

MEETING MINUTES

Elk Island Public Schools, in-person meeting and livestream
May 3, 2023 | 7 p.m.

In Attendance

SCHOOL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

Chair: Lesley Williams, Sherwood Heights Junior High

Vice-Chair: Chelsea Pretzlaw, Ardrossan Elementary

Secretary: Ken Allan, A.L. Horton Elementary

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS

April Childs, Lakeland Ridge

Brian Vick, Brentwood Elementary

Christan Rasmussen, Westboro Elementary

Jennifer Dechaine, École Parc Élémentaire

Jennifer Fukuyama, Clover Bar Junior High

Justina Gibson, Fort Saskatchewan Christian

Karli Butler, Davidson Creek Elementary

Kim Scott, Westboro Elementary

Lisa Harke, SCA Elementary

Melissa Manolescu, École Campbelltown

ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trina Boymook, Chair

Colleen Holowaychuk, Vice-Chair

Cathy Allen, Trustee

Don Irwin, Trustee

Jim Seutter, Trustee

Susan Miller, Trustee

ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mark Liguori, Superintendent

Sandra Stoddard, Associate Superintendent

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 April 5, 2023, meeting minutes.

MOTION | The minutes be approved, as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

Board Report

Board Chair Trina Boymook presented the Board Report.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- On April 11, the Board met with the Fort Saskatchewan City Council. It discussed the Division's capital needs in the City, the issues and subsequent special supports implemented at City schools, shared details of the expansion of special education programming in Fort Saskatchewan, and details of the Board's collegiate vision for the Fort Saskatchewan-Rudolph Henning replacement school.
- On April 13, EIPS held another French Immersion public engagement session. An option was developed to generate a robust discussion among stakeholders about the best path forward to enhance the program, increase retention at the junior high and senior high levels, address anticipated enrolment pressures in Ardrossan and balance enrolment at the elementary level. Senior administration will compile the feedback received, which will inform next steps. On May 4, the Board will be debriefed around future action.
- At the April 20 Board meeting, the Board received a Report for Information on Andrew School. At this meeting, a motion was passed to trigger the school closure process. The Board will be considering the Superintendent's recommendation at a special meeting taking place at 10 a.m. on May 4. The meeting will be livestreamed.
- The Board has been busy over the last month working on the Division budget for the 2023-24 school year. Although the budget has increased in specific areas, it's a result of repurposing funding from other areas. Because of the introduction of reserve caps, the Board is on track to deplete a large portion of the Division's operating reserves in the current year to stay under the cap. There'll be limited use of reserves in building next year's budget. The Board approved allocations to schools at a special meeting held on April 27. Principals will be sharing details about these allocations at upcoming school council meetings.
- The Board will move forward with optional implementation of the new eligibility mileage for student transportation. For the 2023-24 school year, EIPS will continue to use walking distance and will have the software adjusted to calculate shortest driving distance in time for mandatory implementation in 2024-25. At the April 27 special Board meeting, the Board approved student transportation fees. Parents will be notified of their eligibility standing and associated fees. Non-designated school and program of choice will remain as enhanced services as it's still not mandatory to transport students to a non-designated school or program of choice.
- The Board toured schools in Vegreville and Mundare. The Board will be back out next week to tour some of the Division's Lamont County schools.
- On May 3, an email was sent to all parents, caregivers and staff to share the areas the Board is focusing on in the provincial election. Meetings with the local candidates have started, with several more scheduled within the next week or two.
- The Board will be holding information nights on May 31 and June 6. The information nights will share the designs for the Sherwood Heights-École Campbelltown replacement school. Board Chair Boymook shared the Board received news that the school has been approved for a \$250,000 playground grant.



















ATA Report

ATA Local No. 28 President Deneen Zielke did not present a report.

For Information

ASCA UPDATE – Lesley Williams, COSC Chair

- The Alberta School Councils’ Association’s (ASCA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on April 23. See the below chart for the results of the various resolutions discussed at that meeting, taken from the [ASCA website](#) on June 3:

Res #	Resolution Title	Amended	Carried
SR23-01	Amend ASCA Bylaws		
A23-01	Maintain ASCA Advocacy Policy 13-3		
A23-02	Amend ASCA Advocacy Policy 21-02		
P23-01	Mandating Criminal Record & Child Intervention Record Checks for School Board Trustee Candidates		
P23-02	Supporting Integrated Education Funding		
P23-03	Integrate Climate & Biodiversity Education Throughout the K-12 Curriculum		
P23-04	Add Rights of Victims of Bullying and Violence to <i>Education Act</i>		
P23-05	Required Consultation Opportunities for Proposed Changes to Legislation, Regulations, or Established Programs or Practices		
P23-06	Setting and Meeting a Student to School Counsellor Ratio to Improve Mental Health		

- COSC Chair Williams also shared the results of the executive election held at the meeting. Successful candidates included Greta Gerstner, Ken Glazebrook, Richard Haggarty, Chelsea Ezeagwuna, Kerry Bodell, Krista Li and Edward Tse.
- Members attending reported the AGM ran well and expressed surprise around which resolutions passed as is and which were amended.

