

Clover Bar Junior High, Sherwood Park, Alberta
General Meeting
Clover Bar Junior High School Council

Minutes – June 9, 2021

6:00 p.m. Virtual Meeting

* indicates written report/attachment provided

Attendees: Coleen Alpern, Grant Fiddes, Becky Mitchell, Jodi Sillers, Tracey Nielsen, Lisa Hedges, Annette Hubick

- 1) Call to order @ 6:03 pm.
- 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) April 2021 - approved with no amendments
- 5) Principal's Report: Principal – Colleen Alpern
 - Grade 8s quarantined for 2 weeks followed by the whole school moving to online learning
 - Budget released - 2.7 mill, 96,5 staffing, 80 K supplies and resources, decrease in staffing, 18K programming, 40K furniture/equip/insurance/PD, 80K for supplies
 - unable to retain Mandy Reimer
 - Jill Kowalchak returning
 - Drama teacher for 2021-22 year Mr. Benson - Grades 7/9, Ms. Tymchuk - Grade 8
 - Maintaining all programming currently taking place (funded through district funds therefore no loss of funding for this)
 - 3 staff positions added for next year - focus on learning loss (.2/1 day per week) to support students need, social emotional support funding,
 - The school education plan was developed:
 - Goals:
 1. working on strengthening relationships
 2. Provide knowledge and skills to take responsibility for their own learning. Info can be found on the website under the 'About' tab.
 - Residential School Acknowledgement-last week 215 seconds of silence, staff/students wore orange
 - Field trips have been happening over the last 2 weeks
 - Grade 9 farewell Friday June 11 - pizza party outside and activities (guidelines will be followed)
 - Wednesday Aug 25 School office opening
 - Tuesday Aug 31 - Grade 7 orientation in afternoon

6) Trustee's Report: Trustee – Annette Hubick

Report for Cloverbar School Council

Annette Hubick – EIPS Trustee

June 9, 2021

Decisions at April Board Meeting

Fees

- All school fees were approved by the Board. Thank you to all parents who participated in the school fee development process.
- All division fees were approved. There were no changes to any division fees (e.g., transportation, facility rentals) with the exception of Specialized Support Fees – these are fees that are charged to other school divisions to provide service to non-resident students requiring additional supports. These fees increased 3% to account for the increased staffing costs.

Allocations to Schools

Basic allocations to schools are increasing 2.34% to mitigate the increase in standard cost of staff.

Reserves

- It is anticipated that EIPS will realize a \$2.6 million surplus from operations this year. o 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 current budget had included \$1.9 million in deferred revenue that will now be realized this year.
 - o 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.
- Projected reserves for August 31, 2021:
 - o \$10.6 million in unallocated operating reserves; standard practice is to hold 2% (\$4 million) in unallocated operating reserves.
 - o \$1.087 million Capital Reserves
- According to Bill 5, by 2023 board operating reserves will be capped at 3.15% of operating budget.
- The board approved a 2-year reserve plan to invest reserves strategically and sustainably, focused on COVID-19 recovery and the EIPS 4-year education plan. This \$5.8 million plan, still leaving operating reserves in excess of the cap for the next board to allocate.

Decisions at May 26, 3031 Board Meeting

2021-2022 Budget

The Board approved the 2021-2022 budget. You can access it in the Board meeting package (budget starts on page 15) <https://www.eips.ca/download/347285>

Highlights:

The 2021-22 Budget has been developed with a conservative approach due to the continued uncertainty of the external environment.

- Total budget is \$197.18 million
- Planned operating deficit of \$6.85 million, which is offset by operating reserves (see my report from your last school council meeting for a breakdown of the Division reserve plan).
- Staff decreased to 1,319.57 FTE (Certificated 851.96 FTE, Classified 467.61 FTE)
 - o A decrease of 2.73 FTE (0.2%) from the 2020-21 Fall Budget.

Transportation Fee Rebate

The Board approved EIPS Student Transportation’s recommendation that students who have accessed busing for the entire 2020-21 school year receive a transportation fee credit. This recommendation is in recognition that due the pandemic, students have not had access to busing service as determined in a “regular year” because of school closures and quarantine procedures for close contacts. Although service levels and did not change, savings on fuel has afforded this one-time credit offer.

- Proposed fee credit is 5% for K-6 and 10% of 7-12.
- The breakdown of the fee credits is an estimated total of \$76,453 and will be absorbed within the 2020-21 Student Transportation budget.
- Credit percentages were calculated based on the average number of days the grade configurations below did not access busing due to school closures because of the pandemic.
- Fee credits will be applied through the EIPS payment portal which is accessed via the parent portal accounts.

EIPS Education Plan

For the first time, school boards are required to submit their annual Education Plans in the spring (previously was in the fall). The plan outlines EIPS’s goals and priorities, key strategies, the performance measures that will be used to assess progress and the Assurance Engagement Cycle—this is a new section that outlines how the Division will engage stakeholders in the Plan, whether that’s gathering input or reporting results.

