



# MEETING MINUTES

Elk Island Public Schools, in-person and virtual meeting  
April 2, 2025 | 6:30 p.m.

## In Attendance

### SCHOOL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

**Vice-Chair:** Michelle Uytterhagen,  
Fultonvale Elementary Junior High  
**Secretary:** Andrea Brown,  
École Campbelltown

### SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Alanna Mahar, Pine Street Elementary  
Anne Wasylyshen, Ardrossan Junior Senior High  
Andy Styles, Bruderheim School  
Brian Vick, F.R. Haythorne Junior High  
Devon Klein, École Parc Élémentaire  
Kalyn Harrop, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High  
Kim Scott, Sherwood Heights Junior High and  
Salisbury Composite High  
Krista Scott, Bev Facey Community High  
Lindsey Heerema, SCA Elementary  
Lisa Harke, SCA Secondary  
Lora Slobodian, Brentwood Elementary  
Marco Candia, Woodbridge Farms Elementary  
Miranda Braun, Bruderheim School  
Shauna Samu, Heritage Hills Elementary

Teresa Bladon, Lakeland Ridge  
Tom Sunderland, Bev Facey Community High

### ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

### ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sandra Stoddard, Superintendent  
Ryan Marshall, Associate Superintendent  
Emma Small, Communication Services

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

COSC Vice-Chair Michelle 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 March 5, 2025 meeting minutes.

MOTION | The minutes be approved, as circulated.

*MOTION CARRIED*

## Board Report

Board Chair Cathy Allen presented the Board Report.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Currently, the capital request for a replacement school for Rudolph Hennig Junior High and Fort Saskatchewan High has not been approved by Alberta Education. EIPS plans for this replacement school to follow a collegiate programming model as it'd be well-positioned in Alberta's Industrial Heartland.
- The Division did not receive funding to lease a space for collegiate programming either. As such, EIPS will leverage collegiate programs in senior highs across the Division—offering borderless career-focused education pathways within the newly named Campus EIPS.
  - Collegiate programming includes dual-credit courses, apprenticeships and more.
  - EIPS administration is considering how transportation will be managed for students who don't have access to a personal vehicle or someone to pick them up and drop them off.
  - By the end of April, EIPS administration should know if they've received funding applied for regarding this type of programming.
  - Campus EIPS will launch in September 2025. COSC Vice-Chair Uytterhagen discussed bringing this topic forward to COSC members in the 2025-26 school year.
- National Volunteer Week takes place at the end of April. As a token of appreciation for the dedication and effort of COSC members, the Board of Trustees gave each member in person at the April meeting a thank-you card and all attendees enjoyed a dessert platter. Those attending online or having attended a meeting in the current school year will have a thank-you card couriered to their respective schools.

### COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

**Question:** Love the infrastructure of the new Campus EIPS. Is there historic data of other school divisions with borderless education programming like this?

**Answer:** Yes, Edmonton Public Schools has its own [Campus EPSB](#).

**Comment:** We should not rely on students to drive themselves, so thank you for looking into transportation.

**Comment:** Have to keep in mind how dual-credit courses can affect students registering for post-secondary. Students are filling out registration forms and getting kicked out when answering honestly about whether they've done a college- or university-level course before.

**Answer:** This is good for us to know, thank you. We'll take this back to the EIPS Career Pathways team.

**Comment:** Has EIPS partnered with businesses and community organizations regarding Campus EIPS?

**Answer:** Yes, the Division has partnered with many organizations excited to be a part of this initiative.

## Superintendent Report

Superintendent Sandra Stoddard presented the Superintendent Report.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Division now has the [funding manual](#) from Alberta Education. Important budget considerations for EIPS include:
  - Literacy and numeracy
  - Career pathways
  - Classroom complexity
  - High-quality teaching and learning
  - Equity—eligible classified staff have received a lump sum payment
  - Curriculum work
  - Rural education
  - Early learning—the Division is exploring [full-time kindergarten pilot programs](#) for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and French Immersion
- Superintendent Stoddard is facilitating a book club for principals. They're currently reading *Learning Transformed: 8 Keys to Designing Tomorrow's Schools, Today*, written by Eric C. Sheninger and Thomas C. Murray. The goal: empower school administration to plan for the future now.
- When addressing upcoming vacancies in the leadership pool, EIPS will try to decide all at once to mitigate administrators shuffling throughout the school year.
- One of the Division's goals is to enhance high-quality working and learning environments for students and staff. After an exceptional presentation from Dr. Greg Wells and feedback from stakeholders, EIPS is looking to pursue an initiative regarding communication. The initiative would limit the hours staff and families communicate with one another outside of business hours—looking to support school community wellness and work-life balance.
- COSC Vice-Chair Uytterhagen asked school councils to brainstorm ways they can support EIPS with meeting health and wellness goals.

## COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

**Question:** What is the provincial government's budget deadline for school divisions?

**Answer:** End of May. The deadline does not change, even if divisions have received the funding manual late.

**Question:** Is there a deadline for leadership changes in the Division?

**Answer:** No official deadline—vacancies that'll have a ripple effect will be given priority.

## ATA Report

ATA Local No. 28 President Maxine Holm did not present a report as she was unable to attend the meeting.

## For Information

**ASCA UPDATE** – Michelle Uytterhagen, COSC Vice-Chair

- The ASCA Spring Symposium takes place virtually on April 26. The AGM takes place virtually on April 27. The Board will fund the cost of one registration fee per EIPS school council. Interested councils must have one member fill out the [Board-sponsored registration form](#) by April 7. EIPS administration will register school councils for the conference and AGM through ASCA after April 7.
- ASCA has released its [breakout sessions](#) for the conference. Of note, Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaides will open the event, Jo Phillips will provide a keynote on resilience and Elder Wilson Bearhead will join as a special guest.
- The [proposed advocacy resolutions](#) are published for the 2025 AGM. If a school council is unable to attend the AGM, they can have another council vote on their behalf. The deadline to fill out the [proxy voting form](#) is April 19.

### **CAREGIVER SERIES UPDATE – Michelle Uytterhagen, COSC Vice-Chair**

- The [April 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 [April Caregiver Series](#) calendar.

## **COSC Sharing**

### **ASCE GRANT AND LEFTOVER FUNDS FROM ANDREW SCHOOL – All COSC members**

- After checking the numbers, there's \$483 left over from the Alberta School Council Engagement (ASCE) Grant funds from Andrew School. As the school is closed, the COSC executive consulted members on what they'd like to do with the remaining money.
- COSC Vice-Chair Uytterhagen encouraged members to finalize a decision, as it will be difficult to do so moving ahead. COSC members decided to use the money to pay David Irvine for a link to the presentation he did for several school councils that pooled their ASCE Grant funds. The link would then be available to school councils divisionwide. COSC members from Bev Facey Community High stated they'd get in touch with their co-chairs to facilitate this as they organized the event.

### **POTENTIAL TRUSTEE CANDIDATE QUESTIONS – All COSC members**

- [Sample questions](#) are available—created by Krista Scott and Jacquie Surgenor Gaglione in previous years.
- COSC members wondered about what the most effective way would be to reach families with trustee questions for the upcoming municipal election this year. The goal is to elect a dynamic Board of Trustees comprised of strong supporters of public education.
- Members also explored whether there's any interest to create a website for potential trustee candidate questions and answers. COSC Vice-Chair Uytterhagen stated she'd ask about interest on the [COSC Facebook page](#). The topic will be addressed again at the COSC meeting in May. If there's no interest, a simple one-pager with questions will be created.
- To provide clarity regarding capital requests, the priority after Forest Grove School is built is a grades 7-12 replacement school for Rudolph Hennig Junior High and Fort Saskatchewan High. The next priority after that is a K-6 replacement school for James Mowat Elementary in Fort Saskatchewan.

## **New Business**

### **AMENDMENTS TO COSC OPERATING PROCEDURES – Michelle Uytterhagen, COSC Vice-Chair**

- COSC Vice-Chair Uytterhagen brought forward proposed changes to the COSC Operating Procedures to clarify roles, committees and meeting delivery. She also suggested adding an addendum for how to build an agenda. The proposed changes would be included in the meeting followup email.
- COSC members discussed adding a stipulation to the COSC Chair role on how many meetings the Chair must attend. COSC Vice-Chair Uytterhagen stated she'd create two new drafts of the COSC Operating Procedures—one with her proposed changes and the new stipulation and one with her proposed changes and without the new stipulation. The new procedures will be approved at the meeting in May.

### **ASCA RESOLUTIONS – Michelle Uytterhagen, COSC Vice-Chair**

- Due to time constraints, COSC Vice-Chair Uytterhagen ensured members attending the ASCA conference and AGM were confident about the process of addressing the [proposed advocacy resolutions](#) at their school councils and the AGM itself. Members agreed they're well-prepared.
- COSC members expressed disappointment with the number and quality of resolutions this school year.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:41 P.M.

## Next COSC Meeting

**DATE:** May 7, 2025

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

**LOCATION:** EIPS Central Services building, boardroom. Also hosted virtually on Microsoft Teams.