Agenda – November 23rd, 2023

Brentwood Elementary Commons (Library)

6:30pm -7:15pm (Fundraising meeting to follow)

1. Call to order- Sarah Topilko

6:33pm

1. Treaty 6 – Sarah Topilko
2. Welcome and introductions-Sarah Topilko (2 minutes)

Review & Approval of the Agenda- Sarah Topilko (2 minutes)

* Call for any additions to the agenda

Sarah Topilko Motions, Jody Blashko seconds

1. Trustee Report-Don Irwin (5 minutes)

NOVEMBER COSC MEETING               BOARD CHAIR REPORT

One the roles of trustees is to advocate for Public Education. The Board of Trustees create an Advocacy Work Plan each year that identifies the priorities and strategies for this work. One aspect of this advocacy takes place in conversations with other elected officials and community stakeholders. During October, trustees had opportunities for conversation at the following events:

Sherwood Park Chamber of Commerce meeting

Vegreville Chamber of Commerce meeting

Meeting with the Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides, Minister of Education and members of his team

Meeting with the Board Chair and Superintendent of Elk Island Catholic Schools

The mandate letters, for the following Alberta government ministries, have helped inform the 2023-24 Advocacy Work Plan: Education, Advanced Education, Mental Health and Addictions and Children and Family Services.

The Elk Island Public Schools Assurance Review meetings provide the Board of Trustees with the opportunity to see how departments and schools did in meeting their 2022-23 goals and priorities.  These presentations include strengths and successes, areas for growth and challenges that were experienced.  The trustees met with the following departments at the end of October as part of the Assurance Review process: Business Services, Communications, Finance, Human Resources, Informational Technology, Student Transportation and Supports for Students. Through the Assurance Reviews, areas of advocacy are identified and the trustees continue to refine the 2023-24 Advocacy Work Plan.

Remembrance Day Services

I attended Wes Hosford service on November 3 and presented to EIPS wreath at the ceremony at Millenium Place on Saturday November 11.

Questions/ Suggestions

Please feel free to email, text, or phone me at don.irwin@eips.ca or 587 986 3900.

1. Principal’s Report: Principal – Garry Russell & John Murphy (10 minutes)

November 23. 2023 Principals Report

Christmas Concert. Planning is well underway by the Christmas Committee . The concert is FREE for parents and guests. Seating will be on a first come, first served basis. Our hope is to have enough seating for everyone, however families are encouraged not to exceed 4 seats.

LOGOS program families

Please arrive at Park Church at 6:15. Students will meet their teachers in the fellowship room. The Concert will begin at 6:30pm and end at 7:15pm. Please exit the auditorium promptly at the end of the concert to make room for families who will be attending the regular concert afterwards.

Regular program families

Please arrive at Park Church at 7:15. Students will meet their teachers in the fellowship room. The Concert will begin at 7:30pm and end at 8:00pm. Please exit the auditorium promptly at the end of the concert.

Front row seats raffle/ Only school Council can do this?

November Hot lunch proceeds to help cover costs as well would like to have a raffle for 2 sets of 4 seats for front row – help to pay for church and busses

 Organize raffle tickets through Healthy Hunger $2 each – Jody

Possibility of having a food bank donation bin

Assurance Review is tomorrow afternoon. Sarah T. will be attending on behalf of School Council

Hiring a full time Educational Assistant to work in one of the GOALS classes.

As a Division we have received $281,373 for Learning Disruption Funding this year. These funds have been allocated to provide intervention support for at-risk students in grades 1-5 during the 2023-24 school year. $12,287

Laurie Borle gets funding from grocery stores divides between schools in the district. Brentwood will get $1000 to put towards food for the office for when kids don’t have lunches.

Parent Council to work with Gary/John to see if we can add an option in healthy hunger for parents if they choose to donate extra funds to help families that cant afford hot lunch.

1. LOGOS Report- Kindra Varty (2 minutes)

Celebration church to come to the school for December 21 Chapel

January 24 6-7 open house

1. COSC Report- Brian Vick (2 minutes)

Below is a brief overview of what took place at the last COSC meeting on Nov. 1, 2023.

