

JUNE 2025

Board Report

RECENT EVENTS

Board Chair Cathy Allen highlighted information and events trustees attended since the last Board meeting:

- From May 23 to June 26, EIPS is hosting a Witness Blanket exhibit in Fort Saskatchewan. Trustees encourage everyone within Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) to visit the exhibit—it's informative, impactful and captures the history, perspective and culture of First Nations, Metis and Inuit Peoples.
- On June 1-3, trustees attended the Alberta School Boards Association's (ASBA) spring general meeting.
- On June 6, trustees attended the Alberta Teachers' Association Local No. 28's annual retirement dinner—always a lovely evening and wonderful to celebrate with retirees.
- On June 13, trustees joined school board chairs and superintendents from across the province for an engagement session with Education and Childcare Minister Demetrios Nicolaides.
- From June 16-20, schools across EIPS are participating in various activities and learning to honour National Indigenous Peoples' Month. As well, National Indigenous Peoples' Day takes place on June 21.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Board looks forward to attending the following events:

- On June 20, trustees will attend a provincial funding announcement for EIPS' new collegiate program, Campus EIPS—the Division is grateful for the funding.
- On June 20, trustees will take part in an EIPS capital planning tour of Fort Saskatchewan's schools.

GRADUATION AND SCHOOL EVENTS

It's an exciting time for schools, students and families within EIPS. Senior high schools are hosting graduation ceremonies—congratulations to all EIPS 2025 graduates. Meanwhile, elementary and junior high schools are hosting farewells, school awards and performances. Every year, trustees look forward to these events and appreciate the invitations.

Superintendent's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Superintendent Sandra Stoddard shared recent events and information, including:

- On May 30, she attended the province's Curriculum and Career Education Stakeholder Briefing. The focus: the roll-out of the new elementary curriculum for social studies, and the new junior high curriculum pilot, which the province has delayed.
- On May 30, she met with the Christian Education Association of Alberta, Fort Saskatchewan Christian's education partner, about the partnership and ways to continue enhancing programming.
- On June 1-3, she joined the Board at the Alberta School Boards Association's (ASBA) spring general meeting—both the meetings and professional learning were productive.
- On June 6, she attended a CASA Mental Health meeting. EIPS has two CASA Classrooms, one at Bev Facey Community High and another at Fort Saskatchewan Elementary. The meeting focused on potential advocacy areas to enhance supports and programming.
- On June 10, she attended a 100th anniversary celebration for the United Church of Canada in Lamont. At the event, she also had the chance to tour the Morley Young Manor, which will offer the Division new career pathways opportunities and partnerships.

- On June 13, she joined the Board Chair for a provincewide engagement session with Education and Childcare Minister Demetrios Nicolaides. The focus: school library materials.
- On June 16-20, schools throughout the Division held celebration events to recognize National Indigenous Peoples Day, which officially takes place on June 21. She encourages everyone to reflect on the day's purpose and why reconciliation matters.
- On June 20, she's participating in an EIPS capital planning tour of Fort Saskatchewan's schools. The focus: the Board's No. 1 capital priority, a replacement secondary school and collegiate program.
- On June 23, she's meeting with the Strathcona Christian Academy Society to discuss the partnership and ways to continue to enhance programming.

GRADUATIONS AND SCHOOL EVENTS

Throughout June, EIPS administration has attended several graduations, farewells, awards and school performances across the Division—a wonderful way to wrap up the school year. Superintendent Stoddard congratulates all EIPS 2025 graduates.

Association and Employee Relations Reports

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.

- Year-end is always filled with mixed emotions—excitement for the summer break and sadness about saying goodbye to families and students
- ATA members are anxious given the ongoing labour discussions and hopeful a fair bargaining agreement will soon be reached—teachers are committed to putting students first and want to ensure concrete action on class size, classroom complexity, and aggression and violence in schools.
- Local members are pleased the province has requested teacher feedback about the Government of Alberta's mandatory literacy and numeracy early learning assessment screeners.
- The Local remains concerned about the new elementary curriculum and the negative consequences, especially given the recently released Grade 6 provincial assessment test results.
- On June 19, teachers have a booth reserved at the Fort Saskatchewan Farmer's Market for its Pride Week event.
- Holm thanked the Board and senior administrations for all their work to ensure a strong, inclusive and tenable public education system—she wishes everyone a wonderful summer break.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS GROUP REPORT

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

- The ERG is seeking a new Rural Strathcona County Schools representative—the position was held by Kara Comer, who is moving to a new position in Sherwood Park. The committee thanks Comer for all her work over the last year representing rural schools.
- Members had many questions about the Division's new job classification system and compensation structure—mainly about their positions and what the reclassification means for them. With the help of EIPS Human Resources, a lot of those questions are now answered, which will help staff rest and relax over the summer break and be ready to take on the next school year.

New Business

2024-25 COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE LIST: AMENDED

The Board approved the amended 2024-25 Board Committee Representative List, which assigns trustees to committees for liaison purposes. The amended list reflects the hiring of Leah Lewis, who assumes the role of Secretary-Treasurer, effective July 1, 2025 (see pg. 13, “[Amended Board Committee Representatives 2024-25](#)”).

GOVERNANCE AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

The Board approved continuing with the Governance and Evaluation Committee as one of its standing committees, effective Oct. 30, 2025. As such, trustees also directed administration to amend [Policy 8: Board Committees](#) and the Board Committee Representatives List to include the Governance and Evaluation Committee.

