



MAY 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Special Board Meeting: May 1, 2025.....	pg. 1
Board Meeting: May 29, 2025.....	pg. 1

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING: May 1, 2025

New Business

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION FEES: 2025-26

The Board approved the Student Transportation fee schedule for the 2025-26 school year. Student Transportation offers an enhanced transportation fee structure. As such, all riders pay a fee for transportation services. It's an equitable structure for riders and allows EIPS to maintain its current level of service. To ensure a balanced Student Transportation budget, the Division is increasing fees slightly—by \$15 to \$50, depending on eligibility. Similar to previous years, Student Transportation will continue to offer a payment-plan option, available to families with fees of \$300 and more, paid over seven months. The approved 2025-26 fee schedule is available online by visiting [Student Transportation Fees 2025-26](#).

BOARD MEETING: May 29, 2025

Board Report

RECENT EVENTS

Board Chair Cathy Allen highlighted recent trustee events:

- On April 29, trustees attended an EIPS information session about its RAP program and Career Pathways.
- On May 6, the trustees attended the Division's Long Service and Retirement Event.
- On May 8, trustees attended the Town of Lamont's Ladies in Leadership event—a networking event for women leaders across the region.
- Also on May 8, trustees attended Lakeland Ridge's STEAM Night, featuring various community-led interactive stations related to science, technology, engineering, art and math.
- On May 13, trustees took part in Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary's Volunteer Appreciation Event.
- On May 14, the Division celebrated Educational Assistants Appreciation Day.
- On May 23, trustees attended the Alberta School Board Association Zone 2/3 Annual Awards Banquet, which included the 2025 Edwin Parr Teacher Awards to celebrate first-year teachers.
- On May 27, trustees attended a Division-hosted Indigenous Family Gathering in Fort Saskatchewan.

SCHOOL EVENTS

Trustees attended various school celebrations and productions throughout May, including the Vegreville Composite High graduation ceremony, and several musical-theatre productions and drama performances, which are opportunities for the community to see students' efforts. The Board thanks all the schools for extending invitations to these events. All were outstanding and well-produced.

Superintendent's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Superintendent Sandra Stoddard shared recent events and information, including:

- On May 6, EIPS hosted its Long Service and Retirement Event, an annual reception to celebrate retirees and employees who've worked with the Division for 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years. It's always an honour to celebrate and acknowledge staff who've demonstrated significant commitment to EIPS.
- On May 8, Superintendent Stoddard joined Trustee Colleen Holowaychuk at the Town of Lamont's Ladies in Leadership event, which was great to be a part of and exceptionally welcoming.
- On May 9, senior administration attended the College of Alberta School Superintendents Zone 2/3. There they had the opportunity to ask questions and share successes, challenges and strategies with the other Zone school divisions.
- On May 14, the Division celebrated Educational Assistants Appreciation Day. Superintendent Stoddard thanked all EIPS Educational Assistants for their critical role in supporting students across the division in achieving success.
- On May 23, trustees attended the Alberta School Boards Association's Annual Awards Banquet, including the 2025 Edwin Parr Teacher Awards—an uplifting event that included inspiring stories about student-teacher and teacher-student impacts.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

National Volunteer Week took place from April 27 to May 3. Throughout the week, schools celebrated the Division's many volunteers who offer their time and expertise on an ongoing basis. EIPS couldn't do the work it does without its many volunteers, and their efforts are greatly appreciated.

GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Throughout May and June, senior administration is attending senior high graduation ceremonies throughout the Division—something it looks forward to every year. The first ceremony was for Vegreville Composite High, held on May 24, and brought the entire community together to celebrate this year's graduating students.

SCHOOL EVENTS

Throughout May, schools took part in several activities and awareness campaigns, including:

- On May 4-10, schools across EIPS took part in Emergency Preparedness Week.
- On May 5-11, schools throughout the Division celebrated Mental Health Awareness Week.
- On May 15, several schools throughout the Division took part in the Moose Hide Campaign Day Walk.
- From May 23 to June 26, EIPS is hosting a Witness Blanket exhibit in Fort Saskatchewan.
- On May 28, staff and students across the Division wore red to school to recognize Red Shirt Day—a national initiative to support individuals with disabilities and their families.

Association and Employee Relations Reports

ASBA ZONE 2/3 MEETING

Trustee Colleen Holowaychuk presented highlights from the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 meeting held on May 23.

- The meeting included the regular reports and updates from the ASBA executive. Highlights include:
 - more details were shared about the ASBA spring general meeting in June;
 - Alberta Education has expanded to now also encompass Childcare; and
 - ASBA is working on a new 2025 Municipal Election toolkit for those interested in trusteeship.
- The Zone discussed Jordan's Principle.
- The Zone approved the meeting schedule for the 2025-26 school year.

