

Fultonvale School Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

6:30pm

Gathering Space

Attendees: Natasha Karas, Kalyn Harrop, Shawna Russell-Spady, Chantelle Hinz, Dustine Vivic, Susan Miller, Michelle Uytterhagen, Jennifer Ference, Tenneil Akers, Maria Waltoft

1. Call Meeting to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Treaty 6 Acknowledgements

Treaty 6 was acknowledged.

4. Additions to and Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda: Shawna Russell-Spady

Seconded: Michelle Uytterhagan

5. Approval meeting minutes from February 18, 2025

Motion to approve the minutes: Chantelle Hinz

Seconded: Shawna Russell-Spady

6. Admin Report – Jen Ference

a. Returning Student Registration

- i. 2025-26 Registration numbers indicate a lower enrollment
- ii. At this time, only enough kindergarten registrations for one class

b. Survey Season

- i. Assurance Review – Grades 4 and 7 Students and Families and all Teachers
- ii. EIPS Annual Survey

c. Report Cards and Parent/Teacher Conferences

- i. Report Cards – March 14
- ii. Conferences – March 18 and 19
- iii. The booking system opened last Monday
- iv. Feedback on interviews – elementary and junior high structure?

d. Book Fair – Week of Conferences and evenings of March 18 and 19

e. Junior High Options 2025-26

- i. Forms going home March 14, admin to visit Grade 6s to explain the process
- ii. No longer first come first serve. Deadline to return forms is March 20. Review all selections and if need be, a random draw will be held to determine spots for over-subscribed options.

f. Grade 9 Farewell Revisited

- i. Start with Mix and Mingle at 5:30
- ii. Ceremony at 6:30

g. Junior High Awards Ceremony Revisited

- i. June 20 - Afternoon Assembly to recognize outstanding student achievement in front of the whole student body – exemplifying qualities of hard work, perseverance, citizenship, and embodying Fultonvale H.E.A.T.

7. Student Voice – Dustine Vicic

Spring Family Dance Theme Vote

- a. 50% Neon Glow
- b. 25% Golden/Silver Gala
- c. 25% Beach Theme

8. Trustee Report – Susan Miller

The Trustees attended the 2025 rural Symposium last week in Edmonton. Since our Division is both rural and urban we attend this conference annually. The theme this year was “Ensuring Equitable Outcomes for Rural Students.

Equity is a major driver in our division. Equal and equity are not the same thing. In a school division “equity “ means providing each student with the resources and support they need to succeed based on their individual circumstances. “Equal” means giving every student the same thing, regardless of their needs. Equity focuses on fairness by addressing different needs, while equality focuses on giving everyone the same treatment, which may not be fair if students have different starting points.

Reserve Limits

For 2024-25, Alberta Education has changed the maximum limit on how many dollars school divisions can have in their operating reserves.

EIPS's previous limit was 3.2% of the prior year expenditures. Now, going forward, the maximum operating reserve limit for all school boards is 6.0% of prior year expenditures.

Sobeys and Safeway locations in Sherwood Park are gearing up for the annual Make Happy Tummies campaign – formally called Toonies for Tummies. This charitable campaign helps raise money for EIPS schools to buy healthy snacks and meals for their students. Last year's campaign raised \$30,225.00 and were distributed to 27 EIPS schools.

Individuals can donate to this years campaign either online or in-store. In-store donations will be accepted in Sherwood Park from March 20th to April 3rd. Online donations can be made throughout the year.

March 10-14 is Substitute Appreciation Week. EIPS recognizes the professional service our substitute teachers and non-teaching staff provide throughout the Division.

Take a moment this week to tell our substitute staff how much we appreciate them.

The annual Alberta Education Assurance (AEA) survey is now open. The survey gathers feedback on the quality of education provided by school authorities and their schools. School authorities use this information to understand how they are doing and how to plan for the future. The survey is sent to parents or guardians of students in Grades 4, 7 and 10 and must be completed by March 21.

The 2024-25 EIPS Annual Feedback Survey is open from March 3-21, to all EIPS families, staff and grades 9 and 12 students. All families will receive a direct email through School Messenger. The survey gauges the Division's

progress toward meeting the priorities, goals and outcomes outlined in the Division's Four-Year Education Plan. Communication Services will send the survey links to all stakeholder groups by March 3rd.

Schools across the division celebrated Pink Shirt Day. Launched in 2007, Pink Shirt Day started after 2 high school students in Nova Scotia witnessed a younger student being bullied for wearing a pink shirt. The next day, they brought 50 pink t-shirts to school and encouraged classmates to wear them to take a stand against bullying.

