

**Salisbury Composite School Council  
Meeting Minutes  
November 19, 2018**

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Called to order 7:06 pm (Gabriel Chermello). Each person introduced themselves.

**Present:**

Cathy Allen, Gabriel Chermello, Sherri Kaldenhoven, Jacquie Surgenor

**Approval of Agenda:**

Two items were added:

- 5.3. Safety/Security of School
- 5.4 High School Completion

**Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

The minutes were approved with no amendments.

**Old Business:**

**4.1 School Council calendar of events**

Cathy shared that the posters have been created and are hung around the school.

**New Business**

**5.1 Parent/Teacher interview SC table**

A table will be set up with information that people can help themselves to. We will not actively have anyone manning it.

**5.2 Parent questions or concerns**

None raised

**5.3 Safety/security of school**

A question was asked about whether there are plans to put concrete barriers in front of the school to stop a vehicle from entering the school. Cathy answered that there has never had an issue with this so it isn't on their list, but she can investigate. She also talked about how important it was for everyone to come back to school on the Friday before the break. Sal Comp was never at risk and nothing was found there. The RCMP needed the parking lot and the area clear to aid in their investigation. There were a lot of false rumours which flew around on social media which was disappointing.

**5.4 High School Completion**

Jacquie is attending the Alberta Education High School Completion External Committee meeting and asked if there was anything from the school's perspective which would help her, or that she could share. Cathy answered that if a student moves to another province, it counts as a drop out so the numbers might not be entirely accurate. There is no adjusted number for these students.

## Reports:

### 6.1 COSC Report

We focused most of the meeting on 2 presentations:

- EIPS Results Review
  - The Superintendent walked us through how to read results. The main package that principals get is about 120 pages and if parents are interested in it, they can ask the principal for a copy. He highlighted a few key areas to watch:
    - For Diploma exams, it will break down the percentage of students who achieved A, B, C or F by gender for their school awarded mark and for the diploma exam mark. When there are large differences in the percentage of students who either get an A as a school awarded mark versus the diploma exam (or an F), then it's something to pay attention to. (eg. in one example, only 2.8% of males received an F as a school awarded mark, but 25.9% received an F on the diploma).
    - It is important to look at the number of students writing PATs or Diploma exams, as well as the number of respondents for the accountability survey (eg. if there are only 5 parent responses, it can make the results difficult to interpret)
    - On the overall summary sheet (the one principals often show with all the colours), it is important to look at the standards Alberta Education sets for the levels of achievement, improvement and overall) as sometimes the difference between Very High and High might be 0.1%.
    - For students writing the grade 9 PAT, looking at the Prior Level of Achievement Report will predict the marks students should get on the grade 9 PATs based on their marks on the grade 6 PATs. Look at the difference (want an equal or plus)
    - Results Reviews for each school will be held in November and parents are invited.
- STAR/MIPI
  - The Associate Superintendent discussed these two benchmark exams and shared:
    1. The STAR is an adaptive exam which means it will get harder or easier depending on how students answer the questions. It is given at the beginning and end of the year and they want to see 1 years growth on it. Some schools will do it more often. It is a screening tool and teachers will triangulate the data to help determine who needs intervention. Parents can ask for the results, although they often prefer to give them as part of a conversation to ensure they are understood
    2. The MIPI is a math exam developed by Edmonton Public and is based on last years curriculum so is only given at the beginning of the year. Since it tests knowledge students should have, anyone receiving less than 65% requires intervention.
  - There is a PowerPoint Presentation that can be shared with school councils.
  - We shared the November Saffron Cyber Second

- We also had an ASCA Update:
- The Minister of Education came to our last Board Meeting and we were able to ask him questions. Some of them were about success at high school, inclusion, transportation and whether there was a plan to develop quality standards for EAs (the new quality standards for teachers, administrators and system administrators come into effect in September 2019)
- I was able to ask the Minister privately about Sherwood Heights and he indicated they are now looking at it as a replacement school, not a modernization as they previously indicated

## **6.2 Trustee Report**

### **Community Centre Incident**

I want to commend the staff at SAL and EIPS central office for their responsiveness in the hours and days following the explosion incident at Strathcona County Community Centre.

#### **Pre-enrollment/re-registration process, timing**

- In review of last year's pre-enrolment process, feedback was gathered and used to refine the 2018-19 school year process. One area of feedback received was the title pre-enrolment was confusing to parents wanting to identify their intentions for a school for their child for the next school year. As such, it was decided to change the name to a **re-registration** process for the purpose of clarity.
- The re-registration process and the pre-enrolment process of kindergarten and new students to the Division will occur throughout the month of February enabling pre-enrolment data to support budget allocation decisions.

