

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

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

Families Represented: Karen Tomnuk, Cecile Palm, Amanda Beck, Cathy Jones, Krista Scott, Colleen Helwig, Sheri Cholin, Pam Smith

Trustee: Trina Boymook

Student Representatives: Mitchell Pitters, John Meston

1. **Call to order** at 6:00pm by Karen Tomnuk. Round “table” introductions were made.
2. **Additions to the agenda** – none.
3. **Approval of February 2021 minutes** – Motion to approve put forward by Pam Smith and seconded by Amanda Beck.
4. **New Business** – B.Spady
  - a) **2020 – 21 School Fee Schedule** - This information was circulated prior to the meeting and is posted on the website.

These fees were reviewed at both the January and February Council meetings. Fee changes are due to increased costs of materials needed to complete projects. 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.

Please note; Construction 30 is being offered as a 10 credit course which is why the fee seems high. Students will have the option to take the 10 credit course instead of the 5 credit.

Extracurriculars; fees will be calculated to reflect activities students. You will see decreased fees because there are no longer overnight team trips.

**Parent Comment:** Based on the quarterly system, is this budget still relevant?

**Answer:** Hands on options move much quicker in the quarter system and there may need to be an increase in fees due to the increased use of project materials. The plan is to go back to the semesters so the fees will stand. We will monitor over the next year and see if changes are necessary.

We submit to the Board on Friday, they will audit and approve or not.

Motion put forward in agreement to fees for 2021 – 2022 by Krista Scott; seconded by Amanda Beck.

**b) Alberta School Councils' Association advocacy resolutions – Karen Tomnuk**

Facey families were given the opportunity to vote on which proposed Alberta School Council Association resolutions they agreed or disagreed with. These resolutions will be voted on at the ASCA AGM, April 23-25 (on the last day) and those passed will become advocacy policies, or belief statements, of the association. ASCA advocates on behalf of member school council parents with the Education Ministry to affect positive change in Alberta schools.

Link to full resolutions <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/download/files/173828>

12 families participated

Highlights

Of the 11 proposed resolutions, Facey families clearly support 10 of the proposed resolutions.

- o The resolution to restore program unit funding (PUF) to Alberta schools and education stakeholder organizations financial and governance accountability were the most clearly supported with 92% of families voting in favour of support.

- PUF funding impacts the early intervention necessary for students aged 2-5 with mild, moderate and severe needs. Cuts to this funding were made in spring 2020.

- Financial and governance accountability was requesting that to encourage an increase in transparency, any education stakeholder organization that receives funding from Alberta taxpayers make records available to the public.

The resolution to limit the maximum amount of time students can be on the bus was the closest vote with a 55% in favour to support and 45% against the resolution.

Discussion ensued around transportation and potential impacts to funding and/or impacts to transportation services. In EIPS there are children who are on the bus for more than 45 minutes, but many of these cases involve students who are attending a school or course of choice.

**Trina:** Students who are on the bus for these lengths are often students who are attending program or school of choice. The country buses are already running at a deficit. While the rides are long consideration that funds will have to come from somewhere and that may be from classrooms. The situation is far from ideal but we do have to prioritize where the money gets used. These issues are not easily solved. The transportation taskforce recommendations will be coming forward soon.

