

Committee of
School Councils

Meeting Agenda

Central Services Office
boardroom
683 Wye Rd., Sherwood Park, AB
Wednesday, April 5, 2023
7 p.m.

| Time | Agenda | Presented by |
|-----------|---|--|
| 7 p.m. | Opening Remarks and Welcome | Lesley Williams, COSC Chair |
| 7:02 p.m. | Introductions | All |
| 7:05 p.m. | Motions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. additions to the agenda b. agenda approval c. approval of minutes: March 1, 2023 | Lesley Williams, COSC Chair |
| 7:10 p.m. | Board Report | Trina Boymook, EIPS Board Chair |
| 7:20 p.m. | ATA Report | Daniel Radersma, Secretary, ATA Local No. 28 |
| 7:30 p.m. | For Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. ASCA update b. ASCA registration and proxy vote c. Caregiver Series: April d. School Council Engagement Grant update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Approvals b. Pooling funds | Lesley Williams, COSC Chair Lesley Williams, COSC Chair Lesley Williams, COSC Chair Lesley Williams, COSC Chair Kendra Roemer, COSC member |
| 8:10 p.m. | New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provincial election planning and advocacy | Trina Boymook, EIPS Board Chair |
| 8:40 p.m. | COSC Sharing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Q and A for ASCA resolutions | Lesley Williams, COSC Chair Chelsea Pretzlaw, COSC Vice-Chair |

Electronic Handouts

COSC Minutes
Board Highlights
Credential Voting Form
Proxy Voting Form
Caregiver Series
Strong Public Education Candidate Questions

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, May 3, 2023



UNRATIFIED

MEETING MINUTES

Elk Island Public Schools, in-person meeting

March 1, 2023 | 7 p.m.

Committee of
School Councils

In Attendance

SCHOOL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

Chair: Lesley Williams, Sherwood Heights Junior High

Secretary: Ken Allan, A.L. Horton Elementary

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Aileen Bozic, SCA Secondary

Andrea Brown, École Campbelltown

April Childs, Lakeland Ridge

Brian Vick, Brentwood Elementary

Jennie March, Ardrossan Junior Senior High

Jennifer Dechaine, École Parc Élémentaire

Kim Scott, Westboro Elementary

Melissa Manolescu, École Campbelltown

Monique Bandura, Fort Saskatchewan Christian

Nana Thaver, Woodbridge Farms Elementary

Tawnia McQueen, Wes Hosford Elementary

ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trina Boymook, Chair

Cathy Allen, Trustee

Ralph Sorochan, Trustee

Susan Miller, Trustee

ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mark Liguori, Superintendent

Deneen Zielke, ATA Local No. 28 President

Emma Small, Communication Services

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

AGENDA

COSC Chair Williams called for additions or deletions to the agenda.

MOTION | The agenda be adopted, as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COSC Chair Williams called for approval of the Feb. 1, 2023, meeting minutes.

MOTION | The minutes be approved, as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

Board Report

Board Chair Trina Boymook presented the Board Report.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- In February, Phase 2 of the French Immersion public engagement initiative began. On February 7, EIPS held a public consultation for all EIPS French Immersion families, students and community members. The information gathered through the in-person session and online survey will inform the next public engagement session taking place on April 13. The Board of Trustees will hear EIPS Superintendent Mark Liguori's recommendation at the Board meeting in June 2023.
- The Board sent a letter to Education Minister Adriana LaGrange, requesting more funding for the EIPS School Nutrition Program to address the inflationary cost of food currently.
- On February 13, Minister LaGrange announced a nutrition grant would be provided to the Community Association for Lasting Success in Vegreville. This grant supports a partnership with a non-profit to deliver nutritious meals to students. The recent announcement ensures all schools in Vegreville have access to healthy meals and snacks.
- Board Chair Boymook and Fort Saskatchewan trustees Ralph Sorochan and Jacqueline Shotbolt met with Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, a member of the legislative assembly of Alberta for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville, to discuss the Division's capital needs in Fort Saskatchewan. They also spoke about the increased need for social resources within the city. Additionally, Board Chair Boymook highlighted the Board's concerns around mandate creep—ministries should financially cover the supports that fall within their mandates, instead of relying on school divisions to fund with education dollars to fill in the gap.
- On February 28, the provincial budget was tabled. The Board is cautiously optimistic. There are some positive aspects where the Division will receive more or new funding. However, the Board must wait until the release of the Funding Manual before it can understand the further implications of the budget tabled. On the surface, the Board sees several areas of current funding being reallocated out to another area of the Division's funding. EIPS will bring forward a presentation of the budget at a future COSC meeting.
- On March 1, construction funding was announced for the Sherwood Heights Junior High/École Campbelltown replacement school. The Division can now move into its construction phase once the design has been finalized. EIPS is planning for the designs to be shared at a public open house.
- On March 1, the EIPS Annual Feedback Survey: For parents and caregivers launched and will run until March 23. Board Chair Boymook asked school council representatives to encourage parents and caregivers at their schools to complete this important survey, which is used to guide school improvement planning.
- Starting March 2, the Board will begin its budget planning discussions. It will consider the Division's assurance reviews, stakeholder surveys, progress in current initiatives and reserve status in building the 2023-24 budget.
- The Board will consider a recommendation on the Logos program at its meeting on March 16.
- After completing a Canada-wide superintendent search, the Board approved the appointment of Sandra Stoddard as the next EIPS Superintendent as of July 1, 2023. Stoddard has been with EIPS for over six years as the Associate Superintendent of the Supports for Students department. Her experience extends provincially and around the world in shaping education policy and practices. She has led significant initiatives on behalf of the Board, such as curriculum implementation. She also led the development and execution of the Board's Mental Health Strategic Plan, which includes the mental health pilot project. The Board is confident Associate Superintendent Stoddard will build on the Division's successes and support the continued growth and evolution of EIPS as one of the best school divisions in the province.
- In terms of student transportation, Alberta Education may redefine ineligible and eligible fees so parents and caregivers can save money. Board Chair Boymook was unsure if fees would still be defined using on-foot or would switch to driving distance. Discussion seemed to surround reducing the 2.4 kilometres limit.
 - Student transportation is a shared responsibility between school authorities and Alberta Education.
 - Board Chair Boymook said there are many details still left to go through, and EIPS won't know what will happen until it gets funding allocation.

