

April 3, 2023

Dear Andrew School families:

I'm writing to advise you about a report going forward to the Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Board of Trustees for a special Board meeting on April 6, 2023. The report is regarding a recommendation to consider the potential closure of Andrew School.

At that meeting, the Board may direct EIPS to produce an in-depth, detailed report for information about the elementary program at Andrew School—for presentation at the regular board meeting on April 20. The report would include detailed information about enrolment, programming, finances, infrastructure, demographics, human resources, transportation and more.

There are two significant challenges EIPS is facing at Andrew School. First, the poor condition of the fire suppression and roofing systems means a needed investment in excess of \$3 million to ensure the building remains safe and operational. Second, student enrolment continues to decline significantly, with a 30 per cent drop between the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. The small number of students enrolled for the upcoming year directly impacts funding for the school, which in turn means fewer staff members and a detrimental effect on student programming.

If the report for information goes forward on April 20, EIPS trustees will discuss the data contained therein. Then, it will bring forward a motion to consider the possible closure of Andrew School. The motion will come down to a vote. If the motion is carried, the Division will notify all Andrew School families about the decision and next steps—including a public engagement meeting. If the motion is defeated, the matter will go no further.

I want to assure you the Board has not made any decisions about Andrew School. A report for information would simply help them decide if it's an avenue they need to explore further. That said, given the facility's conditions and the enrolment decline for the upcoming school year, EIPS administration has both a responsibility to its students and a fiduciary duty to bring these issues forward to the Board of Trustees.

Following the April 6 meeting, I will contact you again to advise you about the direction administration receives from the Board of Trustees and commit to keeping you all informed of the process going forward.

Sincerely,

Mark Liguori
Superintendent
Elk Island Public Schools