



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 25, 2024

The regular meeting of the Elk Island Public Schools Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024—in the Boardroom at the Central Services Office in Sherwood Park, Alberta. The Board of Trustees meeting convened with Board Chair Cathy Allen, calling the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

C. Allen, Board Chair
S. Miller, Vice-Chair
T. Boymook
R. Footz
C. Holowaychuk - virtual (AM) and in person (PM)
D. Irwin - virtual
J. Shotbolt
R. Sorochan

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

S. Stoddard, Superintendent
R. Marshall, Associate Superintendent – Supports for Students
R. Johnson, Associate Superintendent – Human Resources
C. Cole, Secretary-Treasurer
D. Antymniuk, Division Principal
W. Gilewich, Information and Security Officer
L. McNabb, Director, Communications Services
C. Langford-Pickering, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. with all trustees noted above in attendance.

IN-CAMERA SESSION

003/2024 | Trustee Shotbolt moved: That the Board meet in camera (9:06 a.m.).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee Holowaychuk left the meeting at 9:38 a.m.

004/2024 | Trustee Sorochan moved: That the Board revert to the regular session (10:06 a.m.).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Board recessed at 10:06 a.m. and reconvened at 10:10 a.m. with all trustees noted above in attendance except for Trustee Holowaychuk.

Board Chair Allen welcomed everyone in attendance in person and online.

TREATY 6 ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Board Chair Cathy Allen called the meeting to order, and we acknowledged with respect the history and culture of the peoples with whom Treaty 6 was entered into and the land upon which Elk Island Public Schools reside. We also acknowledged the traditional homeland of the Métis Nation.

We recognized our responsibility as Treaty members and honour the heritage and gifts of the First Peoples. We committed to moving forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of collaboration and reconciliation.

AGENDA

Board Chair Allen called for additions or deletions to the Agenda.

005/2024 | Trustee Shotbolt moved: That the Agenda be adopted, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Chair Allen called for confirmation of the Dec. 14, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes.

006/2024 | Trustee Sorochan moved: That the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Dec. 14, 2023 Board Meeting, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Board Chair Allen called for confirmation of the Jan. 11, 2024 Board Special Meeting Minutes.

007/2024 | Trustee Boymook moved: That the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Jan. 11, 2024 Special Meeting, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CHAIR REPORT

Board Chair Allen presented the Chair's Report.

008/2024 | Board Chair Allen moved: That the Board of Trustees receives for information the Chair Report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Stoddard presented the Superintendent's Report. Superintendent Stoddard acknowledged the positive impact the Community of School Councils meetings have on engagement and gave a shout out to Bev Facey Community High School's cybersecurity, robotics and coding teacher for helping guide students, helping them explore their passions and teaching them how to solve complex real-world problems. Also, for sharing some of these experiences with the Hon. Nate Glubish during his classroom visit.

009/2024 | Vice-Chair Miller moved: That the Board of Trustees receives for information the Superintendent Report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMENTS, PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS AT BOARD MEETINGS

No comments, presentations or delegations were presented.

Association/Employee Groups

ASBA ZONE 2/3 REPORT

Board Chair Allen invited Trustee Shotbolt to present the ASBA Zone 2/3 report. In addition, Trustee Shotbolt shared several award opportunities presented by the Alberta School Boards Association that acknowledge excellence across our educational community—The Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Student Award, Edwin Parr Teacher Award, Friends of Education Award, the Community Engagement Award; and the School Board Innovation and Excellence Award sponsored by Xerox Canada.

010/2024 | Trustee Shotbolt moved: That the Board of Trustees receives for information the report from the representative of the ASBA Zone 2/3.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ATA LOCAL NO. 28 REPORT

Board Chair Allen welcomed and invited the ATA representative, D. Zielke, to present the ATA Local No. 28 Report. ATA representative D. Zielke extended an invitation to the Board to attend the Partners of Education Luncheon on Feb. 9, 2024, guest speaker: Cadmus Delorme, Chief of the Cowessess First Nation.

011/2024 | Trustee Footz moved: That the Board of Trustees receives for information the report from the representative of the ATA Local No. 28.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS GROUP (ERG) REPORT

Board Chair Allen welcomed ERG representative, M. Miller, to present the ERG Report.

012/2024 | Trustee Shotbolt moved: That the Board of Trustees receives for information the report from the representative of the ERG.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Business Arising from Previous Meeting

No business arising from the previous meeting.

New Business

BUSINESS ARISING FROM IN CAMERA

No business arising from in camera.

THREE-YEAR STRATHCONA COUNTY ENGAGEMENT: FRENCH IMMERSION AND SENIOR HIGH ENROLMENT

Superintendent Stoddard presented to the Board a recommendation report that addresses secondary retention issues in the French Immersion program, the anticipated enrolment pressures in Ardrossan, and balances the senior high enrolment in Sherwood Park.

Superintendent Stoddard extended thanks to the members of the community, staff and parents for listening in on the Board meeting to hear the recommendation. Superintendent Stoddard also appreciated the feedback received during the engagement process.