ATA Report

ATA Local No. 28 President Deneen Zielke presented the ATA Report.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Teachers attended the Alberta Teacher Association's (ATA) annual North Central Teachers' Convention in person for the first time since 2020. The two days of the convention are mandated in the *School Act*, speaking to the importance of professionals accessing support to expand and improve their professional practice.
 - Beyond the keynote speakers presenting each year, local teachers took time to develop presentations and give up a portion of their convention time to share their expertise with colleagues. Some of the best professional development is peer-driven, where individuals can share similar classroom experiences.
 - Every year, the Local is well represented with many colleagues being selected to share their expertise at the convention. Zielke stated there's an incredible amount of expertise, innovation and enthusiasm to share.
- Recently, Minister LaGrange stated the provincial government will put \$10 million into Grade 1 education. She feels learning gaps from the pandemic have been addressed in the other grades as opposed to those in Grade 1. Zielke stated that if one talks to any teacher in the province, they'll see this is false. With increased class sizes and more students with learning, behavioural and emotional struggles, classrooms are much more complex than before the pandemic. It's extremely difficult to address all student needs.
- Recently, Statistics Canada released new data on student funding. Alberta is dead last in the country when it comes to per pupil school board operating expenditures. Alberta spends \$10,936 per pupil, which is \$1,767 less than the national average and \$3,775 less than the top, being Quebec.
- Zielke stated everyone needs to work together to make education a top priority as the province nears the May election. She added that if anyone is interested in working with the Local on upcoming initiatives, they can let her know.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: What makes up the expenses? Does it include the cost of things like school supplies?

Answer: Mostly includes operating expenditures. The Government of Alberta uses very specific language and speaks in terms of growth—the provincial government's Funding Manual will come out in the next couple weeks. The total money a school board receives is all operational, from utilities to infrastructure.

Question: Is Alberta the only province with charter schools?

Answer: The definition is ambiguous—private schools are similar to charter. Alberta is not the only province with charter schools; other provinces, such as Ontario and British Columbia, have them as well. Generally, charter schools don't accept everyone, and they don't have to. The public system is required to support all types of learners while charter schools can be selective—they're also not accountable to elected school boards.

Question: Is New Horizons in Sherwood Park a charter school?

Answer: Yes, it is.

For Information

ASCA UPDATE – Lesley Williams, COSC Chair

- The Alberta School Councils Association’s (ASCA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) is set for April 23. The advocacy resolutions to be discussed are posted on the [ASCA website](#). The AGM voting process for the resolutions has also changed for this year—it will take place digitally on members’ devices.
- The Board has a maximum of \$5,000 to cover the registration for EIPS school council members with a limit of one member per council. This registration covers the conference and AGM sessions, but not the pre-sessions. Board sponsorship for the ASCA conference and AGM is first-come, first-served.
- School councils must fill out the [Credential Voting Form](#) for themselves.
- Registration information and proxy voting information is available on the [ASCA website](#).
- COSC Chair Williams encouraged COSC members to have at least one person from their school council attend as the sessions at the conference and AGM are informative and helpful.
- Nominations for [executive positions](#) on the ASCA Board of Directors are still open.

