

Committee of
School Councils

Meeting Agenda

In-Person and [Virtual Meeting](#)
 Central Services Office, boardroom
 683 Wye Rd., Sherwood Park, AB
 Wednesday, April 3, 2024
 6:30 p.m.

Time	Agenda	Presented by
6:30 p.m.	Opening Remarks and Welcome	Kendra Roemer, COSC Chair
6:31 p.m.	Land Acknowledgement	Dallas Kirtz, COSC Vice-Chair
6:32 p.m.	Introductions	All
6:35 p.m.	Motions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. additions to the agenda b. agenda approval c. approval of minutes: March 6, 2024 	Kendra Roemer, COSC Chair
6:40 p.m.	New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Potential implications of policies to preserve choice 	Sandra Stoddard, EIPS Superintendent
7 p.m.	Board Report	Cathy Allen, EIPS Board Chair
7:10 p.m.	ATA Report	Deneen Zielke, President, ATA Local No. 28
7:20 p.m.	For Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Caregiver Series: April b. ASCA update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Credential voting and proxy voting 	Dallas Kirtz, COSC Vice-Chair Kendra Roemer, COSC Chair
7:40 p.m.	COSC Sharing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. ASCA AGM Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Proposed advocacy resolutions b. Educational composting initiatives at your school 	All

Electronic Handouts

COSC Minutes
 Board Highlights
EIPS Three-Year Capital Plan: 2025-28
 Caregiver Series

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, May 1, 2024



UNRATIFIED

MEETING MINUTES

Elk Island Public Schools, in-person and virtual meeting

March 6, 2024 | 6:30 p.m.

Committee of
School Councils

In Attendance

SCHOOL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

Chair: Kendra Roemer, Mills Haven Elementary

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Aileen Bozic, SCA Secondary
Amanda Shand, École Parc Élémentaire
Amy Prenc-Perry, Clover Bar Junior High
Anne Wasylyshen, Ardrossan Junior Senior High
Brian Vick, Brentwood Elementary
Justina Gibson, Fort Saskatchewan Christian
Kilby Ritchie, Wes Hosford Elementary
Kim Scott, Salisbury Composite High
Krista Scott, Bev Facey Community High
Marco Candia, Woodbridge Farms Elementary
Melissa Manolescu, École Campbelltown
Sarah Witholt, Heritage Hills Elementary
Tawnia McQueen, Wes Hosford Elementary (Interim Secretary)
Teresa Bladon, Lakeland Ridge

ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Cathy Allen, Chair
Susan Miller, Vice-Chair
Ralph Sorochan, Trustee
Randy Footz, Trustee

ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ryan Marshall, Associate Superintendent
Deneen Zielke, ATA Local No. 28 President
Emma Small, Communication Services

GUEST SPEAKERS

Brandi Rai, President of the ASCA Board of Directors
Wendy Keiver, ASCA Executive Director

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

AGENDA

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

MOTION | The agenda be adopted, as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COSC Chair Roemer called for approval of the Feb. 7, 2024 meeting minutes.

MOTION | The minutes be approved, as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

Board Report

Board Chair Cathy Allen presented the Board Report.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- On March 3-5, the EIPS Board and senior administration attended the Alberta Rural Education Symposium. Everyone came away with an increased understanding of the complexities and benefits of rural education.
 - They had the opportunity to listen to the following keynote speakers:
 - Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaidis
 - Cadmus Delorme – former Chief of the Cowessess First Nation
 - Jordan Tinney – former superintendent of a school in Surrey, British Columbia, and a strong advocate for rural education
 - Ken Coates – an expert in rural community sustainability and economic development
 - They had lively discussion at their EIPS table around the following topics:
 - Strengths of rural school boards
 - Building advocacy for rural sustainability
 - Challenges for school boards—the increased mandate to provide additional supports for students and the communities
 - Opportunities for rural education advocacy
 - They heard from a panel of six high school students from three rural Alberta school divisions. They spoke of their deep appreciation for rural education, the challenges they’ve experienced, their preparation for post-secondary education, the opportunities for extracurricular school activities, and the strong relationships and sense of belonging they have in their schools.
 - Many rural communities in Alberta are looking at multiple strategies to increase economic development and attract new residents and entrepreneurs into their communities. They’re thinking creatively about programs to recruit and retain teachers and to provide career opportunities for the young adults who leave their rural communities to obtain post-secondary education.
- Board Chair Allen also shared a Board Mythbuster fact shared in February:
 - Section 58.1 of the current *Education Act* requires school boards to notify parents and caregivers when courses, programs of study, instructional materials, instruction or exercises contain subject matter that deals primarily with human sexuality. Included in this notice is always an opportunity for parents and caregivers to opt out of the instruction without any academic penalty to the student. It’s a practice that’s been in place since 2014, and one that EIPS has consistently followed.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: What are the challenges rural schools face?