- The professional learning session, entitled "Tension to Transformation: Building resilient boards," was presented by Julie Hrdlicka, the owner, mediator and facilitator of Conflict Revolution and a former trustee with the Calgary Board of Education.
- Following the meeting, the Zone hosted its Annual Awards Banquet, which included celebrating this year's Edwin Parr Teacher Award nominees. EIPS' nominee was Janna MacLelland, who was in attendance and recognized at the event.

The next ASBA Zone 2/3 meeting is on June 20, 2025.

ATA LOCAL REPORT

The Board received for information the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Local No. 28 report from Maxine Holm, the President of the Local.

- The Local has various activities planned to recognize and support Pride Week, including:
 - On May 31, Local members will participate in the Pride Flag Raising and Open House at Strathcona County Museum and Archives.
 - On June 19, teachers have a booth reserved at the Fort Saskatchewan Farmer's Market for its Pride Week event.

Teachers look forward to showing their support and commitment to creating a safe and caring environment for students who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+. Members feel strongly Pride Week is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate support—especially timely given recent provincial policies and processes targeting diverse populations.

- From June 5 -8, teachers across this province will participate in a strike vote—approved by 99.45% of those registered to vote. The vote is taking place because teachers rejected the mediator's recommendation. Teachers strongly believe the government needs to provide more concrete financial and process support to address class sizes and classroom complexities. Already, teachers have developed testimonials, letters, social media campaigns and signs to advocate for better teaching and learning conditions for all students.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS GROUP REPORT

The Board received for information the Employee Relations Group (ERG) report from Michelle Miller, the committee's Chair:

- At the May 20 ERG meeting, members had many questions about the upcoming town hall meeting and the new compensation structure.
- On May 26, the Division held a town hall meeting to detail the new compensation schedule. The ERG hopes the meeting helped alleviate the anxiety felt by members.
- Similar to previous years, schools are now working through their budgets for the upcoming school year. As such, classified staff are waiting to find out if they will be reassigned and how many will be surplus.

New Business

BUSINESS ARISING FROM IN CAMERA

The Board approved the following motion: "that the Board of Trustees approves the Superintendent compensation be adjusted effective July 1, 2025."

SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION REPORT

The Board approved the Superintendent's Evaluation Report, which documents the performance of the Division's Superintendent from July 1, 2024 to May 21, 2025. The Board also authorized the Chair to make any required technical edits and to sign the report on its behalf.

EIPS FOUR-YEAR EDUCATION PLAN: 2022-26

The Board approved the [EIPS Four-Year Education Plan: 2022-26 \(Year 4\)](#), which details the Division's priorities, goals and outcomes over a four-year period. The Division's three key priorities:

Priority 1: To promote the growth and success of all students.

Priority 2: To enhance high-quality learning and working environments.

Priority 3: To enhance public education through effective engagement.

The plan also outlines the performance measures, key insights and strategies the Division will use to meet each priority, goal and outcome in the 2025-26 school year.

2025-26 ADMINISTRATIVE FEES

FACILITY RENTAL FEES

The Board approved the facility rental and lease fees for the 2025-26 school year. Fees are reviewed annually and determined by an operational cost-recovery analysis. Based on higher operational and inflation costs, rental fees are increasing modestly in September 2025. The most notable fee changes are to the youth and adult recreation fees, increasing by \$1 per hour; the Volleyball Equipment Surcharge, increasing by \$0.50; a new fee category for additional classroom rentals; and a 3% increase to its lease rates. The increase will ensure the Division maintains its current services at a level of cost recovery. While fees are increasing slightly, EIPS after-hours rentals remain lower than other community lease-space providers (see pg. 51, "[Facility and Lease Fee Schedule: 2025-26](#)").

SPECIALIZED SUPPORTS FEES

The Board approved the Specialized Supports Fees for the 2025-26 school year. The fees are charged to a student's resident school division to cover the costs associated with providing specialized supports and services in both inclusive settings and system programs for a non-resident student. For 2025-26, fees will increase by 3% to account for employee benefits increases and staff grid-salary movements (see pg. 56, "[2025-26 Specialized Supports Fees](#)").

PARTNERS FOR SCIENCE

The Board approved removing the Partners for Science (P4S) fees for the 2025-26 school year. Annually, EIPS supplies its schools and other school jurisdictions with P4S kits. Fees aren't charged to EIPS schools but are charged to other school jurisdictions to cover the proportionate operational costs. For the upcoming school year, there are no other school divisions using the P4S kits. As such, no fees are required in 2025-26 (see page 59, "[2025-26 Partners for Science Fees](#)").

