



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 29, 2025

The regular meeting of the Elk Island Public Schools Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, May 29, 2025, in the Boardroom, Central Services, Sherwood Park, Alberta. The Board of Trustees meeting was convened with Board Chair Allen calling the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

C. Allen, Board Chair
S. Miller, Vice-Chair
T. Boymook
R. Footz
C. Holowaychuk
D. Irwin
R. Sorochan

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

S. Stoddard, Superintendent
C. Cole, Secretary-Treasurer
R. Marshall, Associate Superintendent, Supports for Students
R. Johnson, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources
J. Anderson, Executive Director, Division Supports and Student Transportation Services
W. Gilewich, Executive Director, Facility Services and Information Technologies
L. McNabb, Director, Communication Services
S. Grinde, Director, Human Resources
C. Langford-Pickering, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. with all trustees noted above in attendance.

IN-CAMERA SESSION

049/2025 | Trustee Irwin moved: That the Board meet in camera (9:01 a.m.).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

050/2025 | Trustee Holowaychuk moved: That the Board revert to regular session (10:04 a.m.).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Board recessed at 10:04 a.m. and reconvened at 10:07 a.m. with all trustees noted above in attendance.

LAND AND PEOPLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Board Chair Allen welcomed all in attendance in person and virtually to the public session, followed by the Land and People Acknowledgment.

AGENDA

Board Chair Allen called for additions or deletions to the Agenda.

051/2025 | Trustee Irwin moved: That the Agenda be adopted, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Chair Allen called for confirmation of the April 17, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes.

052/2025 | Vice-Chair Miller moved: That the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of April 17, 2025, Board Meeting, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Board Chair Allen called for confirmation of the April 24, 2025 Board Special Meeting Minutes.

053/2025 | Trustee Sorochan moved: That the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of April 24, 2025, Board Special Meeting, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Board Chair Allen called for confirmation of the May 1, 2025 Board Special Meeting Minutes.

054/2025 | Trustee Holowaychuk moved: That the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of May 1, 2025, Board Special Meeting, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BOARD REPORT

Board Chair Allen highlighted recent trustee events for information.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Stoddard highlighted recent events for information.

COMMENTS, PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS AT BOARD MEETINGS

No comments, presentations or delegations were reported.

Association/Employee Groups

ASBA ZONE 2/3 REPORT

Trustee Holowaychuk presented the ASBA Zone 2/3 report for the meeting held on May 23, 2025. The next meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2025.

ATA LOCAL REPORT

Board Chair Allen welcomed the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) representative Maxine Holm. Representative Holm presented for information the ATA Local #28 report.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS GROUP (ERG) REPORT

Board Chair Allen welcomed the ERG representative Michelle Miller. Representative Miller presented for information the ERG report.

Business Arising from Previous Meeting

No business arising from previous meeting.

New Business

BUSINESS ARISING FROM IN CAMERA

Board Chair Allen noted that the Board has a motion arising from the In-Camera Session for approval.

054/2025 | Trustee Boymook moved: That the Board of Trustees approves the superintendent compensation be adjusted effective July 1, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION REPORT

Board Chair Allen presented to the Board the Superintendent Evaluation Report for approval.

055/2025 | Trustee Footz moved: That the Board of Trustees approves the Superintendent's Evaluation Report as developed in the facilitated evaluation session on May 22, 2025, as an accurate assessment of the Superintendent's performance for the period of July 1, 2024 to May 21, 2025; and further, that the Board authorize the Board Chair to make any required technical edits and to sign the report on the Board's behalf.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

EIPS FOUR-YEAR EDUCATION PLAN

Superintendent Stoddard shared a broad introduction of the report and noted this will be the last year of the current *EIPS Four-Year Education Plan (Year 4)*. Administration will engage stakeholders by conducting surveys to gather suggestions around the Education Plan priorities and goals for the new Board to contemplate for the next Four-Year Education Plan. It is appreciated that this report comes before the 2025-26 Budget report as the public will see evidence of EIPS' priorities and goals established and reflected in the budget. Stakeholders will see how the high-level direction and priorities that were determined by the Board will be implemented.