KEY AGENDA TOPICS

Board Report

ATA Report

ASCA update

Caregiver Education Series

COSC Operating Procedures updates

School Council Engagement Grant

EIPS assurance review

COSC Sharing: School council roles

BOARD REPORT

EIPS Board Chair Cathy Allen presented the Board Report. She highlighted the Board of Trustees’ Advocacy Work Plan and plans to bring advocacy topics to future meetings.

ATA REPORT

ATA Local No. 28 President Deneen Zielke presented the ATA report. Zielke detailed what happened during the 1 Million March for Children protest on September 20. This included the tearing down of the ATA’s pride flag—an action being investigated as a hate crime.

She also spoke about a movement called Take Back Alberta, which seeks to target school authorities across Canada. The movement’s goal is to take over and impose its views of public education on administration, removing anyone who would oppose those views.

The ATA is working on a strategy to engage members and prepare for the election in spring 2025. Zielke encourages parents and caregivers to research Take Back Alberta, dispel the misinformation being spread and remain advocates for the safety of all students.

For more information, contact Deneen Zielke.

ASCA UPDATE

The Alberta School Councils’ Association (ASCA) is the provincial organization for families on school council. Below may be of interest to COSC

 members:

ASCA’s Walk Alongside Engagement Event takes place online from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on November 18. There’s no cost to register. Engage with the ASCA Board of Directors on topics of importance to school councils and their communities.

COSC members can reach out to ASCA to schedule a virtual drop in from one of its board members to explain the role of ASCA and how the organization helps school councils.

ASCA learning opportunities and supports can be paid for using the $500 Alberta School Council Engagement grant.

 Workshops are offered online, scheduled weekly throughout the year.

The ASCA Conference and Annual General Meeting will be held April 26-28, 2024.

CAREGIVER EDUCATION SERIES: November

Alberta Health Services hosts 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, depression and technology, while teaching leadership skills, communication,resiliency and more. Learn more

COSC OPERATING PROCEDURES UPDATES

No updates were proposed for the COSC Operating Procedures.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT GRANT

On November 2, school councils should have received a School Council Engagement Grant application to the email they provided in the contact form. If you didn’t receive this email, contact Emma Small. As stated previously, ASCA learning opportunities and supports can be paid for using the grant.

 However, each school council will have the best idea for how grant funds could be used in their school context. Complete the application form by December 31.

 For more information, refer to the November COSC Meeting Package.

EIPS ASSURANCE REVIEW

EIPS Associate Superintendent Ryan Marshall discussed assurance reviews in the Division, including what an assurance review is and how to read your school’s result. He highlighted diving deeper into the data and figuring out the story behind it. A copy of the presentation is on the EIPS website.

For school councils looking to know more about school fees, refer to Administrative Procedure 505: School and Administrative Fees.

COSC SHARING: School council roles

COSC Vice-Chair Dallas Kirtz asked what school councils have done in the past for holiday events. Other members shared what they’ve done historically, such as winter festivals and concerts. COSC Secretary Chelsea Pretzlaw shared her school council had an informal picnic at lunch hour where families could come read a book with their children for Read In Week, and she suggested informal cookie-decorating could be simple and easy to plan for a holiday event. Members also highlighted the importance of engaging with not only other parents and caregivers, but asking what the students themselves would like to do. When you have student engagement, investment from parents and caregivers naturally seems to follow.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

November 6-10 November Break (schools closed)

November 10 Day in Lieu for Remembrance Day (Central Services closed)

November 11 Remembrance Day (schools and Central Services closed)

November 12-18 Métis Week

November 13-17 Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week

November 20 National Child Day

November 21 Your Future: Post-secondary and Career Fair

November 22 Junior High Honours Information Session

December 6 Early Dismissal

December 25 to January 5 Christmas Break (schools closed)

December 25 Christmas Day (Central Services closed)

December 26 Boxing Day (Central Services closed)

December 27 Christmas Floater Day (Central Services closed)

January 1 New Year’s Day (Central Services closed)

January 10 Early Dismissal

You can also join COSC on Facebook to share information and ask questions with other school councils.

Additional information from the Nov. 1, 2023 meeting is available at www.eips.ca. The next meeting takes place on Jan. 10, 2024.

 We look forward to seeing you there.

1. Next Meeting: January 25, 2024
2. Adjourn

7:25 Sarah Topilko motions, Jody Blashko seconds

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!! Can’t wait to see you all in the New Year!**