ALBERTA NON-RESIDENT AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

The Board approved the Alberta non-resident and international fees for the 2025-26 school year. Rates for non-Alberta residents and international students will increase by 3% to account for inflationary increases. EIPS fees are comparable to other Alberta-based school division rates. In the 2024-25 school year, EIPS had four international students registered and no non-Albertan resident students enrolled in its schools. Looking ahead to the 2025-26 school year, two international students are registered—all at the senior high level (see [Non-Resident Student Fees](#)).

EARLY LEARNING

The Board approved the Early Learning fees for the 2025-26 school year. Fees are divided into two programs: Play and Learn at School (PALS) and a full-time kindergarten pilot (see pg. 64, "[2025-26 Early Learning Fees](#)").

Play and Learn at School (PALS)

The fee is for the typically developing twin of a child who meets the criteria for PALS programming—providing programming for a typically developing twin benefits the child with disabilities and the PALS program as a whole. For the 2025-26 school year, fees will increase by 1%, which is in alignment with the province’s Early Childhood Services Base Instruction Grant, as outlined in the *Funding Manual for School Authorities for the 2025-26 School Year*.

Full-Time Kindergarten Pilot

The fee is to cover the added costs to run two new full-time kindergarten programs the Division is piloting—a French Immersion program at École Parc Élémentaire and a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) program offered at Mundare School and Wes Hosford Elementary.

FULL-TIME FRENCH IMMERSION AT ÉCOLE PARC ÉLÉMENTAIRE: \$75 per month—partially subsidized through Alberta Education’s Official Languages in Education Programs grant.

FULL-TIME STEM AT MUNDARE SCHOOL: \$0.00—covered by the Enhanced Kindergarten allocation.

FULL-TIME STEM AT WES HOSFORD ELEMENTARY: \$350 per month.

2025-26 BUDGET REPORT

The Board approved EIPS’ 2025-26 spring budget, prepared by Financial Services. Every spring, the Division prepares a budget for the upcoming school year—based on provincial funding, Alberta Education’s *Funding Manual for School Authorities: 2025-26 School Year*, projected student-enrolment numbers, corresponding staffing estimates, Board-approved [budget assumptions and allocations](#), and stakeholder feedback. Overall, Financial Services developed a conservative spring budget that aligns with the province’s allotted funding, maintains essential services and supports the Division’s mission, priorities and goals. The following is a brief summary of EIPS’ spring 2025-26 Budget Report. The complete report is available at [eips.ca](#).

OVERVIEW

EIPS’ operating budget is \$213.4 million from Sept. 1, 2025, to Aug. 31, 2026. Of that, \$211.62 million will come from the Division’s annual revenues. The remaining \$1.82 million will come from the Division’s accumulated surplus. Collectively, the money will ensure the Division continues to offer high-quality, student-centred education. Key Board budget priorities include literacy and numeracy; the collegiate school and career pathways; classroom complexity; curriculum and resource development; staff retention and equity; early learning; educational technology, digital tools and artificial intelligence; and equity for rural schools to address unique needs.

ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

EIPS projects an accumulated surplus of \$7.24 million by Aug. 31, 2026. The accumulated surplus comprises investment in tangible capital assets (\$8.3 million), asset-retirement obligation (-\$10.97 million), operating reserves (\$9.12 million) and capital reserves (\$792,000). The Division also plans to use \$451,000 from its capital reserves to fund the following projects:

- \$121,000 for information technology switches and access points;
- \$177,000 to purchase security appliance; and
- \$153,000 to purchase a school bus.

As well, EIPS’ operating reserve limit is \$12.79 million, 6% of its estimated 2024-25 expenditures and applies to all operating reserves except School Generated Reserve funds. The Division will not exceed the maximum—currently projecting at \$5.37 million below the limit.

REVENUE AND EXPENSES

Overall revenues are increasing by \$968,000, to \$211.62 million. Total expenses are also rising slightly—by \$291,000, to \$213.44 million, because of higher staff benefit costs and inflationary expenses—insurance premiums, utilities, construction labour and materials, software and infrastructure purchases. In terms of students and staff, EIPS anticipates a student enrolment of 17,849—down by 100. The Division also expects staffing to decrease slightly by approximately 1.7%, or 23.26 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees. That works out to 1,343.74 FTE from 1,367 FTE in fall 2024-25. The reason: mostly because of the Division's decision to hire full-time permanent educational assistants, which has extra costs, as opposed to hiring hourly. Compensation will also rise, primarily because of salary grid movement and higher benefit costs. In total, instructional costs comprise 78.5% of the total budget, costing \$9,636 per FTE student.