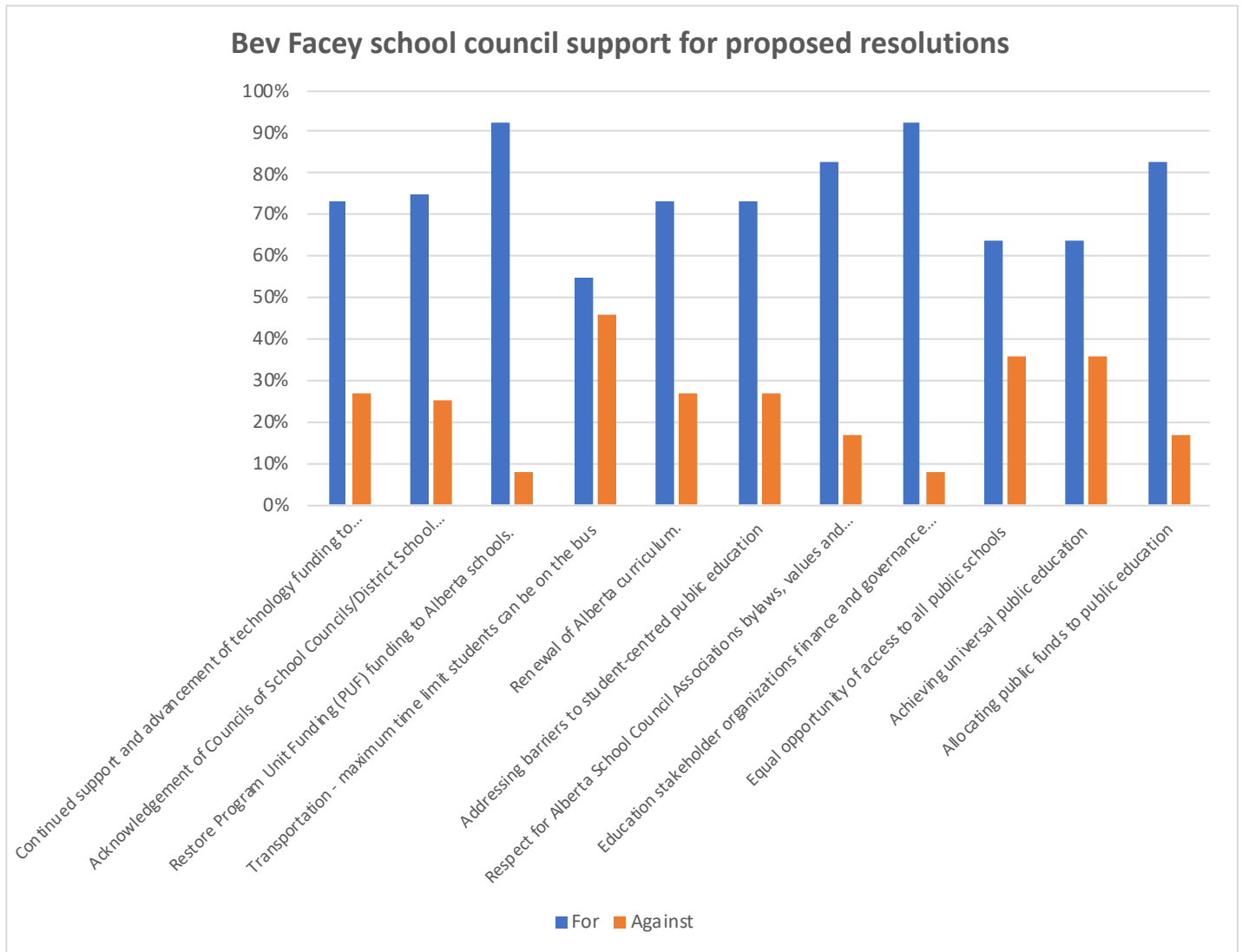
**Parent Comment:** I see the bussing resolution comes from St. Paul elementary, very different needs in that area perhaps.

Discussion ensued around what the definition and understanding of the difference between a public school and a charter school.

Charter schools were started as an experiment with different ways of teaching. The idea was to then share what was learned with the rest of the public and then shut down. This didn't happen and they are now competing with public schools. They are funded as public schools but they can turn away any student they wish. Their Board is not elected but rather parents of the students.

No one from Facey indicated they were interested in attending the AGM to cast our vote and therefore, proxy will be sent with another parents from an EIPS school.

The graph below shows the parent response to the resolutions:



## 5. Information Reports

### A. Student Report- John Meston and Mitchell Pitters

John: I love Bev Facey and being able to go to the teachers to talk both about school and other things, it is easy to talk about how things are going and about COVID. The 3 hour classes are challenging. I find the 10 minute breaks too short. There is really only time to go to your locker and get to the next class. There isn't time to go to the bathroom. I would like to see a bit more time or another break.

Mitchell: I think students would benefit and be more productive getting a longer break.

Reply: Just for some background, the previous schedule had 85 minute classes and a 7 minute break, lunch was only 40 minutes. There were the 1000 kids navigating the hallways and bathrooms. Now we have 3 hour classes, 10 minute break and only 300 kids in the hallways. We can consider increasing the breaks but then we'd have to take that time from the lunch break. We

also have to consider student busing. The buses drop off and pick up students on their own schedule, we have no say in those times. Scheduling is quite challenging.

John: I feel the length of the class to be more of an issue. Changing subjects helps.

Mitchell: I think that the lunch seating etc isn't working. There isn't anywhere to sit and kids aren't following the rules, they are all over the place. Wouldn't it be better to have everyone in one place for better supervision than not?

Reply: Lunch room seating is mandated by AHS. We have to follow the rules they have set out. Students cannot eat sitting close together. There isn't the space to properly distance in one area.

## **B. Trustee Report – Trina Boymook**

I'd first like to thank the students for their presentations; they are really well prepared and I appreciated hearing from you. I want you to know I am taking notes and bringing your feedback to the Superintendent.

It has been a challenging year for all, thank you to the students - - - they are the reason the doors are still open. Their continued work and commitment to the rules.

The provincial budget was tabled on February 25, 2021. It is being viewed by school boards as a good news budget considering the financial climate in a pandemic. Board Chairs and Superintendents met with the Minister following the tabling of the budget to receive a high-level overview of the Education budget

- The funding commitment to education is being maintained at \$8.2B
- Boards will be held harmless from their enrolment declines as result of COVID-19. This is something that the Board had advocated for.
- Student transportation funding will remain at the same level. We are expected to receive some details coming out of the taskforce that will have transportation running more efficiently and effectively.
- 14 new capital projects will be announced mid-March.
- Increase support for modular program
- \$40M will be shifted from Plant, Operation and Maintenance (POM) to Specialized Learning Supports. The minister is working on finalizing the finer details of this and once completed Boards will receive their funding letters. Specialized Learning Supports include
  - PUF – Boards have been advocating for additional supports in this area.
  - First National Metis and Inuit
  - English language Learners
  - Social Economic
  - Geographic
  - School Nutrition
  -

Boards will have their funding letter by March 31 at the latest. The Board will be approving allocations to school at its April 22, 2021 Board meeting. So please plan on having a school budget discuss as a school council. The Board will also be setting student transportation fees and other administrative fees at this meeting.

The Board also approved the Three-Year Capital Plan. Number one request is a replacement school that combines Ecole Campbelltown and Sherwood Heights.

February 19, 2021 Trustee Seutter and I met with MLA Glubish to talk about our new vision for Sherwood Heights and how we plan on addressing access spaces at Salisbury Composite. It was a very productive 40-minute meeting.

The Board approved the support for a school council representative from a school to attend the upcoming Alberta School Councils Association Annual Conference and AGM. The Board will be supporting up to 15 registrations. Corrie will provide you with the information on how to access the support.

**Parent Comment:** Thank you again for advocating for schools to be held harmless and also for Sherwood Heights.

**Reply:** A lot of time and effort went into that request to make sure everything that was required/asked was answered; the need was proven. It was very disappointing to be overlooked again.

**Parent Question:** What can Bev Facey do to support the families of Sherwood Heights?

**Answer:** Love to see the community rise up and support and show disappointment to the MLAs. Show public pressures that they are part of our community. They have been on the list for over 10 years. There have been no modernizations and have been overlooked over and over again. It is now at the point where replacement is the only option.

**Parent Question:** The meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, what is on the docket?

**Answer:** We will have to see the budget before we know. It comes down to enrollment. Thursday is a budget working session. There will be no actuals until we get the funding envelope, which will be by March 31<sup>st</sup>. We have many budget working meetings planned.

### C. Administrative Reports

#### a) Barclay Spady – Registration update and planning for 2021 – 2022

At this point we are down 61 students. There has been a slow increase but it is not ideal. This is the lowest numbers since the mid-nineties. We were unable to have our regular open house and with only having one feeder school it makes quite a difference. Perspective students couldn't get the "feel" of the school from the open house. It looks like a lot of students just ended picking their designated school. We have 260 grade 10's while other schools have 425. This will impact our budget and programming. We will have to wait and see what the actual budget is, the per student allocation may change.