CAREGIVER SERIES UPDATE – Lesley Williams, COSC Chair

- The [May and June 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 [May and June Caregiver Series](#) calendar.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORTS: DUE JUNE 27 – Lesley Williams, COSC Chair

- COSC Chair Williams reminded members School Council Annual Reports are due to their school’s principal by **June 27**.
- Each council must submit its own report. There’s no required format, though there are required elements that must be included. A [template](#) that includes all these required elements is available from ASCA.
- These reports help school boards measure parent accountability in their school divisions.
- There’s no need to include a financial statement with the report if a separate fundraising group manages fundraising.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: Do we have to attach any meeting minutes with the report?

Answer: No, but be sure to make them available to the public on request.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT GRANT SUMMARY – Lesley Williams, COSC Chair

- COSC Chair Williams reported only 26 people attended the presentation by David Irvine. She expressed deep disappointment with this attendance, especially considering the work required to organize this event.
- One member suggested training videos that can be viewed asynchronously may be better viewed than a live event.
- One member commented the grant may be changing next year to allow for ASCA conference registration fees.
- Members shared how they spent the grant, including a speaker on privilege, a paint night and books for parent-teacher interview night.

New Business

DRAFT SPRING BUDGET 2023-24: HIGHLIGHTS – Mark Liguori, EIPS Superintendent

- EIPS Superintendent Liguori reviewed the 2023-24 draft EIPS budget with COSC members.
- He noted there's lots of new education funding dollars this year, including new funding for classroom complexity and student transportation.
- However, much of this funding comes with a reduction in bridge funding to cover COVID costs, and to offset changes in the funding models.
- Increased inflation, utilities and insurance costs, as well as staff and benefits costs, also eat into this increased funding.
- The Board is once again planning to spend from its reserves this year. This is limited by new restrictions on how school boards may spend from reserves, and restrictions on the total reserves that may be carried by school boards.
- Once finalized by administration, the budget is reviewed and approved by the Board.
- The budget may have to be adjusted and reallocated quickly if there is a change in government priorities following the upcoming election.

EIPS THREE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE – Mark Liguori, EIPS Superintendent

- Superintendent Liguori said the engagement plan was a wholistic approach to a variety of factors within EIPS, especially urban growth. The Division also wanted to drive a conversation about schooling in newer districts.
- Superintendent Liguori highlighted four parts of the [engagement plan](#):
 - **Three-Year Strathcona County Engagement**
 - Engagement with schools on realigned school boundaries, especially in north-east Sherwood Park neighbourhoods.
 - This engagement also includes:
 - Review of the Division's French Immersion program (ongoing—completion date June 2023)
 - Review of various system programs to ensure they're meeting student needs (ongoing – completion date November 2023)
 - Rebalance of senior high enrollments (ongoing—completion date November 2024)

- **James Mowat Elementary Enrollment Pressure Engagement**
 - Review of the enrollment pressures in Fort Saskatchewan, specifically James Mowat Elementary.
 - This review was completed in spring 2023, though there continue to be space issues in Fort Saskatchewan schools.
- **LOGOS Program Review**
 - Following this review, the LOGOS program was amalgamated at Brentwood Elementary.
- **Vegreville Value Scoping Session**
 - Following a value scoping process and community consultation, EIPS is looking to amalgamate A.L. Horton Elementary and Vegreville Composite High at a single location—the Vegreville Composite High site.
 - The value scoping process was completed in fall 2022, and a report to the Board was presented in early 2023.

COSC Sharing

ASCA CONFERENCE AND AGM: OVERVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTS – Lesley Williams, COSC Chair

- COSC sharing for the ASCA Conference and AGM was covered in the ASCA Update section of the meeting.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT GRANT – Lesley Williams, COSC Chair

- COSC sharing for the School Council Engagement Grant was covered in the School Council Engagement Grant Summary section of the meeting.

THANK YOU – Lesley Williams, COSC Chair

- COSC Chair Williams expressed gratitude to retiring Superintendent Mark Liguori for his many years of service, as well as various other members of EIPS administration and the COSC executive.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:46 P.M.

Next COSC Meeting

DATE: Oct. 4, 2023

TIME: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

LOCATION: EIPS Central Services building, boardroom.