Answer: Transportation—they have a hard time keeping bus drivers. Students go to school on alternate days. School and municipalities need to work together to bring prosperity to improve the draw to rural areas and advocate to the provincial government.

Question: The Board Highlights indicated a joint meeting with Elk Island Catholic Schools. This is interesting as parents want to know why more isn’t collaborated.

Answer: We do like to collaborate so that common advocacy pieces get a bigger emphasis when bringing it to the municipal government. It gives us a greater voice but not as much with the provincial government.

Comment: Considering 80 percent urban and 20 per cent rural—rural schools face different challenges than urban, and if COSC members have ideas on how they can be supported, COSC Chair Roemer suggested posting them on the [COSC Facebook page](#).

ATA Report

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

HIGHLIGHTS:

- On February 8 and 9, EIPS teachers attended their annual teachers' convention and the response from attendees was very positive. Many enjoyed the keynote speakers, sessions on artificial intelligence and others specific to program areas. The Local was pleased to host EIPS trustees and senior administration that were able to attend the Partners in Education Luncheon. The speaker, Cadmus Delorme was very engaging and his message regarding reconciliation and the path forward was inspiring. Zielke especially connected to his comment that no one living in Canada now had anything to do with the treaties, residential schools and other repressive programs, but we have inherited the outcome. We can work together to understand and move forward.
- On February 9 and 10, Zielke attended a meeting of ATA Local Presidents and learned more about ATA President Jason Schilling's meetings with the Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaidis regarding the social studies curriculum, teacher retention, sustainable funding, the effect on students after recent announcements on parental rights and transgender students, and more.
- On March 4 and 5, Zielke attended the ATA's Political Engagement Seminar.
 - Attendees heard from Nathan Cooper, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, regarding legislation and the passing of bills.
 - Attendees also heard from a panel of public-school trustees regarding their experiences and concerns with Take Back Alberta targeting school board elections to control superintendents and push their parental rights and regressive LGBTQ2S+ agenda. As well, it was noted that the provincial government is looking to legislate political party affiliations in municipal politics. One trustee noted that they work for the children—all children—and this should not change regardless of your personal political affiliation.
 - As well, attendees heard from the ATA economist regarding the budget. Several key points:
 - In advance of the provincial budget the ATA released their [pulse survey results](#) regarding class size and supports, in addition to Statistics Canada information, finding that education in Alberta is the lowest funded in the country. Albertan education needs \$1.2 billion to reach the Canadian average and \$600 million to reach mid-level.
 - \$394 million announced to operational spending; however, will not notice it as enrolment growth this year was up 3.6 per cent or 28,000 students.
 - \$246 million increase of 3.6 per cent to instructional funding, but assumption is there will be an offset of decreases in grants to fund it, which the public won't know until the provincial government's funding manual is released.
 - 4.4 percent overall increase, with a 15 per cent increase to private schools.
 - \$72 million increase to transportation of 15.2 per cent. Zielke believes this is for private schools.
 - \$20 million increase of 2.7 per cent to operations and maintenance.
 - \$34 million increase of 2.3 per cent to support special needs—improvements to program unit funding could be connected.
 - 43 new school and school modernizations—12 get construction funding, 15 get design funding, 10 get planning funding, and unclear about the other 10.
 - Real spending per pupil is down 13 per cent over 6 years.
 - Provincial government borrowed money to balance the budget.
 - Tax cut will likely come just prior to next election.
 - Finally, attendees heard from Graham Thomson, a political journalist. Several key observations he shared include:
 - Premier Danielle Smith is not a social conservative—she pivots to stay in power.

- David Parker of Take Back Alberta worked for Stephen Harper and Jason Kenny. He's a very successful organizer and took out Kenny at the leadership review by mobilizing members, since Premier Smith brought forward legislation that he fought for regarding parental rights. He's now getting his members to support her Alberta Pension Plan.
 - New Democratic Party leadership—Kathleen Ganley (Calgary), Rakhi Pancholi (Edmonton), Sarah Hoffman (Edmonton) and Jodi Calahoo Stonehouse (Edmonton)—have announced candidacy. Naheed Nenshi (Calgary) was just announced—the membership deadline is April 22. The vote is June 3-22.
- Zielke stated that the political climate is getting very interesting and a lot of what's happening is not good for students or public education. If a good portion of the population remains apathetic, she fears we won't be able to correct damaging decisions being made.