CAREGIVER SERIES UPDATE – Lesley Williams, COSC Chair

- The [March Caregiver Series](#) schedule is now available.
- Offered through Alberta Health Services, the sessions are informative and valuable.
- COSC Chair Williams encouraged members to review the [March Caregiver Series](#) calendar.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT GRANT – Lesley Williams, COSC Chair

- The David Irvine session will be held virtually at 7 p.m. on April 19.
- The cost of the group session has gone down because of the number of school councils pooling funds.
- COSC Chair Williams approved numerous school councils who have completed the [School Council Engagement Grant Request Form](#) and are using their grant for individual purposes.
- COSC Chair Williams thanked COSC member Kendra Roemer for her dedicated efforts organizing the group session. She also thanked those schools who reached out for feedback on individual engagement sessions.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: How do individual school councils access their grant money through EIPS?

Answer: School councils can send an invoice for the session, or a receipt for reimbursement to finance.submissions@eips.ca and cc [Emma Small](#).

Question: How long do school councils have to use their funds?

Answer: Until the end of the current school year. Although grants were rolled over last year, this won’t happen again for the next school year. ASCA only has so much capacity for sessions, so if you want a session and haven’t booked yet, do so promptly.

New Business

ASCA RESOLUTIONS – Lesley Williams, COSC Chair

- The [ASCA Resolutions](#) are now available on the website.
- School councils discuss these resolutions and decide how they want to vote on them at the AGM. Representatives then vote on the resolutions at the meeting, and these resolutions form the basis of ASCA’s advocacy work over the next year. Resolutions typically need to have majority vote to become advocacy policies.
- Members discussed each of the six advocacy resolutions in turn.
- COSC Chair Williams advised school councils to pick their top three resolutions to prioritize as discussion points at their next council meeting and then simply yay or nay the other resolutions.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: Can any school council submit a resolution?

Answer: Yes, any council can.

PIPA AND RECORDS RETENTION FOR SCHOOL COUNCILS – Lesley Williams, COSC Chair

- Schools have a legal responsibility to fulfill their obligations under the [Personal Information Protection Act](#) (PIPA). Strong record-keeping and protection of parents' and caregivers' information helps build credibility and trust within the community.
- Minutes responsibilities for school councils are covered under PIPA. School councils must keep their email lists and minutes for at least seven years as stated in the Act. These records are likely digital now.
- A school council and fundraising society—if the school has one—need to maintain separate mailing lists as they are separate organizations.
- When student information is entered in PowerSchool, there's a button that allows sharing of information with their school council.
- A Frequently Asked Questions document on PIPA for school councils will be shared in the follow-up email sent out Friday.
- COSC Chair Williams stated front office staff at councils' schools may clean up the school website, so school councils should keep tabs on where their records move. Additionally, councils should keep records accessible to their members, especially after executives move on.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: What if the former chair hasn't provided minutes?

Answer: In future, consider putting minutes on Google Docs to make them more accessible for all. You can create succession planning policies to prevent this from happening again.

Question: Can a school council have direct control over its own section of the school website?

Answer: Superintendent Liguori stated the Division website provider has limitations on the number of admin logins for school websites. Emma Small, a communications and public engagement assistant at EIPS, also responded that she wasn't sure if a login could be provided for only one part of the website. One member reported their school council and fundraising group now maintain their own website for such a reason.

COSC Sharing

SCHOOL COUNCILS' NUTRITION AND FOOD INITIATIVES – Lesley Williams, COSC Chair

- Tabled because of a lack of time.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:05 P.M.

Next COSC Meeting

DATE: April 5, 2023

TIME: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

LOCATION: EIPS Central Services building, boardroom.



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH 16, 2023

Chair's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Board Chair Trina Boymook highlighted recent events:

- On February 28, trustees attended Alberta School Board Association's (ASBA) Zone 2/3 Coffee Conversation, which included discussions with other school board trustees about the upcoming election and related advocacy strategies.
- On March 1, Chair Boymook and Superintendent Mark Liguori took part in a budget debrief with Education Minister Adriana LaGrange. The meeting included school board chairs and superintendents from across the province and a high-level overview of the education budget for the 2023-24 school year.
- March 5-7, trustees attended the Alberta Rural Education Symposium, which offered a terrific program and impressive keynote speakers—all related to topic relevant to rural school boards.
- On March 13, Chair Boymook participated in an Alberta Education announcement about new student transportation funding. The Board is now reviewing the announcement details and will share the information with Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) families when it knows more.

SUBSTITUTE APPRECIATION WEEK

March 13-18 is Substitute Appreciation Week. On behalf of the Board, Chair Boymook thanked all substitute employees working within EIPS. Their work is critical to operations and student learning—and much appreciated.

