

**Bev Facey School Council**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**Minutes for February 16, 2021**

**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, Sheri-Dawn Annett, Colleen Helwig, Noreen Hendershot, Sheri Cholin, Elaine Hubercheck, Pam Smith, Sherrilyn Job

Trustee: Trina Boymook

Student Representatives: Andreia Leahu, Taylor Christiansen, Jordyn Carr

1. **Call to order** at 6:00pm by Karen Tomnuk. Round “table” introductions were made.
2. **Additions to the agenda** – none.
3. **Approval of January 19, 2021 minutes** – Motion to approve put forward by Krista Scott and seconded by Pam Smith.
4. **New Business** – B.Spady
  - a) **2020 – 21 School Fee Information** *\*This information was circulated prior to the meeting and is attached at the end of the minutes.*

Fees have been re-assessed and some were decreased or eliminated. If and when extracurriculars resume, fees will be recalculated to reflect activities students will be able to participate in while following health safety guidelines. In the fee schedule, the approved amount is the maximum amount that could be charged so some of the time the amount charged is lower. The “Other Sales and Services” fees are based on “money in” equals “money out”.

As mentioned at the prior meeting; all fees are projected using the Program Budget Calculator. There are a few increased fees and those are due to the increase in the cost of materials. We do coordinate orders with other schools to take advantage of a bit of a savings by ordering in bulk.

Proposed fees for 2021 – 2022 are outlined in the attached document and we will be asking for parent feedback at the March meeting prior to submitting them to the Board for approval.

**Parent Question:** Will there still be the option to apply for wavier of fees?

**Answer:** Yes. Families can find the information on the EIPS website or ask at the school for the forms to apply to have fees waived.

Mr. Spady asked for School Fee feedback from meeting participants – none at this time.

**b) Alberta Education Accountability Survey**

Still not available. I spoke with the assistant superintendent and we are still unsure what the delay is.

- Trina volunteered to look into this for us and will pass along the information when she finds out.
- Krista Scott mentioned that there is another valuable survey for parents, the information is below:

#### The Satisfaction with Education in Alberta Survey:

As in previous years, the Ministry of Education will conduct its annual satisfaction telephone/online surveys to collect public and participant perceptions of Alberta's education system. The surveys gather responses from a random sample of parents, the general public, high school students, teachers (telephone and online), principals (online) and school board trustees, as well as employers of recent high school graduates. The total number of completed surveys will be over 6,000, ensuring that survey results for each of the 10 respondent groups are statistically representative. The survey responses are completely confidential, and no individual responses will be reported. The survey is also being offered in French for four respondent groups: senior high school students, parents, teachers and school board trustees.

The purpose of the surveys is to determine satisfaction with:

- the overall quality of the education system;
- the education system meeting the needs of students and supporting our society and the economy;
- schools providing a safe, caring and inclusive environment for students;
- preparation of students for lifelong learning, employment and active citizenship;
- the education system having effective working relationships with system partners;
- leadership and continuous improvement of the education system;
- knowledge, skills, abilities and other related attributes of recent high school graduates; and
- facilities and equipment in the education system.

Your participation is important, as it provides valuable information to help the ministry identify areas of strength and areas needing improvement, thus helping to provide a more effective and accountable education system. Some survey results are also used in specific business plan performance measures, and will be reported in the ministry's 2020/21 annual report. CCI Research has been contracted to administer the telephone/online surveys beginning on February 16, 2021 and ending in June 2021. A summary of the information obtained from the surveys will be posted on Education's website. Last year's survey instruments and survey results are available at <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/education-satisfaction-surveys-summary-report-2020>.

#### **c) EIPS Returning Student Registration – February 1 - 28<sup>th</sup>**

Registrations open February 1<sup>st</sup>, all students should register for the 2021 – 22 school year. Those that are planning on attending a school or program of choice please ensure that your registration is complete before the 28<sup>th</sup>. All students not registered prior to the 28<sup>th</sup> will be directed to their designated school and changes will not be made after that date.

Bev Facey is an open boundary school and will accept all new students.

Our numbers are a bit down from this time last year but we will see after registrations are complete, we will know more in March.

**Parent Question:** Does a reminder go out to parents?

**Answer:** Yes.

**d) Parent Volunteer reader for audio files**

We have an increased need of audio files; students supports for Diplomas come in the form of an audio file. The students use headphones and navigate these on their own. We are working on preparing 10 and 20 level course exams in this format so these students will be able to experience these kind of exams. This is very time consuming and we are hoping for parents to volunteer to read the files, source analysis and explanations. We are happy you compensate you with a free lunch or cosmetology. Please contact the office if you are interested in helping out.

\* Bev Facey parents are amazing and there were immediately 4 parents who volunteered to help!

**5. Information Reports:**

**A. Student Report – FLI Students: Andreia Leahu, Taylor Christiansen, Jordyn Carr**

Andreia – 3<sup>rd</sup> year FLI student. For Valentine’s day we handed out valentine cookies. We are planning new events for the students. FLI is very different this year. With the gathering/cohort restrictions and meetings being rushed it is difficult to plan events, we are still trying. Also, I am currently taking accelerated classes, it is a difficult workload but feel it is still possible to do accelerated classes in the quarter system.

