

CASS Zone 5 Meeting – Minutes
Friday, October 19, 2018
Calgary Board of Education
1221 - 8 Street SW
Calgary, AB
403 817-4000

Chair – Michael Kilcommons

Associate Superintendent – Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools
mkilcommons@redeemer.ab.ca

Acting Secretary – Scott Morrison

Superintendent – Christ The Redeemer Catholic
smorrison@redeemer.ab.ca

8:30 – 9:00 **Coffee and Conversation**

9:00 – 9:10 **Call to Order**

- Acknowledgement: We would like to acknowledge that we are on lands in the Treaty 7 area. We are making this acknowledgement to demonstrate our commitment to work together as a community in laying the foundation for reconciliation through education.

Confirmed CASS Zone 5 meeting dates for 2018-2019:

October 19 – Calgary Board of Education, November 30 – ~~Franco-Sud~~ **Calgary Catholic**, March 1 – Foothills School Division, and May 10 – Calgary Catholic School Division

- Welcome and Introductions – **There were 26 people in attendance, including five guests from Alberta Education.**
- Additions to the Agenda – **None**
- Approval of the Agenda – **Moved: Greg Luterbach. Carried.**
- Approval of the Minutes – **Moved: Murray Bezinsky. Carried.**
- 9:20 – 10:00 'Elections / Nominations:
Treasurer: **Cathy McCauley, Executive Director CRC. CASS is serving as banker board.**
Secretary: **Cathy McCauley, Executive Director CRC.**

10:00 – 11:00 Conversation with Kim Brockhoff and Carla Johnson: – **Draft plans for provincial curriculum implementation**

Kim shared Education's draft K-12 Provincial Implementation Plan and requested feedback. It is a 20-month plan, leading to controlled field-testing in **September 2019**, and full implementation in **September 2020**. At this point, it is planned that decisions about controlled field testing may be at the discretion of teachers in consultation with central administration (e.g. who field tests, which subjects to field test, how many subjects to field test). Full implementation will include all 6 subjects by all teachers.

AB ED – What do you think about our timelines and process?

CASS – We need common messaging, toolkits, and resources.

CASS – We would like to know about how it will affect testing and Accountability.

CASS – We would like to have the choice to implement not all the curriculums.

AB ED – There will be choice for teachers, in consultation with central leadership, about which curriculums might be implemented in the preparatory and early implementation phase. The full implementation phase in 2020 will require the implementation of all six curriculums.

CASS – Is there any consideration of a provincial report card?

AB ED – No.

CASS – Any provincial movement of this sort would be seen as a threat to local autonomy. It should only occur if the need arises from Boards.

CASS – Resources are key. The best thing about the new curriculum is choice. The worst thing about the curriculum is choice. With 6 new curriculums in one year, the choice could overwhelm. If teachers are given one or two solid resource

choices per curriculum, they are more likely to be able to limit the number of decisions they need to make and actually make thoughtful choices without being overwhelmed.

CASS – Have you considered funding?

AB ED – Yes, analyzing now. No plans or commitments in place.

CASS – Have you considered media engagement and messaging are robust?

AB ED – Yes, we're telling our story first, getting ahead of the story.

CASS – Give us your common messaging sooner rather than later.

CASS – Be careful about sending messages, for example, that we must use cross-disciplinary learning. This is a rabbit hole with media.

CASS – The curriculum focuses on concepts. Avoid getting into the instructional strategies related to curriculum delivery. For example, to suggest it has to be an interdisciplinary approach, creates an easy target for those who have traditional views and are suspicious of new approaches.

AB ED – What do you think of our timelines?

CASS – It is 100% based on the availability of resources.

11:00 – 11:15 Transition and break

11:15 – 11:45 Conversation with Barry Litun and Kurt Sacher: - CASS Executive Director / CASS President

Kurt expressed his appreciation for serving as president, and thanked Bevan, Scott, and Michael for their work with CASS.

Unification of the Profession with the ATA: Kurt provided further insight into the Executives' reasons for choosing not to enter into a unification with the ATA. In short, there could be some benefit, but there were too many drawbacks.

New Director: Chester Auger will represent the FNMI population as a CASS Director at the provincial level.