TRUSTEES' SCHOOL TOURS

On March 16, after the Board meeting, trustees plan to visit Heritage Hills Elementary as part of its 2022-23 Trustees' School Tours. The Board extends thanks to all the staff and students at the school for hosting the tour. Everyone looks forward to learning more about Heritage Hills and the programs offered.

Superintendent's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Superintendent Mark Liguori highlighted recent events:

- On March 1, Superintendent Liguori joined Chair Boymook at a budget debrief with Minister LaGrange. Overall, the information provided about the budget is hopeful. Currently, the Division is reviewing all funding documents to develop the Division's 2023-24 spring budget.
- On March 5-7, Superintendent Liguori attended the Alberta Rural Education Symposium. The highlights: keynote speaker Michael Ungar, a Canada Research Chair and Professor in the Dalhousie University's Social Work, who spoke about building resilience in schools; and keynote speaker Clark Banack, the Director of the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities at University of Alberta's Augustana Campus, who spoke about what resilience looks like in rural Alberta.

Association and Employee Group Reports

ASBA ZONE 2/3 REPORT

Trustee Cathy Allen attended the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 meeting on February 24. The highlights:

- the launch of ASBA's new election kit to support trustees and their public education advocacy efforts;
- a review of the zone's governance bylaws and emergent position statements for the spring general meeting;
- a discussion of advocacy best practices; and
- details about the 2023 Canadian School Boards Association Congress, taking place in Banff this year.

ATA LOCAL REPORT

The Board received for information the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Local No. 28 report from the association's President, Deneen Zielke:

- On March 3-4, Zielke attended an ATA political engagement session. The highlight: keynote speakers Graham Thomson, a journalist and political columnist, and Janet Brown, a pollster and a Principal at Janet Brown Opinion Research. Both speakers commented on the current political landscape being one they've not seen yet, all votes mattering and political parties needing everyone's support to win.
- Phase 3 of the ATA's [Stand for Education](#) is underway—focused on class sizes, modernized curriculum and supports for vulnerable students. The campaign includes television, radio, billboards, buses and residential signage ads encouraging people to vote for strong public education in the upcoming provincial election.
- Zielke wished everyone a restful spring break that allows them to recharge and prepare for the last portion of the school year.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS GROUP REPORT

The Board received for information the Employee Relations Group (ERG) report from the Chair, Dulcie Arbuckle-Jarvin:

- Classified Professional Learning Day takes place on May 5. Human Resources is working on finalizing the sessions to ensure an excellent day of learning. Arbuckle-Jarvin also thanked Salisbury Composite High for providing the space to host the learning sessions.
- Feedback from classified staff about the annual professional learning day is always positive, many of whom say it makes them feel acknowledged, worthy and appreciated.
- The ERG is now making the final revisions to its Terms of Reference. Once complete, it will post the updated document on the Division's intranet site.
- The ERG recently worked with Lisa Johnston, EIPS' Occupational Health and Safety Specialist, to develop a safety guideline manual for educational assistants working in Careers and Technology Studies labs.

New Business

AMENDMENTED BOARD OF TRUSTEE SCHEDULE

The Board approved the amended Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule for the 2022-23 school year (see pg. 10, "[Amended 2022-23 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule](#)").

POLICY AMENDMENTS

The Board approved amendments to:

- [Board Policy 5: Role of the Board Chair](#); and
- [Board Policy 14: Hearing on Teacher Transfers](#).

Overall, the approved changes strengthen the policies' clarity, definitions, language and readability.

ASBA EDWIN PARR AWARD: 2023

The Board approved administration's nomination for this year's EIPS Edwin Parr Teacher Award nominee, Rae-Lynn Billingsley. Annually, the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) hosts the award to honour and recognize first-year teachers and their pedagogical excellence. Billingsley, a first-year teacher at A.L. Horton Elementary, was selected for her outstanding commitment to education, dedication to capacity building and innate ability to encourage a love of learning in students.

THREE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN: 2024-27

The Board approved EIPS' [2024-27 Three-Year Capital Plan](#). Annually, the Board reviews and updates the plan to prioritize its key capital projects. Last year, the top priority was obtaining construction funding to replace

Sherwood Heights Junior High and École Campbelltown, kindergarten to Grade 9. Now granted, the Divisions new top three capital priorities are:

Priority 1: A replacement school for Rudolph Hennig Junior High and Fort Saskatchewan High (grades 7-12).

Priority 2: A replacement school for James Mowat Elementary (grades K-6).

Priority 3: A modernization and expansion of Vegreville Composite High to accommodate K-12 programming.

Now approved, the Division will submit the *Three-Year Capital Plan* to the province for funding consideration.