The recommendation means status quo for all French Immersion students in kindergarten to Grade 9. For Senior high French Immersion students, the program will relocate to Salisbury Composite High for grades 10-12. Salisbury Composite High will offer a dual-track senior high program when the change takes effect, expected in 2026-27. For senior high students in the regular English program there is a boundary adjustment

for the students living in the Lakeland Ridge senior high boundary—to attend Bev Facey Community High instead of Salisbury Composite High, expected in 2026-27. As well, the French Immersion junior high attendance boundary for Cambrian Crossing will be redesignated to Sherwood Heights Junior High effective in 2024-25.

013/2024 | Trustee Boymook moved: That the Board of Trustees approves the following recommendation to address anticipated enrolment pressures in Ardrossan, enhance French Immersion program retention and balance senior high enrolment in Sherwood Park:

- relocate EIPS' senior high French Immersion program, grades 10-12, to Salisbury Composite High—effective when the new Sherwood Park replacement school opens—expected in the 2026-27 school year;
- adjust Strathcona County's senior high attendance boundaries for Lakeland Ridge to be redesignated to Bev Facey Community High—effective when the new Sherwood Park replacement school opens—expected in the 2026-27 school year; and
- adjust the French Immersion junior high attendance boundaries for Cambrian Crossing, to be redesignated to Sherwood Heights Junior High —effective in the 2024-25 school year.

Board Chair opened the floor for questions.

Trustee Irwin left the meeting at 11:24 a.m. and returned at 11:33 a.m.

Superintendent Stoddard extended appreciation for the Board of Trustees' questions as there are many observers who will have similar inquiries.

Board Chair Allen opened the floor for debate.

The Board expressed that the work was complex due to our multi-community school division, community growth, ageing infrastructure and nearing maximum capacity. There were limitations due to geographic diversity, space, and dollars.

The Board thanked all who came to public engagements, filled out surveys, put dots on charts, and read the reports. It took tenacity, commitment and resilience, emotion, and the desire for what families are looking at to bring this recommendation forward and there is no perfect solution. The purpose is to provide solutions to the three intentions.

Superintendent Stoddard made a commitment to bring staff together to develop and implement a transition plan. A commitment to look at data, numbers, funds and explore the possibility of offering a French Immersion program in Fort Saskatchewan when a new build comes forth in Fort Saskatchewan, and if grandfathering is being considered for boundary redesignation in Lakeland Ridge, a recommendation will come to the Board.

VOTE ON MOTION 013/2024 |

In Favour: R. Footz, T. Boymook, C. Allen, D. Irwin, J. Shotbolt, and R. Sorochan

Opposed: S. Miller

CARRIED

The Board recessed at 12:41 p.m. and reconvened at 1:50 p.m. with all trustees noted in attendance. Trustee Holowaychuk returned to the meeting in person at 1:50 p.m.

BOARD POLICY 7: BOARD OPERATIONS

Trustee Footz presented to the Board the proposed amendments to Board Policy 7: Board Operations for approval.

014/2024 | Trustee Holowaychuk moved: That the Board of Trustees approves amendments to Board Policy 7: Board Operations, as circulated.

Trustee Boymook raised the question as to why a safety plan needed to be in policy and more specifically, why the statement, “*To mitigate any safety risks to the public attending any Board meetings, and for the trustees, a standard operating safety plan has been put in place.*” is in the preamble?

As well, Trustee Boymook questioned why under Section 10, Comments, presentations and delegations at Board meetings, the first sentence, “*Considerations for a **standard operating** safety plan have been put in place.*” is placed there?

015/2024 | Trustee Boymook moved: That the Board of Trustees **Table Motion 013/2024** and that Policy 7: Board Operations return to Policy Committee and come back to a future Board meeting.

Board Chair Allen noted there is no debate on a tabled motion and called the question.

In Favour: T. Boymook, C. Holowaychuk and S. Miller

Opposed: D. Irwin, R. Footz, C. Allen, J. Shotbolt, and R. Sorochan

DEFEATED

Trustee Holowaychuk expressed consideration to take that portion out of the amended Policy.

016/2024 | Trustee Boymook moved: to amend Policy 7: Board Operations and strike out “**standard operating**” from the preamble and from section 10.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT | MOTION 016/2024

In Favour: D. Irwin, R. Footz, T. Boymook, C. Holowaychuk, C. Allen, S. Miller, and J. Shotbolt

Opposed: R. Sorochan

CARRIED

VOTE ON MOTION 014/2024 | That the Board of Trustees approves amendments to Board Policy 7: Board Operations, as **amended**.

In Favour: R. Footz, T. Boymook, C. Holowaychuk, C. Allen, S. Miller, J. Shotbolt, and D. Irwin

Opposed: R. Sorochan

CARRIED

BOARD POLICY 13: APPEALS AND HEARINGS REGARDING STUDENT MATTERS

Trustee Footz presented to the Board the proposed amendments to Board Policy 13: Appeals and Hearings Regarding Student Matters for approval.

017/2024 | Trustee Sorochan moved: That the Board of Trustees approves amendments to Board Policy 13: Appeals and Hearings Regarding Student Matters, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BOARD POLICY 14: HEARINGS ON TEACHER TRANSFERS

Trustee Footz presented to the Board the proposed amendments to Board Policy 14: Hearing on Teacher Transfers for approval.