Financial: CASS finished with a slight deficit due to some unique circumstances.

Pension Cap Update: The change should take place in late October or early November. Cheques will be adjusted one month later. There will be no retroactive pay.

Certification: The Alberta University's graduate programs will result in certification. For both certification programs, there will be 4 Master's level courses, each of about 30 hours. Those with Master's now will need two university courses to get their certification, each about 30 hours of work. The one-time certification courses from CASS/ATA will take 8 hours over the course of 2 days. The CASS/ATA principal certification short course may be offered at CASS's spring conference, and it may also be offered at ATA conventions. The CASS/ATA principal certification short course may also be designed to go to divisions and facilitate the training.

OHS: Currently, every school, as per the new regulation, needs an OHS committee rather than one divisional committee. There will be a group application to request a waiver that Boards can opt into. CASS will make the submission on behalf of interested Boards. Boards will need to make some commitments such as ensuring OHS is discussed at regular staff meetings.

The SLQS Advisory Community was established late in 2017 to provide an opportunity for the CASS Directors of Leadership Learning to seek feedback / opinion / support from CASS members with respect to the implementation of the Professional Practice Standards. A call for interest was extended to each Zone as well as the Charter School Authorities and the First Nations School Authorities.

11:45-1:30 **Zone 5 CASS – Reports**

- 1 Director Report – Scott Morrison CTR / Bevan Daverne (GHSD) (Vice President) – **Duty to Report:** Boards need to report to the Registrar whenever a “charge” is laid, even before a conviction.

- 2 Professional Development (Provincial) Bryan Szumlas (CSSD) – The Summer Conference was a great success. The November Conference in Calgary will include three keynote speakers, including David Irvine and Deputy Minister, Curtis Clarke.
- 3 Treasurer Report – TBD – Nothing to report.
- 4 Calgary Regional Consortium – Allen Davidson (FSD) – Al expressed appreciation for the CRC's responsiveness to Zone 5. **Leading Curriculum Learning** is an initiative for system leaders supporting curriculum; the first meeting is November 23 in Calgary. CRC will support the shift to learning about the concept-based curriculum. CRC launched the new Learn Alberta sight, where curriculum materials will be housed. Teachers will be able to create and co-create. CRC also has robust resources to support teachers in enhancing their FNMI foundational knowledge.
- 5 Regional Healthy Schools Committee – Al Davidson (FSD) – There were three presentations on mental health capacity building.
- 6 Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre – Gary Strother (CSSD) – The Centre is having its 5th anniversary this year. They have had 7500 kids through their doors, despite the fact they only take 15% of the worst cases. Gary asked superintendents to consider annually showing the video about recognizing and responding to sexual abuse. It is a great resource for teachers. The Bishop of Calgary toured the Centre recently. They are trying to open 7 Centres in the province.
- 7 FNMI – Andrea Holowka (CSSD) – Nothing to report.
- 8 Alberta Education Director's Report – Ron Taylor / Leta Youck McGown / Michelle Provost – Ron explained there are two Ron Taylors in Alberta Ed. His email address is: rtaylor@gov.ab.ca. Ron introduced the new team and explained their new structure.
- 9 Curriculum Development Report – Tabled

Future Conversation Topics – potential issues to be prioritized:

- Timeout, Seclusion Room, Physical Restraint Advisory: Implications for staff safety when we consider the need to educate all students
- Occupational Health and Safety new legislation: Implications
- Local Bargaining
- Cannabis
- Therapy Animals
- Quality Standards
- Pre-CASS meetings: Curriculum, Student Services, Human Resources

Pre-CASS meetings are meetings before meetings to discuss HR, SS, Curriculum, etc. Then the full meeting takes place, and the sub-groups share and report with the large group. Barry Litun and Ron Taylor both endorsed the efficacy of the structure. The consensus was to explore this new structure; the sub-groups will be Curriculum, Human Resources, Inclusive Education, and Chief Superintendents. In the first meeting, the sub-groups will discuss their focus and objectives. The first sub-groups meetings will be 90 minutes. We'll then do reports from sub-groups and others. Please register for CASS Zone 5 Meetings [here](#).