

# EIPS

# QUARTERLY UPDATE

## VOL. 5 NO. 1

## EIPS IN THE NEWS

**EIPS is breaking new ground for a replacement school in Sherwood Park** | [eips.ca](https://eips.ca)

**EIPS Board of Trustees welcomes back Cathy Allen as Board Chair and Susan Miller as Vice-Chair**  
| *Education News Canada*

**Fort Saskatchewan collegiate school next EIPS capital priority** | *The Sherwood Park and Strathcona County News*

**Construction underway for Sherwood Park replacement school** | *The Fort Saskatchewan Record*

**Bruderheim School student receives Spirit Bear Award for her commitment to reconciliation** | *The Fort Saskatchewan Record*

**Courtside with Bev Facey's new basketball program lead** | *The Fort Saskatchewan Record*

**No more cell phones in the classroom**  
| *The Fort Saskatchewan Record*

## FOR STARTERS

**With the new school year now officially started,** we're thrilled to welcome the more than 17,750 students, and their families, who are either new or returning to Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS). The Board of Trustees will do everything it can to ensure students have the best experiences possible and provided with the support and programs needed to grow, discover and thrive.

To kick off the school year, the EIPS Board held its annual organization meeting and executive election. I'm absolutely thrilled to share I'm returning as the Board Chair, and Susan Miller is once again the Board Vice-Chair. Together, we'll lead the Board throughout the 2024-25 school year. As always, our focus remains on promoting growth and success for all students, enhancing high-quality learning and working environments and enhancing public education through effective engagement.

Given the recent Board executive election, it seems fitting to reintroduce you to EIPS' Board of Trustees. Made up of eight members, we collectively represent the Division's communities and ensure a strong public education system for all students. I invite you to read the back page to get to know each of us a little better and learn why our work matters. I hope it serves as a starting point for a positive and wonderful year ahead.

**Cathy Allen,**  
Board Chair, Elk Island Public Schools

## INSIDE EIPS

**August 29: Back to School**  
Students returned to class and kickstarted the 2024-25 school year.

**September 12: Sherwood Park Replacement School Groundbreaking Ceremony**  
EIPS hosted the groundbreaking ceremony to mark the start of construction on its newest school. Learn more at [eips.ca](https://eips.ca).

**September 27: Terry Fox School Run Day**  
Students and staff are joining forces with schools across Canada and participating in the 2024 Terry Fox School Run, an annual event held nationwide by schools to raise money for cancer research.

**September 30: National Day of Truth and Reconciliation**  
Schools throughout EIPS will spend the week leading up to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation engaging in activities aimed at deepening understanding of the history of residential schools in Canada, the victims and the survivors.



## INBOX

**Will EIPS benefit from the province's recent announcement of added funding for Alberta school divisions?**

Yes. Over the summer, EIPS received an added \$1.6 million in one-time funding from the province. Of that, \$50,000 will go to Next Step schools, \$66,130 will go to the EIPS Educational Assistant Capacity Building Project and the remainder will go to schools throughout the Division—based on a classroom complexity algorithm to ensure equitable access. If there are any other needed adjustments to the 2024-25 budget, including shortfalls, EIPS will fund these through its reserves.

# MEET THE EIPS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Made up of eight locally elected members, here is EIPS' Board of Trustees—your advocates for public education. Together, they're responsible for ensuring all 17,750 students in EIPS have the tools needed to succeed and realize their full potential. How do they do it? Trustees share how, and, in their own words. What they say, makes it clear, school boards matter.



**Cathy Allen, Board Chair, Sherwood Park**

**Elected:** 2021 **Profile:** Trustee, educator and former EIPS principal. **On equitable access:**

Boards play a crucial role in ensuring equitable access to education and opportunities for students, regardless of their background, identity or circumstances. We create policies that address disparities, monitor school performance and programming for educational equity and make budget decisions for fair resource distribution to schools. Through this, all learners have access to the necessary instruction, resources, support, technology and facilities, which then leads to improved outcomes and foundations for future educational and career opportunities.



**Susan Miller, Board Vice-Chair  
Strathcona County**

**Elected:** 2021 **Profile:** Trustee and health care aid. **On community:** As trustees, we represent

the communities we serve. We listen to their concerns, values and needs and consistently bring these to the Board table—carefully balancing community needs with the province's education requirements. The result: It ensures we provide the best possible education to students and develop learners with the skills and knowledge needed to shape and drive the future for our communities and the province.



**Trina Boymook, Trustee, Sherwood Park**

**Elected:** 2013 **Profile:** Trustee, former EIPS board chair (2013-23) and long-time advocate for public education. **On advocacy:** School boards are

community advocates, focused on securing resources to meet the diverse learning needs of all students. We have ties to the community and, together, oversee the Division, giving us a unique perspective that allows us to understand and address these needs. We also regularly collaborate with political and community leaders to further enhance resources and shape policies. Collectively, it allows us to identify and understand issues, raise awareness and champion solutions that ensure the success of all students.



**Randy Footz, Trustee  
Vegreville and western Minburn County**

**Elected:** 2017 **Profile:** Trustee, educator and long-time resident of the Vegreville area. **On**

**governance:** Within EIPS, we have an outstanding record of successful student outcomes. The Board plays a key role in that through its governance—setting the Division's strategic direction, developing and monitoring policies and enforcing decisions that collectively lead to smooth operations. It's a complex framework made up of processes and rules that ultimately aim to provide every student with the best possible opportunities to succeed in safe and caring environments.



**Colleen Holowaychuk, Trustee  
Lamont County**

**Elected:** 2010 **Profile:** Trustee and Councillor for the Town of Lamont. **On engagement:** As trustees,

we're elected officials accountable to the public we serve. It's our largest stakeholder, a responsibility we take seriously. That's why we continually seek engagement opportunities—through surveys, meetings, events, emails and informal conversations. At every Board meeting, stakeholder input is top of mind. It guides our work, influences operations and ensures we get the decisions right. That, in turn, enables EIPS to continue offering educational experiences for students that reflect local priorities, values and expectations.



**Don Irwin, Trustee, Sherwood Park**

**Elected:** 2017 **Profile:** Trustee and former principal. **On fiscal responsibility:** I'm so proud to start my eighth year as a trustee and of the work we do

to provide high-quality education to students. Part of that is ensuring fiscal responsibility. Every year, we create and follow an annual budget based on funding from the province. Year-long, we review that budget, its progress and make adjustments as needed. To develop the budget, we seek and welcome input from the community as it helps inform priorities, find efficiencies and provide the best education possible.



**Jacqueline Shotbolt, Trustee  
Fort Saskatchewan**

**Elected:** 2021 **Profile:** Trustee, MBA student and finance sector employee. **On accountability:** I

know firsthand it's critical every child has the opportunity to succeed. As a Board we ensure accountability by setting clear, measurable goals that align with EIPS' *Four-Year Education Plan*, which outlines the Division's priorities, goals and outcomes. We're also guided by an assurance framework that includes annual evaluations, transparency, reporting and a commitment to continuous improvement. Through this, we build public confidence and ensure the effective use of resources so all students can reach their potential.



**Ralph Sorochan, Trustee  
Fort Saskatchewan**

**Elected:** 2021 **Profile:** Trustee and former principal and EIPS director. **On academic excellence:** The

Board ensures academic success for all students by establishing high academic standards, setting educational policies and priorities, and allocating resources for effective teaching. We advocate for equitable access to quality education, address diverse learning needs, promote inclusive practices that help close achievement gaps, and focus on preparing all students for success beyond high school.