LOGOS CHRISTIAN PROGRAM

The Board approved the recommendation to amalgamate EIPS’ elementary Logos Christian program at Brentwood Elementary, effective in the 2023-24 school year. Amalgamating the elementary allows for a more viable program, with sustainable student numbers and available student capacity, to hopefully, once again, grow the program in future years.

As background, the elementary Logos program has experienced a significant drop in enrolment over the last decade—making fulsome programming challenging. To address the issue, EIPS consulted the Logos school community, between June and October of 2022. Through the engagement efforts, the Logos community asked EIPS to postpone a decision to allow it time to promote the program. The Division listened and delayed a decision until after the 2023-24 returning student registration process to see the actual anticipated registration numbers for Logos in the upcoming year. During the consultations, the Division shared, if enrolment increased significantly, EIPS would recommend the elementary Logos program remain unchanged at both Brentwood Elementary and Westboro Elementary. And, if enrolment remained low, it would recommend the Board consolidate the elementary Logos program at Brentwood Elementary, effective for the 2023-24 school year.

After reviewing all the registration information for 2023-24, enrolment in the elementary Logos program did not increase significantly. Instead, it decreased by five students, from the current year. Amalgamating at Brentwood Elementary will offers students a more robust program and space to grow, if required.

Now approved, EIPS will re-open the returning student registration to affected families so they can confirm or change the school and program they want their child to attend in 2023-24. Students requiring busing are subject to EIPS Student Transportation eligibility rules and fees.

ADJUSTED ATTENDANCE BOUNDARY: CAMBRIAN CROSSING

The Board approved the adjusted regular program attendance boundary for the Cambrian Crossing area structure plan, made up of two new neighbourhoods in Strathcona County—Cambrian and Hearthstone. The table below details the adjusted attendance boundaries for regular programming, effective immediately:

| NEIGHBOURHOOD | ELEMENTARY | JUNIOR HIGH | SENIOR HIGH |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| CAMBRIAN | Westboro Elementary | Clover Bar Junior High | Salisbury Composite High |
| HEARTHSTONE | Glen Allan Elementary | F.R. Haythorne Junior High | Bev Facey Community High |

EIPS FOUR-YEAR EDUCATION PLAN: 2022-26

The Board reaffirmed its [EIPS Four-Year Education Plan](#), which details the Division’s mission, belief statements, priorities, goals and outcomes over the next four years. 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 Division will use the reaffirmed EIPS Four-Year Education Plan to develop its 2023-24 spring budget and determine the performance measures and strategies the Division will use to meet each priority, goal and outcome in the 2023-24 school year.



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Committee Report

STUDENT EXPULSION COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from the Student Expulsion Committee meetings held on February 17, February 28 and March 14. The committee reviewed all relevant information and upheld the recommendations put forward by school administration.

POLICY COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from the Policy Committee meeting held on March 14. The committee reviewed five policies—all will come forward to the Board at the next public meeting in April.

Reports for Information

FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS: 2022-23

The Board received for information a report regarding the Division's financial projection for the 2022-23 school year. Overall, there are no areas of concern, deficits or excessive surpluses. Briefly, EIPS projects its accumulated surplus to drop by \$15.8 million from its audited balance on Aug. 31, 2022. The decrease is primarily the result of its asset retirement obligation restatement (\$9.3 million), a new accounting standard requirement for EIPS' building abatement costs when the Division retires a building—typically covered by the province the year the building is retired. Other factors include operating reserves decreasing by \$2.9 million, capital reserves falling by \$800,000 and tangible capital assets increasing by \$8.3 million. Overall, the budget variance is \$7.3 million. That's mostly the result of changes in the estimated asset retirement obligation balance and other unbudgeted projected surpluses at schools and departments. As well, the projected Division Unallocated Reserve remains close to budget with a slight \$100,000 variance, which, when combined with other operating reserves, is within the province's operating reserve limit (see pg. 87, "[Financial Projections 2022-23](#)").

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2022 TO FEBRUARY 2023

The Board received for information the EIPS Unaudited Financial Report for the six-month period ending Feb. 28, 2023. Overall, revenues exceeded expenses resulting in an operating surplus of \$207,000. Revenue for the six months is \$97.5 million, which represents 51 per cent of the year-to-date budget—an expected percentage for the fiscal year midpoint. Meanwhile, total expenses are \$97.7 million, representing 49 per cent of the year-to-date budget—slightly below what the Division anticipated (see pg. 99, "[Unaudited Financial Report for Sept. 1, 2022 to Feb. 28, 2023](#)").

TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND INFORMATION REQUESTS

On behalf of the Board, Trustee Footz expressed his sincere condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of the two Edmonton police officers who were killed in the line of duty earlier on March 16.