#### **Fall Budget**

The 2018-19 Budget is being presented at the November 22 board meeting with an operating deficit of \$3.97 million, to be offset by operating reserves, reducing our Division Unallocated Reserves to \$4.26 million or 2.1% of operating expenses. Note: EIPS's minimum level is 2% of the budget, or approximately \$4 million.

#### **ASBA General Meeting – Nov 19**

Funding dominated the discussion. For example:

- Unpredictable funding (e.g. CIF creates new expectations but we only know year to year)
- 10 funds have been cut since 2008
- Large Initiatives like the new K-4 curriculum with no financial supports
- Mental and physical health costs that have been downloaded onto the education system.
- Plant Operations & Maintenance funds – e.g., we've added two schools to address enrolment pressures; however, because funding is based per student, we have less funds per building.

#### **Andrew Consultation**

- On Thursday, November 22, the division is hosting a community consultation in Andrew to discuss high school programming. Over the past year, the Board and administration have been discussing high school programming at Andrew School. We're concerned that students in grades 10 to 12 don't have access to the same variety of courses and the same high school experience as students attending other senior highs in the Division.
- There are far fewer students attending high school in Andrew than in other areas – right now, there are seven students in Grade 10; six students in Grade 11; and six students in Grade 12.
- We want to clearly understand what students, parents and residents of the area consider most important about a senior high education, and to get their input about how to best address the challenges we're facing. They may not share our concerns or offer solutions that work best for them.
- Although Andrew is not in Sherwood Park, I'm sharing this as an example of EIPS's commitment to public engagement.

### **Results Review**

Conducting Results Reviews are an important function of our role as trustees to hold the division accountable for working toward the division's goals and priorities in a fiscally responsible manner.

- Central Office (each department, over 2 days)
- Superintendent (full day)
- Division – AERR (Thursday's board meeting)
- Schools (3 days starting Nov 23)

I encourage you to read your school's annual report and education plans.

### **Transportation funding**

Although a formal announcement has not been made, Rick Grebenstein, Manager of Transportation Services at Alberta Education announced at the Student Transportation Association of Alberta (STAA) supervisor's meeting in late October that after a thorough review, the government has decided not to adjust the funding criteria and that a formal announcement would be released by the end of October. To date, there has been no announcement from the Minister.

### **Transportation regulation challenges**

Here is an example of government regulations imposed that, while perhaps introduced with good intentions, have unintended negative consequences to school boards.

#### **1. S-Endorsement Program**

- The S-Endorsement is currently mandated by the provincial government for all school bus drivers
- Effective March 2019, all class 4 drivers, which include any staff or volunteers operating our multi-function buses (the "white buses") to transport students on fieldtrips, to complete the S-Endorsement program. The program consists of 16 hours of in-class instruction and an additional two hours for a road test.
- This could have a significant impact on programming and extracurricular activities. Schools will also have to pay for release time for these staff to take the training.

## **2. MELT (Mandatory Entry Level Training)**

- Alberta Transportation has released MELT program which will take effect March 2019. This program will be mandatory for all class 1 and class 2 operators across Alberta.
- While the curriculum has not been released, we have been informed that it will be 60 hours in length.
- This will impact school districts both financially and in the retention of bus drivers. School districts will be responsible to train bus drivers both in the MELT and S-Endorsement programs by either using internal staff/resources or contracting a third party such as a driving school. This will result in a significant additional cost to school boards.
- The Student Transportation Association of Alberta (STAA) was advised that no additional funding will be provided to support this initiative.

### **6.3 Principal Report**

Cathy shared the following highlights:

- Grade 12 Awards night is moved to December 5 which is the only time they could get the gym
- Drama: Elf Jr and Departures & Arrivals
- Basketball is starting. Also have indoor soccer and curling
- Band concert is Dec 19
- Jan 22, 2019 – last day of classes
- Jan 31, 2019 – 1<sup>st</sup> day of semester 2
- Summer school will not be held at Sal as they are rewiring the whole school
- They are hosting an evening tea with several aboriginal families.
- The Results Review will be held with all the high schools on November 28
- Cathy wants to have an academic signing ceremony with any students who have pre-acceptance to post secondary. This will likely happen in May.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm