



MEETING MINUTES

Elk Island Public Schools, in-person and virtual meeting

Jan. 8, 2025 | 6:30 p.m.

In Attendance

SCHOOL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

Chair: Stephanie Stoddard,
Fort Saskatchewan Elementary
Vice-Chair: Michelle Uytterhagen,
Fultonvale Elementary Junior High
Secretary: Andrea Brown,
École Campbelltown

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Alanna Mahar, Pine Street Elementary
Amanda Shand, École Parc Élémentaire
Anne Wasylyshen, Ardrossan Junior Senior High
April Childs, Lakeland Ridge
Brian Vick, F.R. Haythorne Junior High
Christan Rasmussen, Westboro Elementary
Deanna Metro, Ardrossan Elementary
Jordana Feist, James Mowat Elementary
Kim Scott, Sherwood Heights Junior High and
Salisbury Composite High
Krista Scott, Bev Facey Community High
Leanna Bechtel, Fort Saskatchewan Christian
Lindsey Heerema, SCA Elementary
Lisa Harke, SCA Secondary
Lora Slobodian, Brentwood Elementary
Marco Candia, Woodbridge Farms Elementary
Sarah Boyce, Brentwood Elementary
Shauna Samu, Heritage Hills Elementary
Shelley Wiebe, A.L. Horton Elementary

Tasha Kennedy, SouthPointe School
Tom Sunderland, Bev Facey Community High
Tricia Kamba, Fort Saskatchewan High

ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Cathy Allen, Chair
Susan Miller, Vice-Chair
Trina Boymook, Trustee
Randy Footz, Trustee
Colleen Holowaychuk, Trustee
Don Irwin, Trustee

ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sandra Stoddard, Superintendent
Ryan Marshall, Associate Superintendent
Maxine Holm, ATA Local No. 28 President
Emma Small, Communication Services

GUEST SPEAKER

Jacquie Surgenor Gaglione

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. COSC Chair Stephanie Stoddard was unable to run the meeting, so COSC Vice-Chair Michelle Uytterhagen ran it on her behalf.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

COSC Vice-Chair Uytterhagen provided the land acknowledgement.

AGENDA

COSC Vice-Chair Uytterhagen called for additions or deletions to the agenda.

MOTION | The agenda be adopted, as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COSC Vice-Chair Uytterhagen called for approval of the Nov. 6, 2024 meeting minutes.

MOTION | The minutes be approved, as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

Board Report

Board Chair Allen presented the Board Report.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Draft Junior High Curriculum**
 - The Alberta government announced the junior high curriculum will be updated—with changes affecting mathematics for grades 7-9, social studies for grades 7-9, physical education and wellness for grades 7-10, and career and life management—known as CALM.
 - The draft version of the curriculum is scheduled for piloting in September 2025 and the implementation of the updated curriculum is scheduled for September 2026. Once the draft versions are available for viewing, EIPS will make decisions regarding piloting of the updated curriculum.
- **Trustee Election – Oct. 20, 2025**
 - As an elected corporate body which governs EIPS, the Board of Trustees provides overall direction and leadership to the Division and is accountable for the provision of educational services and programs. The role of the trustee is to contribute to the Board as it carries out its mandate.
 - Nomination packages are currently being accepted from candidates running for the EIPS Board of Trustees. These packages will be accepted until 12 p.m. on Sept. 22, 2025.
 - Candidate information and the Public School Trustee Candidate Handbook will be made available on the [EIPS website](#).
 - The Alberta School Boards Association prepares [resources](#) for candidates.
- COSC Vice-Chair Uytterhagen noted the draft junior high curriculum as a potential agenda item for February or March.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: There's a lot of budgetary work for trustees, isn't there?

Answer: Don't need to be a chartered accountant. Division has a Financial Services department that handles accounting work, whereas the Board of Trustees takes a high-level focus of the budget.

ATA Report

ATA Local No. 28 President Maxine Holm presented the ATA report.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Holm introduced herself as the new President of the ATA Local No. 28 to COSC members and said she's excited to represent the ATA at COSC meetings. She took over the role on December 13.
- Previous president Deneen Zielke is unable to continue the role as she won the 2024 Edmonton District by-election to become an ATA District Representative.

- COSC Vice-Chair Uytterhagen thanked Zielke for all her hard work over the years, and COSC Vice-Chair Uytterhagen welcomed Holm as the new representative at COSC.

For Information

POWERSCHOOL DATA BREACH – Sandra Stoddard, EIPS Superintendent

- Before speaking about the *EIPS Annual Education Results Report 2023-24*, EIPS Superintendent Sandra Stoddard discussed the recent PowerSchool data breach. More than 80 million student, staff and parent accounts were compromised worldwide.
- EIPS has nothing to do with the breach—PowerSchool has taken full responsibility.
- Investigation teams have stated compromised data has been deleted, but there's no way to validate the truth of this claim due to backups, cloud technology and more. PowerSchool is monitoring the dark web, and it knows the exact information that was compromised—which includes staff and student databases.
- EIPS is doing its own incident reporting regarding the incident.
- Insurance will come into effect for compromised data found on the internet.
- Information has been shared with stakeholders across the Division, and PowerSchool will publish full incident details on January 17.

ANNUAL EDUCATION RESULTS REPORT 2023-24 – Sandra Stoddard, EIPS Superintendent

- EIPS Superintendent Stoddard informed COSC members the [EIPS Annual Education Results Report 2023-24](#) and its [overview](#) are available now. In-person attendees were able to take a printed copy of the report and the overview. Each school will get a copy of the report and three overviews.
- COSC Liaison Emma Small said COSC members who did not attend the meeting in person can contact her to be sent a printed report. Requests are first-come, first-served, while supplies last.
- The results in the report affect assurance reviews.
- For 2023-24, there was a significant difference between the EIPS Annual Feedback Survey and Alberta Education Assurance Survey results.

ASSURANCE REVIEWS – Sandra Stoddard, EIPS Superintendent

- Superintendent Stoddard stated the Assurance Reviews are complete. Schools provided data based on how they're achieving their goals, in addition to their most significant strengths and weaknesses.
- She encouraged COSC members to think about what school council goals they'd like to share at the February COSC Meeting.

ASCA UPDATE – Michelle Uytterhagen, COSC Vice-Chair

- ASCA is having their annual conference on Saturday, April 26. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place Sunday, April 27. The conference and AGM will be held entirely virtual. The cost to attend the conference is \$100 per school council, with no limit on attendees.
- The Board has sponsored conference attendees from EIPS school councils for the past several years. The Board will share their decision regarding sponsorship at the February COSC Meeting.
- Alberta School Council Engagement Grant funds can be used to register for the ASCA conference and AGM. However, COSC Vice-Chair Uytterhagen recommended COSC members wait until the Board's decision on sponsorship before committing funds.
- ASCA is requesting [proposed advocacy resolutions](#) for the AGM. The deadline to [submit resolutions](#) is 12 p.m. on January 16.

CAREGIVER SERIES UPDATE – Michelle Uytterhagen, COSC Vice-Chair

- The [January and February Caregiver Series](#) schedule is now available.
- Offered through Recovery Alberta, the sessions are informative and valuable.
- COSC Vice-Chair Uytterhagen encouraged members to review the [January and February Caregiver Series](#) calendar.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT GRANT – Michelle Uytterhagen, COSC Vice-Chair

- Fourteen schools have applied for the [Alberta School Council Engagement Grant](#) and been approved to use their funds. The end of June is the deadline for using the funds and processing payment.
- COSC member Lora Slobodian asked about making a shared document for how schools have used their grant previously and currently. She offered to create this document. COSC Vice-Chair Uytterhagen also shared that COSC members can share what they've done with their grant funds at the May COSC Meeting to prepare and generate ideas for the next school year.
- Jennifer Daly and Marlene Crippin—co-chairs for the school council at Bev Facey Community High—have brought forward an opportunity to pool grant funds. They'd like to organize a presentation from David Irvine for any interested school councils. Councils should notify them of their interest by January 31. More details will be in the followup email.

COSC Sharing

COSC OPERATING PROCEDURES: WHAT IS COSC AND HOW DO I FIT IN – Krista Scott, COSC member

- In 2018, the COSC Operating Procedures were brought to COSC. A subcommittee drafted the procedures. The intention was to have reasonable governing procedures—governed by COSC, not the provincial government.
- COSC member Krista Scott led COSC members in an exercise to go over the current operating procedures. She broke in-person attendees into groups, and each group reviewed a different section and shared concerns or notes of interest. Virtual attendees were directed to review the procedures and share their feedback, as well.
- More information about positions would be helpful before elections to encourage those who are uncertain about the positions, such as the role of Secretary.
- The procedures should be updated to reflect the new hybrid delivery of COSC meetings.
- COSC Vice-Chair Uytterhagen said the operating procedures will be brought forward at the May COSC Meeting so the group can review them before the next school year.

New Business

PROVINCIAL PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING MODEL – Candace Cole, EIPS Secretary-Treasurer

- The Weighted Moving Average (WMA) funding model was introduced in 2020. The reason: To provide predictable funding to schools.
- The previous funding model was based on the number of students enrolled—now it's based on an average of enrolment from previous years and estimated enrolment. A supplemental growth grant is available.
- Alberta Education is reviewing funding for the 2025-26 school year. Overall, there's a need for funding to increase altogether. A provincial budget consultation is available on the Government of Alberta website until January 12.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: Is Alberta the only province that uses the WMA as a whole?

Answer: Alberta is the only province that uses this specific WMA formula for public education funding.

Question: Is the WMA going to affect neurodivergent students?

Answer: Specialized support grants approximately \$400 per student.

Question: Is there a reserve fund to draw from if a school sees an unprecedented lower two-year average?

Answer: Such situations are unusual—it'd be hard to say.

Question: What happens with the funding if a student leaves a school division?

Answer: If a child leaves, funding stays at the original school. Through EIPS, funds are exchanged between our schools. A service agreement is provided for new students from another division.

APPROVED DIVISION CALENDARS – Sandra Stoddard, EIPS Superintendent

- The Division calendars for 2025-26 and 2026-27 were approved at the December Board meeting.
- A new addition, there'll be early dismissals every Wednesday for staff collaborative time in these upcoming school years.
- Official calendars will be posted January 9. EIPS will send out communication to families. There'll be an FAQ document shared with families about the weekly staff collaboration.
- Instructional hours for students and staff remain the same—they're just redistributed. Teachers' assigned time has increased 27 hours per year.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: How will other school support staff be affected by these weekly dismissals?

Answer: Educational assistants will be included in this—more so full-time permanent support staff.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:35 P.M.

Next COSC Meeting

DATE: Feb. 5, 2025

TIME: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

LOCATION: EIPS Central Services building, boardroom. Also hosted virtually on Zoom.