Associate Superintendent Marshall proceeded to present to the Board the *EIPS Four-Year Education Plan: 2022-26 (Year 4)* and the strategic direction for the next school year and noted that the plan includes a new key insight section, revised performance measures, and updated priority strategies for the 2025-26 school year.

Each year, Alberta Education requires school divisions to develop an education plan to be submitted by the end of May. The Education Plan, priorities and goals have not changed for Year 4.

Feedback was taken from the various surveys conducted, the EIPS Budget Planning Survey: 2025-26 and two-part EIPS Annual Feedback Survey—for families, staff, students in grades 9 and 12, and community members, in conjunction with other data-based information, to inform strategies used to reach the goals set out in the Four-Year Education Plan. The voices of parents, caregivers, students, staff and key stakeholders are honoured and utilized for continued improvement and support the assurance model.

Key changes include differentiating between the performance measures for students, staff and parent/caregivers, Alberta Education's requirement to recognize the Kindergarten to Grade 3 Government assessments, and key insights added to identify what is working well and areas of growth for transparency.

Associate Superintendent Marshall highlighted an update to the Provincial Outcome for Priority 3: Engaged and Effective Governance, changing the wording "well-governed" to "well-managed", reading: Provincial Outcome: Alberta's K-12 education system and workforce are well-managed

056/2025 | Trustee Irwin moved: That the Board of Trustees approves the *EIPS Four-Year Education Plan: 2022-26 (Year 4)*, which includes a new “Key Insights” section, revised performance measures and updated priority strategies for the 2025-26 school year.

Superintendent Stoddard thanked Communication Services and Associate Superintendent Marshall for including the faces of our students to the document as it brings a whole different feel. Shared appreciation for the Board’s initial direction for making this happen.

VOTE ON MOTION 056/2025 | *CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

ADMINISTRATIVE FEES 2025-26

FACILITY RENTAL AND LEASE FEES

Planner Sharpe presented to the Board for approval the proposed Facility Rental and Lease fees for the 2025-26 school year.

Trustee Holowaychuk appreciated Facility Services work to balance requests with availability and maintenance as facility rentals and leases are important to our community.

057/2025 | Trustee Boymook moved: That the Board of Trustees approves the Facility Rental and Lease fees for the 2025-26 school year, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SPECIALIZED SUPPORTS FEES

Director Reed presented to the Board for approval the proposed Specialized Supports fees for the 2025-26 school year.

058/2025 | Trustee Sorochan moved: That the Board of Trustees approves the Specialized Supports fees for the 2025-26 school year, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PARTNERS FOR SCIENCE (P4S) FEES

Director Reid presented to the Board for approval a proposal to remove the Partners for Science (P4S) fees for the 2025-26 school year.

The Board thanked our partners including Dow for their continued support in providing Science kits for the students and teachers, a great asset to the classroom.

The Board also thanked the staff who create the P4S kits, for the passion and excitement they bring to their projects. They are true stewards of the finances and resources, and a job well done for the production and distribution of the kits.

059/2025 | Vice-Chair Miller moved: That the Board of Trustees approves the removal of Partners for Science (P4S) fees for the 2025-26 school year, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ALBERTA NON-RESIDENT AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FEES

Associate Superintendent Marshall presented to the Board for approval the proposed Alberta Non-Resident and International Student fees for the 2025-26 school year.

060/2025 | Trustee Irwin moved: That the Board of Trustees approves the Alberta Non-Resident and International Student fees for the 2025-26 school year, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

EARLY LEARNING FEES

Assistant Director Huk presented to the Board for approval the proposed Early Learning fees for the 2025-26 school year.