Board Members

Trina Boymook, *Chair* | Colleen Holowaychuk, *Vice-Chair* | Cathy Allen | Randy Footz | Don Irwin | Susan Miller | Jim Seutter | Jacqueline Shotbolt | Ralph Sorochan

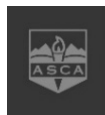
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Trina Boymook, *Board Chair* | P 780 417 8101

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

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

2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Sunday April 23, 2023. 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
In-Person and Zoom ONLINE Meeting



**Alberta
School Councils' Association**
Promoting parent engagement in public education

Electronic voting only. All voting delegates must have an internet connected device in order to vote.

CREDENTIAL VOTING FORM

This form must be completed, signed by the CHAIR, and submitted for each ASCA Member School Council designating a parent representative (voting delegate) to attend and vote on its behalf at the AGM. **Voting delegates MUST register for the AGM.**

Return this form by email to parents@albertaschoolcouncils.ca or via fax at 1-780-455-0167, **before 5:00 pm on April 13, 2023.**

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| School Council Name: | | School District/Division |
| School Council Address: | | Town/City |
| One VOTING KEY will be sent to the email provided for the voting delegate on this form. | | |
| VOTING DELEGATE: Parent Designate Name: | | Position on School Council: |
| Email: | | Phone: |
| Will your Voting Delegate carry <i>Proxy Votes</i> for other ASCA Member School Councils? Yes ___ No ___ In the ElectionBuddy voting software, Proxy voters are not required to manage additional devices for proxy voting. Proxy voting will be managed within one access key for all votes, on one device. | | |
| Authorization: Name (please print): | | Authorization must be from the School Council CHAIR |
| Email: | | Phone: |
| Signature: (Equivalent as printed) | | (must be signed by the Chair) |

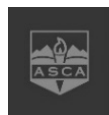
ElectionBuddy – a secure, online voting software will be utilized for all voting. *All Voting Delegates use an access key issued to them via email (as provided above) after the start of the meeting.*

Please ensure the EMAIL address and phone number for the Voting Delegate are **ACCURATE** and **legible**.

NOTE: Virtual Voting Delegates are required to manage two browser windows on their device throughout the meeting – one for the Zoom platform, and one for the ElectionBuddy platform.

Additional members from the school council are encouraged to register and attend the meeting.

2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM)
 Sunday April 23, 2023. 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
In-Person and Zoom ONLINE Meeting



**Alberta
 School Councils' Association**
 Promoting parent engagement in public education

Electronic voting only. All voting delegates must have an internet connected device in order to vote.

PROXY VOTING FORM

This form must be completed and submitted by each ASCA Member School Council authorizing a parent representative **from a different ASCA Member School Council** attending the AGM to **vote on its behalf**.

Return this form by email to parents@albertaschoolcouncils.ca or via fax at 1-780-455-0167, **before 5:00 pm on April 13, 2023**. Proxy voters **MUST** register for the AGM.

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| School Council Sending Proxy: Name: | | School District/Division |
| School Council Address: | | Town/City |
| Authorization: Name (please print): | | Authorization must be from the School Council CHAIR |
| Email: | | Phone: |
| Signature: <i>(Equivalent as printed)</i> | | <i>(must be signed by the Chair)</i> |

| | | |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| One VOTING KEY will be sent to the email provided for the voting delegate on this form. | | |
| PROXY HOLDER | | |
| School Council Carrying Proxy: Name: | | School District/Division |
| School Council Address: | | Town/City |
| Voting Parent Designate: Name: | | Position on School Council |
| Email: | | Phone: |

ElectionBuddy – a secure, online voting software will be utilized for all voting. *All Voting Delegates use an access key issued to them via email (as provided above) after the start of the meeting.*

Please ensure the EMAIL address and phone number for the Voting Delegate are **ACCURATE** and **legible**.

In the ElectionBuddy voting software, Proxy voters are not required to manage additional devices for proxy voting. Proxy voting will be managed within one access key for all votes, on one device.

NOTE - It is the responsibility of the authorizing school council to advise the Proxy holder of their voting decisions. If no direction is provided, the Proxy holder is expected to make the voting decision(s) using their own judgement.

Caregiver Education Team Newsletter

April 2023



Alberta Health Services is proud to offer FREE online programming to caregivers of school-age children and youth as well as adults in the community who want to learn more about addiction and mental health topics.

Sessions are offered online through the Zoom conferencing application. A link to access the online session will be sent by email to those who have registered for the session.

Adult Education Sessions

Understanding Anxiety Series

For adults supporting their own wellness or the wellness of children and youth.

