

Clover Bar Junior High, Sherwood Park, Alberta

General Meeting

Clover Bar Junior High School Council

Agenda – April 14, 2021

6:00 p.m. Virtual Meeting

* indicates written report/attachment provided

Attendees: Colleen Alpern, Grant Fiddes, Becky Mitchell, Jodi Sillers, Tracey Nielsen, Lisa Hedges

1) Call to order @ 6:01

2) Welcome and Introductions- Becky Mitchell, Chair

3) Review of the Agenda - no changes

4) Approval of the Minutes, as presented (OR as amended)

a) January 2021 - Becky approved, Jodi seconded

5) Principal's Report: Principal – Colleen Alpern

- Open House SFL - virtual

- 34 registered for grade 7 & 8 with waiting list for both grades

- no grade 9 program this year due to low enrollment this current year

- 2019-20 Awards Ceremony took place in homerooms, school tv screens and instagram. Mailed certificates to last year's grade 9 students.

- virtual teachers convention/spring break happened in Feb and March

- 5 student teachers in school

- fire drills (emergency evacuations) this week for grade cohorts only

- option/course registration forms coming in

- Cathy Allen helping grade 9s prepare for high school

- course budget and staffing season coming up. More to come in June

- school education planning happening now

- school fees - fee increases are minimal for next year. The following courses will have increased fees: construction, foods, golf and outdoor education, lunch hour supervision fee. Cost recovery on these fees....this is a forecast/approved budget and could possibly be lower.

- June 4 - grade 9 farewell...in school afternoon activity with grade cohorts only. Working with the students on planning.

6) Trustee's Report: Trustee – Annette Hubick

Report for Cloverbar School Council

Annette Hubick – EIPS Trustee

April 14, 2021

COVID Update

- On Wednesday, April 7, there was one active case in the district.
- The next day, 8 more cases were reported; 6 were traced to one birthday party.

- By Wednesday, April 14, there were 27 active cases in the Division requiring the quarantine of 980 students and 100 staff. This is posing significant challenges to operations due to the depletion of the substitute pool.
- The Division may need to transition students in specific schools or grades to a temporary teacher-led online learning model.
- Lowering community spread is critical to maintaining in-school learning.

2021-2022 Budget Planning Update

- On March 31, EIPS received its funding letter and the funding manual for the 2021-22 budget.
 - Initial review indicates that total funding to the division is the same as last year, though there are some changes to specific grants within the whole envelope.
 - No change to per student basic grant or to transportation funding.
 - Changes to Learning Supports Funding Grants (PUF for Kindergarten restored to fall 2019 amounts, not 2018-19 amounts; per student LSF reduced.)
- Budget discussions: ½ day budget session on March 18 and full day March 25 and most of April 8. The discussions will continue on April 15 and 19.
- April 22 – Board will be approving fees (both division and school) and school allocations so be sure to include school budgets on your May school council meeting agendas.
- Considerations:
 - It is anticipated that EIPS will realize a significant surplus from operations this year.
 - Increased revenue due to Alberta Education’s announcement to “hold harmless” on any funding claw backs that would result from lower than projected enrolment. This is good news but the fall budget had included \$1.9 million in deferred revenue that will now be realized.
 - Lower than budgeted costs such as janitorial, PD (were held virtually or cancelled) and, most significantly, COVID-related illness costs—an unknown that was very difficult to budget for.
 - As per Bill 5, school boards’ operating reserves will be capped at 3.1% of operating budgets – including reserves in school generated funds. This means that the board will have to spend down reserves over the next two years. The board is working on a reserve spending plan to ensure strategic use of these funds. Sustainability will be key, i.e., a focus on one-time items as opposed to ongoing costs.
 - Covid recovery will definitely have an impact on next year’s costs, e.g., continued health protocols and addressing learning gaps.

2021-2022 School Year

- Per cues from the Minister of Education, EIPS is planning on near normal operations w/ health protocols. This direction is based on anticipated vaccine levels and confirmation of the importance of in-school learning.
- Focus will be on learning loss mitigation, safety and providing a school experience as close to normal as possible.
- Operational decisions such as protocols, cohorting, entry dates, etc., have not been made. The division will keep parents informed.
- Next Step will be moving its Sherwood Park outreach campus into Salisbury Composite High School.