The grade 10s and 11s are doing registrations. We should know better by the end of the week and see what kids selected for courses. It will affect what is offered.

Grade 10's should take a 8 classes to keep their options open for the next years. Grade 12s should take what they need.

There has been a significant increase in AP students, we went for 15% to 20%. AP 10s often take 20 level classes so they take more core classes. This could impact options. Less students taking options

will have to decrease the number of option classes available. As before we will have to wait for the numbers and the budget. This will all impact the teachers and schedules, we may lose one assistant principal. We will do our best to keep classrooms.

**Parent Question:** The decrease of 60 students, is this grade 10s or across the board?

**Answer:** This is grade 10s. We aren't aware of current online learners plans yet. Most of our numbers come from F.R. Haythorne and only a few from others.

**Parent Question:** Are there going to be virtual options for students?

**Answer:** Yes, there is the outreach students. We do not get funding for these.

**Parent Question:** The decrease in students, are they going to other EIPS schools or to ABJ?

**Answer:** Most are staying in EIPS. Our non-designated kids are actually mostly coming from ABJ.

**Parent Question:** At what point do we get excited about the decreased enrollment affecting our programming? Kids are going to want to go to Sal for the programming offered there. When do we ask the Board to step in and ask for re-zoning?

**Answer:** That was actually supposed to happen this year but due to COVID it was put on hold. There was supposed to be a realignment due to the new schools in Sherwood Park. They did this feeder school framework to realign the numbers in the High Schools. Now it has been moving the other way now. We have to work harder to get students into the school.

**Parent Question:** Are there any opportunities to form a partnership with another school? A student from Bev Facey could maybe take an option at another school?

**Answer:** Yes, this is already happening some. The funding is difficult, it is hard to add a student without the funding. We are not sure some kids would bother going, they would just take a similar option.

**Parent Question:** If options are reduced, would there be consideration for these students to go to post-secondary? They might need their high option mark to get into University.

**Answer:** These would be the grade 10 options that would be most affected. We will work to keep our grade12s getting what they need.

The accountability survey now known as the Assurance Survey, was released late Friday. It was mailed out to all grade 10 families this week. The reply only has an online component now but if you would like to do the paper copy you can request one sent to you. They have added some COVID related questions. It is open until April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The student wills do theirs right after spring break.

There is an EIPS survey going out to all families after spring break. Bothe surveys are very important to us to plan out school goals, we also use this information for the School Education Plan and we ask all families to fill them out.

Football may be starting but the COVID rules still need to be followed. We are waiting for the guidelines to come out. Mr. Stevens will sent the information out.

b) Cherum Orr – Advanced Placement, Grade 10 Registration

Currently working with grade 10 registrations.

AP – 185 exams registered but we will see how many actually write in May.

c) Matt Shudra – Grade 11 Registration

Grade 11 registrations moving along, we are at about 71% done. We will continue to complete registrations and the move to building the schedule from there.

d) Trudy Williamson – Grade 9 course selection presentations

Starting on this now. Will be going to F.R. Haythorne to talk to grade 9's there about registration and strategies about planning classes. After spring break we will have them actually register for classes. There will be an info session for parents March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00pm. There will also be a presentation to all online learners March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00pm.

The main message to them is to keep doors open. Maybe not to start in the -2 stream as you after can't move to the -1 stream in some subjects. Also, that option classes are important. They are not only average boosters for university and Rutherford scholarship but also they need some variety and fun in their schedules.

Grad – nothing new to update. The parent meeting presentation and question and answers have been posted on the grad website for anyone who could not attend or was unable to log in due to the volume of participants.

Question: Is there any way we could get parents to send in gift cards and prepackaged food for staff appreciation? To give our thanks for continuing to give their best to our kids?

Answer: Yes, we can work on the best way to communicate that.

**D. COSC Report – Krista Scott**

ASCA UPDATE

Rally for ASCA: Donation drive

Recently, the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) launched a fundraising campaign, called Rally for ASCA. The goal: To raise an additional \$300,000 by June 15, 2021. As you know, ASCA's provincial funding grant was reduced by close to 70 per cent. The money raised will allow the association to sustain its operations. The Rally for ASCA campaign offers three ways to contribute:

1. donate;
2. share a story about how ASCA or your school council positively impacted student learning or parent engagement; or
3. produce a video describing an impactful story involving ASCA.

ASCA CONFERENCE AND AGM

Registration

Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) Board of Trustees is sponsoring the registration fee for one member from each school council—up to a maximum of 15 registrants—to take part in the upcoming ASCA Conference and Annual General Meeting on April 23-25. To register, complete the Registration Form and email it to Carol Langford-Pickering. The registration deadline is April 7, 2021. 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 March. The advocacy resolutions are voted on at the AGM. Those resolutions that pass influence ASCA's future advocacy effort. 2021 Advocacy Resolutions ½ ASCA Advocacy Resolutions: An overview

#### AGM

The ASCA annual general meeting takes place on April 25. If you decide not to attend the 2021 ASCA Conference and AGM, you can still vote on the Advocacy Resolutions and for the board executive by filling out a Proxy Voting Form. The form gives permission for another EIPS COSC member, who is attending the AGM, to vote on your behalf—the Division will email the list of attending EIPS COSC members after the registration closes on April 7. The deadline to submit a Proxy Voting Form is April 16. Proxy Vote Form ½ Credential Voting Form ½ ASCA Board Election Information

#### ASCA WEBINAR WEDNESDAY

Lesley Bowman, the COSC Chair, encouraged members to register for ASCA's Webinar Wednesday. Session topics for March 2021: School Council Purpose and Charter Schools in Alberta. Learn more

#### ACCESSING TECHNOLOGY – Mark Liguori, Superintendent, EIPS

- EIPS is starting a conversation about a possible technology fee.
- It takes time to determine what to do about a technology fee, but it's important to start the conversation.
- As schools proceed with new technology, there are associated costs.
- All school boards have struggled with the increasing costs of technology.
- There are two ideas administration brought forward to the Board: bring your own device or introducing a technology fee.
- Costs associated with technology are never-ending, such as software and bandwidth.
- The conversation needs to encompass what a fee could include—software, bandwidth, and even possible depreciation on hardware.
- Another large part of the overall conversation is about equitable technology access—students living in certain rural areas don't have the same overall access to the internet.
- EIPS will receive information about its 2021-22 funding envelop at the end of March. Once known, EIPS is in a better position to start the conversation.
- With the current economic situation in Alberta, the Board wants to make sure families aren't surprised and know a discussion is likely to happen.

#### COVID-19 UPDATE – Mark Liguori

- Total active COVID-19 cases: 4
- Total cases reported—since January 1: 15
- Total number schools on Alert Status: 2



(Bev Facey and Salisbury Composite High)

- Total number of schools on Outbreak Status: 0
- The credit for the low numbers goes to the families, staff and students within EIPS.

CAREGIVER EDUCATION SERIES: March

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](#)

SAFFRON CYBER SECOND: March issue

The latest issue of the new *Saffron Cyber Second* is now available. Read it to learn tips, tools and strategies aimed at helping children develop skills for healthy and safe online experiences. [Saffron Cyber Second March 2021](#)

Additional information from the March COSC meeting is available at [www.eips.ca](http://www.eips.ca). The next meeting takes place on April 7, 2021.

**E. Chair Report** – Karen Tomnuk

Thank you to administration (Mrs. Orr) for setting up the survey on the proposed resolutions.

The link to the virtual school council meeting will be posted here in the event parents are unable to access the link or were not sent one. Contact information is also provided in case the link doesn't work. <https://www.bevfacey.ca/parents/parent-council>

I know kids are so very tired of COVID rules. I appreciate all the hard work staff does to maintain the health and safety of our kids.

**6. Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.**

Next meeting is April 20, 2021 at 6:00pm

Minutes prepared by Cecile Palm – Secretary