Part 3: Settling Our Minds

Tuesday, April 4
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Part 4: Overcoming Avoidance

Tuesday, April 18
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Substance Use *A Harm Reduction Approach*

For adults, and for caregivers supporting youth in grades 7-12

Wednesday, April 5
6:00 – 7:30 pm

Caregiver Education Sessions

Building Executive Functioning Skills *Supporting Success in Learning*

For parents and caregivers of children in grades K-6

Part 1:
Wednesday, April 19
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Part 2:
Tuesday, April 25
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Participant Feedback:

“...the quality of the presentation and the warmth of the presenters, even over Zoom, was really impressive.”

“Well presented...very knowledgeable and clear. Videos were great. Thank you!”

Sessions at a Glance



AMH Education Services
Addiction & Mental Health
Edmonton Zone

For more information, visit www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

Caregiver Education Sessions

April 2023



These free sessions are intended to provide parents, caregivers, and community members with information regarding addiction and mental health challenges that can affect children and youth. When topics are presented as a series, participants can attend one or all sessions.

Registration

Sessions are offered online through the Zoom conferencing application.

A link to access the online session will be sent by email to those who have registered for the session.

To register, click [HERE](#) or go to:

www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

Building Executive Functioning Skills

Promoting Success in Learning

In these Lunch & Learn webinars, we will review and discuss ways to support the development of your child's executive skills such as working memory, inhibition, and mental flexibility.

Part 1: The Impact of Executive Functioning

In this session, we will look at what executive functions are, their importance in our daily lives, and how executive skill difficulties may impact our children.

Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023

12:00 – 1:00 pm

For caregivers of children in grades K-6; for adults only.

Part 2: Supporting Executive Functioning Development

In this session, we will focus on three foundational executive functions and strategies for supporting our children as they grow in their skills.

Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2023

12:00 – 1:00 pm

For caregivers of children in grades K-6; for adults only.

Participant Feedback:

“Thanks for these sessions, all the ones I've attended over the last 3 months have been helpful.”

“This was a great session with a lot of information.”

“I enjoy that the sessions are over lunch - provides good information over this short period.”



AMH Education Services
Addiction & Mental Health
Edmonton Zone

For more information, visit www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

Adult Education Sessions

April 2023



These free adult sessions are intended to provide community members with information and strategies regarding addiction and mental health challenges that can affect us all. When topics are presented as a series, participants can attend one or all sessions.

Understanding Anxiety Series

Part 3: Settling Our Minds

In this session, we will look at how anxiety can lead to negative thoughts and thinking traps that can hold us back. Strategies for encouraging more realistic thinking will be discussed.

Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2023

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

For adults supporting their own wellness or the wellness of a child, youth, or loved one.

Part 4: Overcoming Avoidance

In this session, we will discuss how avoidance of stressors can increase our stress response over time. We will discuss ways to manage stressful situations in steps and effective coping skills.

Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

For adults supporting their own wellness or the wellness of a child, youth, or loved one.

Substance Use

A Harm Reduction Approach

The experience of substance use is different for each person. Learn about some common substances, the science behind addiction, and the many benefits of harm reduction. We will discuss strategies to support loved ones who may be using substances, through understanding and courageous conversations.

Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

For adults supporting their own wellness or the wellness of a youth (grades 7-12) or loved one.

Registration:

Sessions are offered online through the Zoom conferencing application.

A link to access the online session will be sent by email to those who have registered for the session.

To register, click [HERE](#) or go to:

www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

Participant Feedback:

“...it was very well put together and implemented. Was educational but also fun.”

“The fact the facilitators answered questions is extremely beneficial.”

“Very interesting and informative. Lots of practical strategies and signs to look for.”



AMH Education Services
Addiction & Mental Health
Edmonton Zone

For more information, visit www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

A STRONG PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM PROMOTES GROWTH AND PROSPERITY IN ALBERTA



THE **POWER** OF A **WELL-FUNDED EDUCATION**

The investment of Albertans' tax dollars in public education has paid dividends in many forms—including hundreds of thousands of highly skilled workers, innovative entrepreneurs and leaders who have contributed to the community through leading-edge research and development in myriad sectors. In recent years, the province has shifted focus by diverting much-needed funding from the public system to support charter and private schools. As result, that's eroding the ability of public school providers to offer viable, sustainable and equitable learning opportunities.

Alberta's publicly funded systems—public, Catholic and francophone—serve the educational interests of more than 670,000 kindergarten to Grade 12 students. Resources diverted to alternative educational institutions impact the public system's the ability to provide comprehensive, equitable, accessible and mandated programming for 90 per cent of the province's students.

Provincewide, public school divisions are diverse, inclusive and welcoming to all students. Within EIPS, schools consistently offer a broad range of educational choices for students of varied backgrounds and interests—from specialized language and faith-based programs to advanced academic opportunities and competitive sports to specialized supports and continuing education. All programs are also based on sound pedagogy and delivered by expert, certified teachers who embrace and nurture a culture of lifelong learning. Through this, students are then able push their limits and find meaningful ways to contribute to and enhance their communities.