POLICY AMENDMENTS

The Board approved amendments to:

- [Policy 7: Board Operations](#) – The changes relate to meeting arrival and departure times, current Board practice and the Board evaluation schedule. Other edits were made to strengthen the policy’s clarity, language and readability.
- [Policy 12: Role of the Superintendent](#) – The changes align with the province’s *Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard*. Edits were also made to [Appendix A: Superintendent Evaluation Process Criteria and Timelines](#), [Appendix B: Performance Assessment Guide](#) and [Appendix C: Leadership Practices Interview Guide](#). All edits align with the *Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard* and help strengthen the policy’s clarity, definitions, language and readability.
- [Policy 17: Student Transportation Services](#) – The changes align with the province’s *Funding Manual for School Authorities 2025-26 School Year*.

TRUSTEE REMUNERATION

The Board approved changes to trustee remuneration for the 2024-25 school year, including:

- an update to trustees’ basic and additional travel allowances;
- an update to the Chair and Vice-Chair travel allowances; and
- a three-percent compensation increase.

The Board also approved an amendment to [Policy 7: Board Operations](#)—now aligning trustee remuneration increases with the cost-of-living, effective in 2025-26.

TECHNOLOGY FUNDING MODEL

The Board approved implementing a hybrid technology funding model, effective in the 2026-27 school year. The new model combines:

- an annual Board allocation (\$500,000) – to replace Microsoft Windows devices, used for staff and in careers and technology classroom labs, on a seven-year cycle; and
- an annual per student technology fee (\$30) – to replace school-based student devices every six years to seven years.

The new model ensures student equity, secure and reliable IT infrastructure, and predictable and sustainable long-term technology funding.

Reports for Information

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT: SEPTEMBER 1 TO MAY 31

The Board received for information the EIPS Unaudited Financial Report for the nine months ending May 31, 2025. Overall, expenses exceeded revenues, resulting in an operating deficit of \$3.88 million. Revenue for the nine months is \$153.36 million, which represents 76 per cent of the year-to-date budget—an expected percentage at this point in the fiscal year. Meanwhile, total expenses are \$157.25 million, representing 77 per cent of the year-to-date budget. Significant financial developments in the past quarter include a three per cent lump sum annual salary payment to all classified staff and additional funding provided from Alberta Education and Childcare through a targeted literacy and numeracy funding grant. For the complete report, see the Board Package: June 19, 2025, pg. 97, “[Unaudited Financial Report](#).”

PLAYGROUND SUMMARY REPORT: 2024-25

The Board received for information the 2024-25 Playground Summary Report:

STRATHCONA COUNTY – The county is responsible for monthly inspections, maintenance and annual audits. Both Strathcona County (90 per cent) and EIPS (10 per cent) are responsible for maintenance and reporting costs. The current replacement cycle is 15 years for wooden playgrounds and 25 years for metal playgrounds. In 2024-25, two projects are planned:

- Replace the southeast playground at Glen Allan Elementary—starting in July 2025, with completion expected in September 2025.
- Expand Heritage Hills Elementary’s playground—starting in July 2025, with completion expected in September 2025.

CITY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN – The city is responsible for monthly inspections, maintenance and annual audits. All costs for maintenance and reporting are shared equally between EIPS (50 per cent) and the City of Fort Saskatchewan (50 per cent). In 2024-25, no playground projects are planned in Fort Saskatchewan.

RURAL AREAS – EIPS staff certified in playground inspections inspect playgrounds monthly. A third-party inspection company is also contracted to perform an annual audit of the playgrounds. EIPS Facility Services pays all costs associated with playground inspections, maintenance and audits using Plant Operations and Maintenance funding. In 2024-25, one project is planned: Replace and repair A.L. Horton Elementary’s playground—starting in June 2025, with completion expected in August 2025.

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL FIELD TRIPS: 2024-25

The Board received for information the International and National Field Trip report for the 2024-25 school year. Throughout the year, schools participated in the following field trips:

- *National field trips*: 10 trips and 216 students
- *International field trips*: two trips and 93 students

LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSES

The Board received for information a report about the locally developed courses available to students in 2025-26. At the senior high level, the Division plans to acquire two new locally developed courses—theatre performance and improvisational theatre. In addition to the two newly acquired courses, the Division plans to renew 10 senior high locally developed courses and allow another three to expire without renewing. Meanwhile, at the junior high and elementary level, there are no newly acquired courses nor renewals planned for 2025-26 (see pg. 127, “[Locally Developed Courses: 2025-26](#)”).

Committee Reports

GOVERNANCE AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from a recent Governance and Evaluation Committee meeting—held on June 9. Discussion topics included: sections 11 and 12 of the *EIPS Trustee Handbook*, which have since been sent to trustees for review, the tentative startup date for the committee next fall and the Board’s workplan. The next committee meeting takes place on September 29.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from the Audit Committee meeting held on June 10. The committee discussed the audit service plan, which will include an audit of the Division’s 2024-25 financial statements. The next meeting is scheduled for November 5.

POLICY COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from the Policy Committee meeting held on June 11. Policies discussed: 7, 12, 17, 19 and 20. Amendments to policies 7, 12 and 17 were approved earlier during the June 19 Board meeting (see pg. 3, “Policy Amendments”). Policy 19 was sent to senior administration to ensure alignment with Bill 27 and Bill 29. And, Policy 20 only required a minor housekeeping edit. That concludes the annual review of Board policies for the 2024-25 school year. The committee Chair thanks members for all their work over the last year.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

YEAR-END MESSAGE

The EIPS Board of Trustees wishes everyone a safe, healthy and rejuvenating summer break. Trustees look forward to welcoming everyone back to the new school year in August.

Board Members

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cathy Allen, Board Chair | P 780 417 8109

Laura McNabb, Director, Communication Services | P 780 417 8204

www.eips.ca | Instagram: [@elkislandpublicschools](https://www.instagram.com/elkislandpublicschools) | Facebook: [elkislandpublicschools](https://www.facebook.com/elkislandpublicschools)