018/2024 | Trustee Shotbolt moved: That the Board of Trustees approves amendments to Board Policy 14: Hearings on Teacher Transfers, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SIGNING AUTHORITY MATRIX

Director Lewis presented to the Board proposed amendments to the Signing Authority Matrix for approval. It was highlighted that the financial auditor reviews all changes to the Signing Authority Matrix and annual tests are conducted to ensure compliance.

019/2024 | Trustee Boymook moved: That the Board of Trustees approves amendments to the Signing Authority Matrix, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2024-25 SCHOOL FEE PARAMETERS

Secretary-Treasurer Cole presented to the Board for approval the parameters for establishing 2024-25 school fees.

Trustee Irwin left the meeting at 2:33 p.m. and returned at 2:34 p.m.

020/2024 | Trustee Footz moved: That the Board of Trustees approves parameters for establishing 2024-25 school fees, as presented.

Trustee Sorochan commended principals for trying not to increase fees and only where necessary.

Trustee Boymook suggested that the Board move this approval process to the December Board meeting so that the principals have the information prior to their consultations with school councils. Trustee Sorochan echoed the proposal.

VOTE ON MOTION 020/2024 | CARRIED

In Favour: R. Footz, T. Boymook, C. Holowaychuk, C. Allen, S. Miller, R. Sorochan, and D. Irwin

Opposed: J. Shotbolt

Trustee Sorochan left the room at 2:59 p.m. and returned at 3:01 p.m.

ASCA CONFERENCE AND AGM SPONSORSHIP

Board Chair Allen presented to the Board for approval the recommendation to sponsor the registration fees for school council members to attend the ASCA School Councils Conference and Annual General Meeting on April 26-28, 2024.

The Board thanked all parent/guardians who have served school councils and have been involved with Alberta School Council Association. The ASCA School Council Conference builds leadership capacity in the parent community and it is evident in the transformation of communication at school council meetings related to legislative powers and duties.

021/2024 | Board Chair Allen moved: That the Board of Trustees approves up to \$5,000 to sponsor the registration fees for school council members to attend the ASCA School Councils Conference and Annual General Meeting on April 26-28—one member per school. To qualify, members must be part of a school council with an active ASCA membership and apply before the registration deadline, April 8.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee Reports

STUDENT EXPULSION COMMITTEE

Trustee Footz presented a report for information from the Student Expulsion Committee meetings held on Jan. 10 and 15, 2024.

022/2024 | Trustee Footz moved: That the Board of Trustees receives for information the report from the Student Expulsion Committee meetings held on Jan. 10 and 15, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

POLICY COMMITTEE

Trustee Footz presented a report for information from the Policy Committee meeting held on Jan. 10, 2024.

023/2024 | Trustee Footz moved: That the Board of Trustees receives for information the report from the Policy Committee meeting held on Jan. 10, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Board Chair Allen presented a report for information from the Advocacy Committee meeting held on Jan. 15, 2024.

024/2024 | Board Chair Allen moved: That the Board of Trustees receives for information the report from the Advocacy Committee meeting held on Jan. 15, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Reports for Information

SCHOOL STATUS REPORT 2022-23

Assistant Director Dragon presented to the Board for information the School Status Report for the 2022-23 school year.

025/2024 | Vice-Chair Miller moved: That the Board of Trustees receives for information the School Status Report for the 2022-23 school year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

LEVERAGING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Associate Superintendent Marshall presented to the Board for information the Leveraging Student Achievement Report.

The Board greatly appreciated the collaborative approach in establishing the use of the funds.

026/2024 | Trustee Boymook moved: That the Board of Trustees receives for information a report on Leveraging Student Achievement funds and the plan to utilize the funds for the second semester of the 2023-24 school year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee Notices of Motion and Requests for Information

No notices of motion were presented.

Trustee Boymook requested EIPS administration prepare the following reports:

- A Board report detailing the transition plan for when the senior high French Immersion program moves to Salisbury Composite High and the senior high attendance boundary changes in Sherwood Park to balance enrolment—taking effect when the new Sherwood Park replacement school opens.
- A Board Caucus report detailing EIPS’ noon-hour supervision costs and the related fees schools collect for the service.
- A Board Caucus report detailing the 2024-25 registration results, including kindergarten registration, new student registration, returning student registration, attendance numbers for the related program information sessions, and online analytics related to promoting and supporting the 2024-25 registration process.

Trustee Footz expressed and acknowledged appreciation to Board Chair Allen and Executive Assistant Langford-Pickering for the wonderful job in organizing a farewell for Jim Seutter. Jim was pleased to have family in attendance, a wonderful event and meal.

IN-CAMERA SESSION

027/2024 | Trustee Boymook moved: That the Board meet in camera (3:45 p.m.).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Board recessed at 3:45 p.m. and reconvened in camera at 3:55 p.m. with all trustees noted above in attendance.

028/2024 | Trustee Irwin moved: That the Board move out of in camera (4:47 p.m.).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Allen declared the meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Cathy Allen, Board Chair

Sandra Stoddard, Superintendent