SUGGESTED QUESTION FOR MLA CANDIDATES:

WILL YOU ADVOCATE FOR GREATER INVESTMENT IN THE PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM, WHICH IS MANDATED TO DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY LEARNING TO THE MAJORITY OF ALBERTA STUDENTS, FROM ALL BACKGROUNDS AND ABILITIES?

FACT

In the last two years, the government committed more than \$144 million to create, expand and provide infrastructure for charter schools—which serve only seven per cent of Alberta students.

FACT

Unlike Alberta's publicly funded schools, private schools aren't required under the *Education Act* to accept all students wanting to attend, or admit learners with specialized needs. Yet all accredited private schools still receive 70 per cent of base funding per student from the province – in addition to the income they receive from families through tuition and fees.

LOCALLY ELECTED SCHOOL BOARDS GIVE FAMILIES A VOICE



ADVOCATES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

The centralization of control at the provincial government level represents an erosion of autonomous, locally elected school boards—and the education of children and youth in our communities is impacted as a result.

School board trustees serve as the voice of the community, representing the unique and diverse interests of students and families. They communicate local educational priorities to decision-makers and provide accountability for the allocation of learning resources in our schools.

A cookie-cutter approach to education rarely works well for anyone. Locally elected school boards are best positioned to set strategic priorities reflecting community expectations, allocate resources in areas required most urgently, meet the evolving needs of students and ensure sound educational practice across a division.

School boards meet and make decisions in open meetings, ensuring the public and media have access to debate and insight into how taxpayer money is allocated. This influence is lost when the authority of school boards is reduced.

In recent years, the autonomy of locally elected school boards has been challenged. Bills have been passed, and related policies and procedures enacted, which restrict local decision-making authority and hamper trustees from allocating funding to meet the educational requirements of students best.

To meet their commitment to the communities they are elected, trustees must have the flexibility to respond to areas of critical need, be nimble enough to move quickly to address issues that arise, and have the chance to work collaboratively with parents and community members to meet the learning needs of students throughout a division.

**SUGGESTED QUESTION FOR MLA CANDIDATES:
DO YOU BELIEVE LOCALLY ELECTED SCHOOL TRUSTEES SHOULD HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO INVEST RESOURCES IN WAYS THAT BEST SERVE THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES?**

FACT

Locally elected school boards lobbied on behalf of Alberta students when the draft curriculum was introduced. Feedback provided by EIPS and other divisions contributed to revisions in scope, sequence and content, and resulted in a staggered roll-out.

FACT

The EIPS Board of Trustees worked closely with local MLAs to move forward the Sherwood Heights replacement school project. The school is now in the design phase and the Board will work closely with community partners to be sure it meets the needs of residents and students.

QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE GIVES STUDENTS AN ACADEMIC ADVANTAGE



SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION WITH LEARNING AS A FOCUS

Alberta schools are more than just buildings. They are community hubs and learning spaces that shape generations to come. When planned and designed with child development in mind, schools provide positive, stimulating and nurturing environments for children to learn, grow, ask questions and thrive.

As such, educational infrastructure represents a significant financial asset for taxpayers. While buildings are operated by school divisions provincially, the structures and contents represent a long-term investment by Albertans in the future of its communities. But maintaining these facilities is becoming increasingly challenging for school divisions as fewer resources are provided for this purpose.

Elk Island Public Schools is currently facing a total of \$29 million in deferred maintenance—which means the Division has had to hold off on repairs worth \$29 million this year alone. In turn, this has led to five-year maintenance deficit \$156 million.

The Division also faces significant challenges around student accommodations as populations in Strathcona County and Fort Saskatchewan continue to grow. An efficient and cost-effective way to add capacity to existing schools is through modular classroom units. However, provincial funding for the modular classrooms is limited. In the last six years alone, EIPS has submitted 27 new or replacement modular unit requests to the province. Only 12 were approved. Now, several urban schools are nearing capacity.

**SUGGESTED QUESTION FOR MLA CANDIDATES:
IF ELECTED, HOW WOULD YOU ENSURE PUBLIC
SCHOOL BOARDS HAD THE LEARNING SPACES
NEEDED TO MATCH GROWING ENROLMENT?**

FACT

Over the last few years, Fort Saskatchewan and Strathcona County have experienced strong residential growth, which is affecting the Division's ability to provide accommodation for students living within these communities. As these new development areas grow, so will the Division's student capacity challenges.

FACT

Many existing EIPS' modular classrooms are ageing, and significant resources are going into maintaining them. Without a reliable and sustainable source of replacement modulars, there's a risk these units will soon reach their end of life, with no guarantee of replacement, creating further enrolment pressures for schools.