Special Board Meeting – April 8

The board approved an amendment to its modular classroom request to Alberta Education/Infrastructure to cover the costs of moving 6 modulars (original # was 4): 4 from Campbelltown and 2 from Pine Street to address enrolment pressures at SouthPointe and Ardrossan Junior/Senior.

The board approved the use of To Be Allocated funds to hire three temporary family liaison workers to connect with out-of-school students/families residing outside Strathcona County with whom we've had limited contact. The goal is to make contact and determine if supports are needed to ensure a successful 2021-22 school year.

Technology Fee

The board has decided to postpone any further discussions around a technology fee until after administration provides its updated division technology plan next year.

FREE Parent PD

Keeping Them Safe While Helping Them Grow

Strathcona Christian Academy Secondary is hosting this virtual presentation and offering it free to EIPS families. Presented by Alex Russell, a nationally renowned psychologist and public speaker, the session will offer helpful tips and strategies to support children and their emotional growth during challenging times. [Learn more](#)

Event Details:

When: April 21, 2021

Time: 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Location: [Join the Meeting Virtually](#) – hosted on Microsoft Teams

Cost: Free

AHS Caregiver Education

AHS continues to offer a variety of webinars—both evening and lunch—and drop-in sessions on a wide variety of mental health related topics such as anxiety, depression, ADHD, self-harm and many more. For more information on topics, dates, times and registration:

<https://www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca/virtual-education>

Parent Surveys

1. EIPS Parent Survey

- PLEASE complete the annual survey. Your input is critical to evaluating the division's progress to meeting its goals and priorities.
- New this year is a Part B that will help inform next year's newly elected Board of Trustees in their work developing the next EIPS Four-Year Education Plan—which will be implemented for the 2022-2023 school year.

2. Alberta Education Parent Assurance Survey (grades 4, 7, 10)

- Used to be the Accountability Pillar Survey and was conducted in January.
- Changed to reflect the province's new Assurance Framework.
- Deadline is April 23, 2021
- You would have received an access code from the Government. If you need a new code, contact System Assurance Branch at EDC.SystemAssurance@gov.ab.ca with the following information: grade of student, school name, school authority name.

K-6 Draft Curriculum

- In advance of seeing the draft curriculum, EIPS Superintendent Liguori advised that the division will not be participating in the pilot.
 - This would have been year 3 of disruption for staff and students.
 - Focus is on addressing gaps and have as normal of a year as possible for both staff and students. Next year is especially important for grade 3 students as all the research shows that meeting literacy targets by grade 3 is critical to future success in education, and subsequently, in life.
 - Would have required significant investment of resources when the government is saying it will be making ongoing adjustments.
 - Time constraints.
- The Board and Division are reviewing the draft K-6 curriculum and collecting input from groups of teachers to provide to the province. Feedback from parents and community members will also inform our response. The intention is to provide an over-arching summary to the public.

Ways to give feedback

First, review the [Draft K-6 Curriculum](#). Two documents you can also read to help better understand the draft curriculum document and answer the province's survey questions include:

- [The guiding framework for the design and development of kindergarten to grade 12 provincial curriculum](#)
- [Alberta Education: Curriculum Overview](#)

There is lots of analysis and comment online—caution: check sources.

- Complete the province's [Draft K-6 Curriculum: Public Feedback Survey](#).
- Write Minister LaGrange and copy:
 - Premier Kenney
 - MLA Sarah Hoffman (Opposition Education Critic)
 - your local MLA
 - **EIPS Board** (Me Annette.Hubick@eips.ca , all trustees, solely Chair Boymook ... your choice)
- Follow ASCA as it may be spearheading parent response initiatives.
- Some school councils are formulating resolutions.
- At school council meetings ... I'm listening! I will share feedback gathered at SC meetings with the Board and Administration.

7) New Business- Becky Mitchell, Chair

a) No new business to report

8) Chair Reports

a) Council updates– Chair: Becky Mitchell

- no new updates

9) Next Meeting(s) - June (date TBD)

10) Adjourn 6:50 p.m.