Today, Pink Shirt Day is celebrated in schools and workplaces countrywide and has raised more than \$3 million for healthy relationship programming across Western Canada.

9. COSC Update – Michelle Uytterhagen

As EIPS Board Chair Cathy Allen was unavailable, Board Vice-Chair Susan Miller provided the Board report. Board Vice-Chair Miller spoke about equality versus equity. She provided an example: Equality is every student being given the same pencil in a class, but equity is every student being given a pencil that fits their hand.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

EIPS Superintendent Sandra Stoddard presented the Superintendent report. Several topics were covered, including:

- A lump sum payment for eligible classified staff.
- Second session with Kurtis Hewson, a consultant, author and area expert in collaborative response. The work with Hewson is intended to build capacity for leadership staff to implement strong collaborative structures and processes during early out Wednesdays.
- Division Professional Learning Day on March 7. Certificated staff meet with their chosen Community of Practice, while classified staff attend a day of professional development sessions.
- Full-time kindergarten pilot programs for the 2025-26 school year are in Wes Hosford, Mundare School, and Ecole Parc Elementary. These programs will be STEM Focused.
- Change from 1 kilometre to 1.6 kilometres regarding transportation distance for K-6 students. This could mean higher bus fees for the 2025/2026 school year.
- Overview of public education funding for 2025-26 and update to the weighted moving average funding model. EIPS cannot finalize its own budget until the provincial government's funding manual is released for school authorities.

ATA REPORT

President of the ATA Local No. 28 Maxine Holm shared the ATA report. She expressed the ATA's concern with the provincial budget, curriculum and assessments.

Recovery Alberta 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.

DRAFT JUNIOR HIGH CURRICULUM UPDATE

EIPS Associate Superintendent Ryan Marshall stated there's no new update on the draft junior high curriculum. The topic will be brought to the COSC meeting again in April.

COSC SHARING: Alberta School Council Engagement Grant

On March 11, Bev Facey Community High's school council will host the presentation from David Irvine at the school. All school councils pooling funds for the opportunity are encouraged to get their families to RSVP with the

link provided to them ASAP. Attendees will meet in person at the school, and Irvine will present virtually. COSC member Lora Slobodian has created a [shared Google document](#) for what EIPS school councils have done with the Alberta School Council Engagement (ASCE) Grant in the past.

There's \$500 left over from the ASCE Grant funds from Andrew School. As the school is closed, the COSC executive consulted members on what they'd like to do with the remaining money. Following up on last meeting, EIPS Associate Superintendent Marshall told COSC members the Division already has 15 copies of the Brain Architecture Game, and copies of the game are currently sold out online. Mardi Hardt, the Mental Health Advisor at EIPS, is more than happy to train school families on how to play the game with a trauma-informed mindset—for no cost. As such, COSC members discussed what else they could do with the funds. A parent resource library was discussed—however, the logistics of who would oversee the process proved difficult. EIPS Superintendent Stoddard suggested COSC could bring in a speaker on advocacy. The topic was tabled for the COSC meeting in April.

COSC SHARING: Potential trustee candidate questions

COSC members discussed potential trustee candidate questions. [Sample questions](#) are available—created by Krista Scott and Jacquie Surgenor Gaglione in previous years. At the April COSC meeting, members will provide feedback on these questions and hopefully add to the list. School councils are encouraged to discuss and bring forward two questions. COSC Vice-Chair Uytterhagen would also like to explore a COSC initiative to create a website or something similar to help families stay informed. This may include sharing trustee responses to these questions to further support parents and caregivers in making well-informed choices in the election.

COSC Vice-Chair Uytterhagen thanks Krista Scott and Jacquie Surgenor Gaglione for sharing the sample questions. Together, they worked on this initiative for the past two elections because they felt it was important to develop this valuable resource for parents and community members to help them make informed decisions when it comes to school trustees. It's a fantastic foundation for this year's election.

SCHOOL FEE DEVELOPMENT

Principals should have engaged their school councils once at a council meeting already about school fees. Principals connect with school councils a second time at another school council meeting.

10. New Business

- a. Finalized 2025/2026 School Fees – Jen Ference
 - i. Reviewed proposed School Fee Schedule for the year ending August 31, 2026
 - ii. A few new courses introduced
- b. Current Executive Status – Kalyn Harrop
 - i. AGM the Chair Position and Secretary positions will be up for election
 - ii. Candidate must be present at the meeting to be elected. Voters must be present to cast vote.

11. Old Business

12. Next Meeting will be April 15, 2025, at 7:00pm.

13. Meeting Adjourned

Kalyn Harrop adjourned the meeting at 7:23pm.