Jordyn – I am in grade 11 and I believe everything is going quite well considering the necessary restrictions. I enjoy being a part of FLI. We hand out prepackaged treats and are planning events with the hope to cheer people up. I’d also like to say thank you to the administration for their positive feedback and support for the FLI events.

Taylor - Our previous events were unable to happen due to the COVID restrictions. We are currently working on a teacher appreciation event.

**Parent Question:** How many students participate in FLI?

**Answer:** We started with about 60 and now there are about 30. It is more difficult to plan events due to the smaller numbers. A group has only about 5 or 6 instead of 10 or more to help out.

**Parent Comment:** I appreciate the students who choose to share their leadership talents through FLI.

**B. Trustee Report – Board Chair: Trina Boymook**

In January, the Board reviewed our COVID response costs. The changes made to our budget estimates take into account the most current information. The Board also reallocated \$675,411. \$180,000 to increase Out of School supports for K-6 French Immersion and Grades 10-12. The Board allocated \$366,780 to release some of our Literacy, Numeracy and Assessment consults who have been teaching Out of School students. The Board will continue to monitor our costs throughout the remaining of the year and consider the need for further reallocations if required.

It is expected that the Provincial budget will be tabled February 25. There is a lot of uncertainty with this budget given that Alberta is in the midst of a provincial economic crisis. No one could have foreseen the tremendous additional financial strain the response to COVID-19 would represent, and as such, it’s possible we may see more funding reductions when the province releases its 2021 budget. The Board has set a number of budget working sessions in the month of March.

The Division is contemplating implementing a technology fee to support the increasing need to acquire, install and maintain up-to-date technology resources and services to enhance student learning experiences in the classroom.

A potential technology fee would be charged for each student except for those that are attending a school in which "Bring Your Own Device "(BYOD) is a current requirement.

The fee would be an amount far less than that required for parents to purchase individual devices for their children.

The fee would be used to offset the costs associated with:

- purchasing student devices,
- updating classroom computer labs or smart classroom technology
- student printing
- network related services including internet demands across the Division.

I met with the Mayor of Strathcona County on January 20 and MLA Walker on January 22 to discuss the Sherwood Heights Value Scope Session recommendation which was approved by the Board in November. I have made a request for Trustee Seutter and I to meet with MLA Glubish.

Returning Student Registration opened on Feb 1 and will go until the end of Feb 28. Those that are planning on attending a school or program of choice please ensure that you declare that during the month of February to avoid disappointment.

The following schools have closed boundaries for the 2021-22 school year.

- Ardrossan Junior Senior High
- Davidson Creek Elementary
- Lakeland Ridge School
- Sherwood Heights Junior High

**Parent Question:** Where did the \$675 411 come from?

**Answer:** Based on better information, staff illness estimated costs have been decreased by \$1M. Previously estimated at \$3.9M. Looking our trends as we approach the half year mark the updated estimate is \$2.9M.

**Parent Comment:** Thank you for reallocating funds back into Literacy and Numeracy. These directly impact the quality of education.

**Parent Question:** Regarding the technology fee, will you be engaging parents in this decision?

**Answer:** This is it now, there is more demand for technology and it is more than EIPS can absorb. Other schools are already asking parents to provide a device or to rent one. We are not sure what will come out of this right now, it will depend on the budget. Trustees are advising schools of the possibility .

**Parent Question:** Will this be a one-time fee or an annual fee?

**Answer:** It would be an annual fee. We anticipate it to be less than the current EICS rental fee which is around \$60-65.

**Parent Question:** Is the school board part of overall advocacy for teachers and school staff being part of phase 2 vaccination rollouts?

**Answer:** We are advocating for this. We have been asking for the minister to let us know how staff and students will be prioritized. We are working on this.

### C. Administrative Report

i. Barclay Spady – Open House February 10, 2021

A lot of planning (since October) went into the virtual open house. The schools all have much the same programming and the difference lies in the feel you get from the school. Feedback about our open houses has always been that students and families feel welcomed and included.

We had 196 families logged in during the live stream presentation. Then families went on to the break-out sessions. Overall it went pretty well. The feedback from students that went to both open houses was that ours was really good, perhaps better. It worked well and we will do this again. The Open House is saved all in one location. It has the virtual school tour, welcome video, program guide, all the student videos. We had 115 people check this out.

There is an Open House link under the Quick Links on the home webpage.

We are excited about the live streams, they worked very well. These will allow opportunities for live streaming, grad, awards, drama etc. We can record them and then post them after.

**Parent Comment:** I liked that your presentation set the stage for the values of the school and administration. That is very important and very well received.

ii. Cherum Orr – AP Open House January 28<sup>th</sup>, AP Exams

The AP open house went well, we had 88 logged in for the welcome overview presentation. There were a lot of questions about the differences between the AP and the IB programs. There were also a lot of emails after the open house. All went really well and we were able to get to everyone to answer their questions.

