

AUGUST 2025

Board Report

SCHOOL STARTUP

The Board's excited to welcome everyone back to the 2025-26 school year. The first day of school is August 28.

RECENT EVENTS

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

- On June 30, trustees joined school board chairs and superintendents from across the province for an engagement session with Education and Childcare Minister Demetrios Nicolaides. The focus: the new provincial action team tasked with addressing classroom complexity and school safety.
- On July 10, trustees joined school board chairs and superintendents from across the province for an engagement session with Minister Nicolaides. The focus: the new provincial standards for school libraries.
- On July 10, trustees met with Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, the Parliamentary Secretary for Settlement Services and Ukrainian Evacuees and a Member of Alberta's Legislative Assembly for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville. The focus: EIPS current affairs, successes, challenges and future needs.
- On August 19, Chair Allen brought greetings at the Division's first leadership meeting of the year, which included principals, assistant principals, directors and assistant directors.
- On August 20, Chair Allen brought greetings at Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) Off to a Good Start, an annual orientation program for new classified staff. Chair Allen also looks forward to delivering greetings at the Off to a Good Start event for new teachers on August 22. The Board is thrilled to have the new staff joining the EIPS team and wishes them the best in the upcoming school year.

Superintendent's Report

STARTUP AND WELCOME

With the 2025-26 school year officially starting on August 28, Superintendent Sandra Stoddard offered a warm welcome to all staff, students and school families, who are either new or returning to the Division. School startup is always an exciting time, where everyone gets to start a brand-new school year—new faces, new ideas and new relationships. Everyone within EIPS is looking forward to the year ahead, which should be another great year.

To make sure schools are ready to welcome students back, staff at Central Services spent the summer planning and preparing for the new school year. Part of that preparation work included the Off to a Good Start conference, an annual orientation program hosted by Human Resources for new principals, assistant principals, teachers and classified staff. This year's orientation dates: August 20 and August 22. Superintendent Stoddard said it was exciting to meet with everyone and feel the positive energy.

RECENT EVENTS

Superintendent Sandra Stoddard shared recent events and information, including:

- On June 23, she attended a meeting with the Strathcona Christian Academy Society to discuss the current agreements in place and ways to further build the partnership to enhance programming.
- On June 24, she met with the Christian Education Association of Alberta, which is Fort Saskatchewan Christian's education partner, to discuss the current agreements in place and ways to further build the partnership to enhance programming.
- On August 19, the Division hosted its first Leadership meeting of the year—with principals, directors, assistant principals and assistant directors. Divisionwide, everyone's looking forward to the new school year and welcoming students back to class.

Association and Employee Relations Reports

ASBA ZONE 2/3 REPORT

Trustee Colleen Holowaychuk provided a report on the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 meeting that took place on June 20, 2025. Highlights include:

- The Zone finalized its proposed position statements, which are being submitted to ASBA's policy advisory committee for consideration at the fall general meeting in November.
- Members also conducted a debrief of the spring general meeting held in early June.
- The next Zone meeting is scheduled for Sept. 19, 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.

- Holm hopes everyone had a nice and relaxing summer break.
- Like every year, teachers are now busy prepping for the upcoming school year and looking forward to welcoming students back. The No. 1 priority: To support students in achieving academic success.
- Unlike in other years, teachers are eager to better understand the *Education Amendment Act* and its implications for maintaining safe and caring learning environments for all students.
- ATA members are also interested to learn the results of the upcoming trustee elections, set for October 20. Of utmost importance: To have strong school boards advocating for strong public education.
- Negotiations continue between the ATA and the Teachers' Employer Bargaining Association, scheduled for August 26-29. Members remain hopeful a solution is reached, particularly regarding class size, classroom complexity, violence in schools and compensation.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS GROUP REPORT

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

- The ERG hopes everyone had a good summer break and is feeling recharged for 2025-26.
- On August 20, Miller attended and brought greetings at this year's Off to a Good Start. It was wonderful to meet all the new classified employees.
- Members are also looking forward to the new school year and welcoming students back.

New Business

TRUSTEE SCHOOL LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE LIST: 2025-26

The Board approved the Trustee School Liaison Representative List for the 2025-26 school year (see pg. 10, "[2025-26 Trustee School Liaison Representative List](#)").

Board Members

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

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