Attachment 1

2021-22 Elk Island Public Schools Costs to be Funded from Division Unallocated Reserves	Covid Costs Transportation Cleaning 245,000 School Custodial Costs 820,000 PPE, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer 600,000 Illness 400,000 Overtime 55,500	Amount
Description		

2,120,500

Focus on Learning Loss - Year 1 500,000 Social Emotional Supports 500,000 Mechanical Cooling for Modularity 250,000 New Curriculum 175,000 Consultants (Assessment, Numeracy, Early Learning) 393,000 Career Pathways 130,000 Professional Development to Enhance Use of Division Software 130,000 Home Education 116,935 Readers/Writers Workshop 60,000 Post Covid Mental Health for Staff 50,000 Digitization of Student Records at Schools 50,000 Professional Development (OTAGS) and Leadership Development 75,000 Occupational Health & Safety - Emergency Notification System 41,500 IT Battery Replacement 33,000 Junior High Honours 20,000 Certificate of Recognition Audit 17,000 **Estimated Amount of Reserves to Be Used 4,661,935 A**

2022-23

Description	Amount
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Focus on Learning Loss - Year 2 500,000 Career Pathways 130,000 Consultants (Assessment, Numeracy, Early Learning) 393,000 Professional Development (OTAGS) and Leadership Development 75,000 **1,098,000 B**

New Curriculum TBD Total amount from Reserves **5,759,935 = A + B**

EIPS Parent Survey

This year, participation rates were up from 2,967 respondents in 2019-20 to 3,198 for the 2020-21 school year.

Positive Highlights:

- Continued high ratings for growth in literacy and numeracy, quality of teaching and leadership, and “staff care about my child.”
- Despite a pandemic year, high ratings for “My child is safe at school.”

Things to work on:

- “Opportunity to be involved in decisions at your child’s school.”
- Creating more awareness of First Nations, Metis & Inuit education, board advocacy and engagement in matters of public education. These had high “I don’t know” responses.

Child Youth & Well Being Survey

Today, Alberta’s government announced the Child and Youth Well-being review. An expert panel will work to understand the psychological, social, educational and physical impacts of the pandemic on children and youth under the age of 19.

Albertans are invited to share their thoughts and ideas with the panel through a survey at alberta.ca/child-and-youth-well-being-review.aspx until July 31.

K-6 DRAFT CURRICULUM

Thank you for sending me your school council's resolution on the draft K-6 curriculum. I forwarded it to the superintendent and Board of Trustees.

On behalf of the EIPS Board of Trustees, Division administration commissioned an external review of the draft K-6 curriculum.

- The report was completed by Janice Aubrey, a curriculum expert of considerable renown not only in Alberta, but on the international front as well.
- Originally, the plan was to gather groups of our own staff to do this analysis but due to the challenges of the switch to online learning along with a depleted pool of substitutes, this alternative approach was taken in order to ensure that the Board received a review in a timely manner.

As a gesture of our willingness to work in close partnership with the Ministry, this curriculum review was provided to the Minister of Education, noting that its content mirrored a lot of what we've heard from our own parents, staff, the business community and the general public. The report was shared with parents on May 20, 2021. View the report: [EIPS External Review of Draft K-6 Curriculum 2021.pdf](#)

I encourage you to:

Read the report and to provide your own input to Alberta Education by completing the [Draft K-6 Curriculum: Public Feedback Survey](#) and to consider writing to the Minister of Education directly (please copy the me and your MLA).

Share the report with your friends and family—whether they have children in the system or not—we all have a stake in maintaining Alberta's leadership in education excellence position in the world.

Here is a link to [Draft K-6 Curriculum](#).

ASBA SPRING GENERAL MEETING

- Minister of Education Adriana LaGrange presentation.
 - o Announced offer of a \$75,000 grant to ASBA to assist boards with engagement on the curriculum. No other details offered in terms of purpose, transparency, etc.
- Members voted for a resolution that ASBA advocate for a delay and review of the draft K-6 curriculum.
- Professional development sessions I attended:
 - o System Alignment for Deep Learning...Even in These Times
 - o Supporting the Mental Health of Students and School Staff
 - o Best Practices for Trustees (to bolster support for locally elected school boards) o Leading into the Rebound
 - o Student engagement

ELECTION

Cast your vote for trustees in the election on October 18, 2021. It's the best way to demonstrate that you value independent, non-partisan, locally and democratically elected school boards. Encourage your friends and family to vote, too.

Stay in Touch

Until we next meet again in September, please stay reach out if you have any questions or concerns (Annette.Hubick@eips.ca) and follow me on Facebook to stay informed (@hubickEIPStrustee).

- 7) New Initiatives- Becky Mitchell, Chair
 - a) No new business to report
- 8) Chair Reports
 - a) Council updates– Chair: Becky Mitchell
 - a. Fundraising bylaws have been approved.
- 9) Next Meeting(s) AGM in late September.
- 10) Adjourn 7:02 p.m.