AP exams – we have 183 registrations right now, the highest it has ever been.

There have already been back-ups scheduled for exams in case of COVID issues.

iii. Matt Shudra – Facility

We have now checked in with all of the grade 11's to check on their graduation requirements and how they are progressing.

Facility air handling/replacement – next phase will be the south end of the building, construction, mechanics, horticulture areas. This will be starting and continue throughout the summer hopefully finishing up before September start. There will also be some minor work like painting.

iv. Trudi Williamson – Grad, STAR, MIPI

The online Grad Wear store closed on February 15<sup>th</sup> and orders should arrive in a few weeks.

Students who did not make an appointment for grad photos are still able to have their photos taken by contacting Icon directly to arrange a studio appointment.

The new grad list is out now and students may not be on the list if their grad fees haven't been paid. There will be a student grad council meeting on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> and a virtual parent meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30pm. There are still a lot of unknowns due to COVID restrictions.

STAR – this is a reading assessment done from K-12. It is a diagnostic tool for teachers to see how students are doing in reading comprehension. We are catching up on these assessments now. They will share them with students, if asked but want it to be in conjunction with a discussion with the teacher so that students do not jump to any conclusions based on one test result.

MIPI – these are math assessments. These are for grade 10 students who are currently taking math in quarter 3. Powerschool is making adjustments to allow teachers to access these results.

**Parent Questions:** I am hearing stories that other high schools are starting to book venues such as the expo centre for grad. I am not convinced AHS guidelines will be at that point but have you heard of these bookings as well...or rumor?

My niece told me that her school in Sturgeon County has booked the expo centre for their grad in June. I found it interesting that another high school is able to book the expo center and wondered if our school had looked into this.

**Answer:** I have not really heard much about other schools and their bookings. I have been in communication with other EIPS schools and they are planning events similar to ours.

The expo center is offering a drive-through grad at this point as far as I know. Maybe that is what they are booking.

#### **D. COSC Report – Krista Scott**

##### Main Agenda Items:

- ASCA AGM Resolutions
- COVID-19 Update
- COSC Sharing

##### ASCA Conference and AGM

The 2021 ASCA Conference and Annual General Meeting take place on April 23-25—hosted using Zoom and EventMobi. [Learn more](#)

##### ASCA Resolutions

The 2021 ASCA Advocacy Resolutions are now available. Plan to discuss the resolutions, and support or disapproval for each resolution, at your school council meetings in February or March. The advocacy resolutions are voted on at the AGM. Those resolutions that pass influence ASCA’s future advocacy effort. [2021 Advocacy Resolutions](#) | [ASCA Directors Election Information](#) | [ASCA Advocacy Resolutions: An overview](#)

##### FNMI Parent Engagement

February 18: [Parent Engagement Series: First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education](#)

Additional information from the February COSC meeting is available at [www.eips.ca](http://www.eips.ca). The next meeting takes place on March 3, 2021.

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

Thank you for taking time out of your day to attend School Council meetings. These meetings are incredibly valuable as they give all parents an opportunity to hear directly from administrations, the school trustee chair, students and other parents. Please encourage your friends to attend as well.

In November, ASCA released a research report by Dr. Bonnie Stelmach. The report “It takes a virus: What can be learned about parent-teacher relations from pandemic to realities?” was a great read and I highly encourage you all to take look through it.

<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/download/files/169642>

Its purpose was to capture parents and teachers perspectives about learning from home during March to June. And as we have just recently come out of a period of learning from home, this report is very timely and was of particular interest to me.

While I would have preferred to see the report findings broken down by grade level as well, as challenges experienced by parents of elementary children would be different than those in high school, I thought it was an interesting read. In particular:

- One of the reasons why parent-teacher relations became strained was when a teacher's "presence" was lacking – few or no Google Meets offered to explain material and connect with students.

- The pandemic has certainly highlighted the importance of personal connection and the negative affects it has when that is eliminated or reduced. The pandemic has reaffirmed or maybe increased the level of awareness of how important an engaged, positive and understanding teacher has in our childrens' lives.

In my opinion, Bev Facey administration understand this, and how important that personal connection is with students especially in high school.

Parents, encourage your children to talk to the teachers they are comfortable with.

Administration, encourage your teachers to continue to reach out to students to share stories and offer support.

Through School Council meetings, we can connect as a group of interested and engaged people.

I believe it's vital to support and reaffirm these connections in the interests of all of our mental health.

6. Meeting adjourned at 7:36pm.

Next meeting is March 16, 2021 at 6:00pm

Minutes prepared by Cecile Palm – Secretary

**\*PLEASE NOTE**

February 19, 2021 - "A follow up from the meeting and the question on the Accountability Pillar Survey. I can confirm that a survey will be coming out. The survey questions are undergoing some amendments and the amendments are in front of the Minister for approval. The survey is expected to go out at the end of February or the start of March." ----Trina Boymook