Meanwhile, system administration spending will equate to 2.26% (\$4.83 million) of total expenses, which is below the \$6.76-million grant provided by Alberta Education. All unused funds will go toward instruction, as outlined in the *Funding Manual for School Authorities: 2025-26 School Year*. As well, by Aug. 31, 2026, the Division's Unallocated Reserve is projected to be \$5.7 million, which, when combined with other operating reserves, falls within the operating reserve limit (\$12.79 million).

SCHOOL AND DEPARTMENT ALLOCATIONS

School allocations will increase slightly, by 0.7%, because of new costs—Campus EIPS and the Forest Grove School startup—and higher contingency expenses, offset by a reduction in School Generated Funds expenditures. That said, the exact allocations for each school will vary based on enrolment number changes and standard cost adjustments. For small rural schools, allocations will align with the funding levels detailed in the province's *Funding Manual for School Authorities*—with any decreases softened through additional allocations. Similarly, allocations for central departments will also decrease, by 1.1%, primarily because of lower Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal costs—more is being capitalized versus expensed.

WHAT THE EIPS SPRING BUDGET MEANS

Overall, EIPS' spring 2025-26 budget supports the mission, values and priorities of EIPS; ensures schools and departments maintain essential services; and allows the Division to fund its key budget priorities to ensure student success. Now approved, schools and departments will use the budget to plan for the upcoming school year. The complete [EIPS 2025-26 Budget Report](#) is available at eips.ca.

NOTE: As with all budgets, any changes to funding, reserve usage, enrolment numbers and standard costs can affect the initial budget. As such, in the fall, EIPS will update its 2025-26 budget with the final student-enrolment numbers, revenue and expense variations, carryforward amounts and any reserve spending changes.

BUDGET REPORT: ALBERTA EDUCATION

The Board also approved the Alberta Education Budget Report for the year ending Aug. 31, 2026 (see pg. 143, "[Alberta Education Budget Report: 2025-26](#)").

Reports for Information

SUMMER PROJECTS: 2024-25

The Board received for information a report from Facility Services highlighting the planned projects for summer 2025. In total, 327 projects are planned, including:

- 33 Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal projects (\$2.24 million);
- six Capital Maintenance Renewal projects (\$2.84 million);
- one capital reserve projects;
- no modular classroom unit projects;

- one playground replacement; and
- 286 operational and maintenance projects.

For the full list of planned summer projects, see pg. 155, “[2024-25 Summer Projects Plan](#).”

IMR AND CMR PROJECTS: 2025-26

The Board received for information the list of projects planned under the Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) and the Capital Maintenance and Renewal (CMR) programs during the 2025-26 school year. Annually, Alberta Education provides school divisions with IMR and CMR funding to ensure school facilities meet the necessary regulations and requirements, offer quality learning environments, improve energy conservation and efficiencies, and remain safe and healthy for students and staff.

For the 2025-26 school year, EIPS’ approved IMR grant is \$2.14 million, and the CMR grant is \$2.74 million, for an overall total of \$4.88 million—\$191,250 less than last year. Multiple projects are identified for the 2025-26 school year, which were determined through consultations with Facility Services and EIPS schools, the Facility Condition Index, maintenance input and Alberta Infrastructure’s audit information. Projects include repairs and upgrades to educational areas and facilities, replacing technology equipment, changing air-handling units and multiple deferred-maintenance projects (see “[2025-26 Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal and Capital Maintenance and Renewal Project Plan](#)”).

Committee Reports

STUDENT EXPULSION COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from four Student Expulsion Committee meetings held on April 23 and May 7. The committee reviewed all submitted information and upheld the recommendations put forward by the administration of each school.

GOVERNANCE AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from a recent Governance and Evaluation Committee meeting—held on May 13. Discussion topics included: sections 9 to 10 of the *EIPS Trustee Handbook*—the updated version of the handbook will be presented to the Board on June 5. The committee also reviewed potential professional learning dates and the Board’s work plan. The next meeting takes place on June 9.

EIPS Condolences

On behalf of EIPS and the Board, Superintendent Stoddard extended condolences to the family, friends, colleagues and students of Bobbi Belsek, who recently passed away at the age of 35. Bobbi joined EIPS in 2017. During that time, he took on various roles within the Division, including substitute teacher, elementary teacher and consultant. He was passionate about helping students learn and grow and is remembered for his always joyful outlook. He will be missed by everyone.

Board Members

Cathy Allen, *Chair* | Susan Miller, *Vice-Chair* | Trina Boymook | Randy Footz | Colleen Holowaychuk | Don Irwin | Ralph SoroChan

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