Christmas with increased selection. Jostens ring are on sale through their website, [jostens.com](http://jostens.com), ring sizers are in the office. A lot of baby pictures have already been submitted. Grads can submit their picture by email or through the office where they will scan it and give it back. There were 40 students who expressed interest in being on the grad council and a lot who wanted to help with the slide show. It is hard to plan and we don't know how or when at this point due to restrictions. There was a lot of good feedback from grads and their families from last year. We will still do all the traditional speeches,

talent, videos etc. Grad photos will be January 18-28<sup>th</sup>, an email will go out for booking times.

### C. COSC Report - Krista Scott

Board Report – Chair Trina Boymook: EIPS is down 400 students this year which impacts the Weighted Moving Average. The board has requested the government that they be “held harmless” and asked them to use EIPS ESTIMATES as their actuals for funding over the next 3 years.

Thanks for participating in the survey about junior high Honors Programs. A decision will be made at the December Board meeting.

COVID costs, keeping an eye on them for 2021 budget

ATA Report – Local President Deneen Zielke:

Teachers are having limited contact and interaction this year compared to what they are used to, they miss interacting with colleagues, parents, volunteers, etc

ASCA Report- Krista Scott & Jacquie Surgeoner:

ASCA’s website is full of valuable information for parents and School Councils

<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/>

Check out Meeting Mondays & Webinar Wednesdays!

Discussed COSC offering ASCA’s workshops in October of each year for School Councils to participate in virtually in order to prepare new school council chairs and orient parents to the purpose and role of school councils.

EIPS indicated full support of this initiative for all parents in the District

Understanding Results - Associate Superintendent Sandra Stoddard:

Being done virtually this year, school council chairs and any interested parents are invited to attend

Results are from the Accountability Pillar survey plus they take in account PAT & Diploma marks

Parent questions “How are we doing in our current school year?”, “How many students wrote the exams?” can help to open up conversations around results.

*Please note this information was brought to our attention after the meeting but should be included:*

---

*ASCA received unexpected news regarding their funding application submitted to the Education*

*Ministry in June for the July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 operating year.*

*Unfortunately, funds for our conditional grant were cut by 75%, receiving only one quarter of the funds necessary to maintain operations.*

*This will significantly impact administration and service delivery from the Association. Similar to the spring pivot with a Covid shutdown, ASCA will continue to be innovative in serving our members.*

*This will not affect our governance, advocacy, or the parent voice on school councils.*

---

*The work of school council is legislated in Alberta, and a means to garner the voice of parents in education. ASCA promotes parent involvement in public education, and presents parent views through policy into the provincial education system, working with government and organizations in Alberta.*

*ASCA will continue to ensure parents are recognized and respected as knowledgeable, supportive contributors to their children's education, and are provided opportunities to be authentically engaged in all levels of the education system.*

*The Minister approved a one year grant of \$170,000 for the Association to carry out specific (project) work identified by Alberta Education:*

*"The provision of resources, services and supports to school councils and other key stakeholders to ensure they have the knowledge and ability to support the implementation of the new **Assurance Framework** and **professional practice standards for leaders**.*

*In addition, the above project area recognizes the Alberta School Councils' Association's expertise in providing resources and supports to school councils in Alberta."*

*The Minister has assured us that the almost half million dollar reduction in our funding will go into the classroom to directly support students.*

*Looking ahead, the Association must consider restructuring efficiencies, and will keep parents apprised of ongoing developments.*

*As the voice of parents on school councils in Alberta, the ASCA is confident this voice will remain strong and continue to contribute to student success in Alberta.*

*As parent volunteers themselves, the ASCA Board of Directors recognizes the value of those most invested, and is committed to sustain efforts engaging parents as essential partners in Alberta's education system.*

#### **D. Chair Report – Karen Tomnuk**

First, I'd like to give a shout out to those amazing Art 30 students who are seriously gifted individuals! I hope I speak on behalf of all parents when I say please continue to keep us updated via social media on all the accomplishments and student celebrations. The photos are great.

I am personally concerned about our children's future as it relates to impacts felt as a result of COVID-19. No one has a crystal ball, so the best all of us can do is be supportive, encourage our children, and the biggest thing I've learned over the last 8 months is, be open and accepting to constant change. We all need to embrace the philosophy of "rolling with it".

There's a lot of speculation and opinions out there, so I decided to look to see what a global organization is saying. The United Nations recently published a policy brief in August called "Education during COVID-19 and beyond". They are saying:

*"There remains a risk of a downward spiral, in a negative feedback loop of learning loss and exclusion. Yet every negative spiral of aggravating socio-economic circumstances suggests its reverse image of a positive spiral, one which would lead to the future of education we want: one of inclusive change in education delivery, of unleashing the potential of individuals, and of collective fulfillment, in all areas of life, through education investment.*

*There is unlimited drive, and untapped resources, we can count on for the restoration, not only of education's essential services but of its fundamental aspirations*

*The massive efforts made in a short time to respond to the shocks to education systems remind us that changes previously considered difficult or impossible to implement are possible after all. We must seize the opportunity to find new ways to address the learning crisis and bring about a set of sustainable solutions."*

Link: United Nations report: [https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/08/sg\\_policy\\_brief\\_covid-19\\_and\\_education\\_august\\_2020.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/08/sg_policy_brief_covid-19_and_education_august_2020.pdf)

That gives me hope and excitement about how we as parents can advocate for our children to help drive and support change and encourage that through our children as well.

#### School Council Meeting Times

Discussion re. meeting start times. A survey was emailed out and feedback indicated interest in having the meeting earlier. We will look into possibly changing the time for the January meeting to see if more parents are able to attend. People can still complete the survey as long as they can still access the email that went out with it. Advance notice will be given for the time of the January 19, 2021 meeting.

#### **6. Meeting adjourned** at 7:20pm

Minutes prepared by Cecile Palm – Secretary