061/2025 | Vice-Chair Miller moved: That the Board of Trustees approves the Early Learning fees for the 2025-26 school year, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2025-26 BUDGET

Secretary-Treasurer Cole presented to the Board the Elk Island Public Schools 2025-26 Budget. For the 2025-26 school year, EIPS has prepared a \$213.4 million operating budget.

Secretary-Treasurer Cole noted that in April 2025, the Board of Trustees approved assumptions and allocations used to build the 2025-26 Budget. Secretary-Treasurer Cole noted the importance of taking into consideration the feedback from all stakeholders.

Secretary-Treasurer Cole noted that attachment 2, the Alberta Education Budget Report is a requirement which encompasses the same information, however, the layout of information is slightly different.

The Board's budget priorities included: Ongoing Support of Literacy and Numeracy Improvement, Campus EIPS, Complexity in Classrooms, Curriculum and Resource Development, Retention of Staff and Staff Equity, Equity for Rural, Expansion of Early Learning Opportunities and Educational Technology and Artificial Intelligence Considerations.

For 2025-26, EIPS has prepared a \$213.4 million operating budget, drawing \$1.82 million, which is offset by operating reserves (\$1.57 million) and Asset Retirement Obligation Amortization (\$0.25 million). This budget allows schools and departments to maintain essential services and supports the Division's mission, priorities, and goals. It also follows EIPS' belief statements and the Board's key budget priorities.

The Board recessed at 12:11 p.m. and reconvened at 12:22 p.m. with all trustees noted in attendance.

Board Chair Allen welcomed everyone back and proceeded with the Budget 2025-26 motion.

062/2025 | Vice-Chair Miller moved: That the Board of Trustees approves the budget for 2025-26, as presented.

Board Chair Allen opened the floor for questions.

Trustee Sorochan expressed gratitude on behalf of the Board for Secretary-Treasurer Cole's years of service highlighting this was her last budget presentation and her voice, expertise and insight on each budget will be missed.

Board Chair Allen shared appreciation for the budget process and timelines which allowed for input and dialogue to support their decision-making.

VOTE ON MOTION 062/2025 | CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Reports for Information

2024-25 SUMMER PROJECTS

Assistant Director Hoose presented to the Board for information the 2024-25 Summer Projects Plan noting a slight decrease in projects from 380 in 2024 to 327 projects in 2025.

Trustee Footz shared gratitude for the work that is conducted over the summer. As staff is ramping down for a summer break, Facility Services is ramping up.

2025-26 INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE AND RENEWAL AND CAPITAL MAINTENANCE AND RENEWAL PROJECTS

Assistant Director Hoose presented to the Board the 2025-26 Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) and Capital Maintenance and Renewal (CMR) Projects report for information.

Board Chair Allen expressed gratitude and extended wishes for a successful season.

Committee Reports

STUDENT EXPULSION COMMITTEE

Trustee Footz presented a report for information from the Student Expulsions Committee meetings held on April 23 and May 7, 2025.

GOVERNANCE AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Vice-Chair Miller presented a report for information from the Governance and Evaluation Committee meeting held on May 13, 2025. The next meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2025.

Trustee Notices of Motion and Requests for Information

No notices of motion or requests for information were reported.

EXPRESSION OF CONDOLENCE

On behalf of administration and the EIPS Board of Trustees, Superintendent Stoddard expressed condolences to the family and loved ones of one EIPS staff members, who sadly passed away recently.

It's with great sadness I wish to share the passing of Bobbi Belsek at the age of 35—who worked with EIPS beginning in 2017. Bobbi undertook both substitute and temporary elementary teaching jobs with our Division, and was passionate about helping his students learn and grow—especially during his time working with Supports for Students and at SouthPointe School. He'll be missed by his friends and colleagues at EIPS, and we extend our heartfelt sympathies to his mother Gaylene, his father Ron; his siblings Nathan and Morgan; and all those who loved him most and admired his joyful outlook.

Board Chair Allen declared that the Board had reached the end of the public session at 1:12 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Allen declared the meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Cathy Allen, Board Chair

Sandra Stoddard, Superintendent