For Information

CAREGIVER SERIES UPDATE – Kendra Roemer, COSC Chair

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

CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH – ALBERTA – Kendra Roemer, COSC Chair

- COSC Chair Roemer discussed [Canadian Parents for French – Alberta](#)—a non-profit organization that furthers bilingualism by promoting opportunities to learn and use French for all those who call Canada home. On the website, you can find events, programs and resources geared to students, families and educators.
- She asked COSC members to share their experiences with these resources on the [COSC Facebook page](#).

EIPS ANNUAL FEEDBACK SURVEY: FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS – Ryan Marshall, EIPS Associate Superintendent

- EIPS Associate Superintendent Marshall asked for COSC members help with promoting the EIPS Annual Feedback Survey: For Parents and Caregivers. He encouraged members to talk about the survey at school council meetings, parent-teacher interviews and other relevant events.
- The first part of the survey is about your child and their school, and you can fill it out for each student you have. The second part is for the whole Division and only needs to be completed once. Results from this survey drive decisions that are made.

Question: Have you done an FAQ with five or so points that we could share with our school communities?

Answer: No, but EIPS could look at doing that.

Comment: Thank you for hyperlinks to topics we can talk about and initiate in our schools to impact growth and equip us. It's a really good move.

Question: Which survey was the one that looked at “Don't know” responses as a negative? Was it this survey?

Answer: No, that is the [Alberta Education Assurance survey](#) so when we look at those results, we must be mindful of that. The numbers could be broken out.

New Business

WHAT ASCA DOES FOR SCHOOL COUNCILS AND RESOLUTIONS FOR THE AGM – Wendy Keiver, ASCA Executive Director, and Brandi Rai, President of ASCA Board of Directors

- Keiver thanked COSC members for having Rai and herself at the meeting.
- Keiver shared how the [Alberta School Council's Association](#) (ASCA) supports school councils in the province.

- She toured the [ASCA website](#) focusing on many topics that can be found in the search menu.
 - **Workshops**
 - Includes important learning opportunities and workshop schedule.
 - During the COVID-19 pandemic, the workshop model was changed to virtual and when provincial government funding was cut, ASCA went to scheduled times for workshops.
 - School councils can request an in-person workshop but would also have to pay transportation costs for the instructor.
 - Workshops are eligible for \$500 coverage from the Alberta School Council Engagement Grant.
 - **Support Services**
 - ASCA can help with specific situations, such as updating operating procedures. These services can be purchased individually.
 - **Self Directed Learning Modules**
 - Modules are offered with support or independent learning.
 - The modules focus on creating school council plans.
 - **Division Wide**
 - Resources and training can be provided to multiple school councils in a school division at once.
 - **Newsletters (ENews)**
 - Can share ASCA newsletters with your school community.
 - Emails are sent once a month except September and around the ASCA Conference. More are sent during these times.
 - **Action Item:** The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is coming up. Anytime you have a new school council chair, ensure you notify ASCA.
 - **ASCA Conference**
 - The Conference takes place April 26 and 27. It's the 95th year so it'll be festive.
 - The keynote speaker is Barbara Coloroso who will discuss raising ethical kids.
 - Justice David Hancock, former member of the legislative assembly of Alberta and former interim premier, is speaking on the value of parents engaged in students' lives.
 - The Education Minister will be taking questions. Attendees can submit questions to ASCA ahead of time. The Education Minister will choose which questions to answer.
 - Fundraising sessions will be offered on the Friday.
 - **Fundraising Support**
 - ASCA also offers support to fundraising societies for a fee.
- Rai discussed the ASCA AGM and the association's advocacy work.
 - The AGM will take place on April 28. The meeting helps school council members understand their role, learn how to advise locally and encourages participation.
 - Parents and caregivers have a valuable perspective and insight on their children.
 - The advocacy initiatives are selected during the AGM. AGM documents can be viewed on the [ASCA website](#). Be sure to register for the meeting to vote on the advocacy resolutions.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Question: Workshops are not enticing to purchase for our school council. Would you consider offering more workshops of interest, such as one regarding artificial intelligence?

Answer: We're not experts so we wouldn't be offering those topics, but we could look at third parties to facilitate.

Question: Are the Self Directed Modules priced per school council?

Answer: Yes, the price is for one school council.

Question: What is the time to complete the Self Directed Modules?

Answer: It's to be completed over a six-week period, which allows two weeks to get the tasks completed for each module.

Question: How are you choosing questions for the Education Minister?

Answer: His office will be selecting the questions to answer from those submitted.

Question: Do we have to attend AGM?

Answer: On April 28, you can attend in person or virtually. The AGM Package explains how to participate. Typically, ASCA has a deadline for advocacy resolutions in January; however, emergent resolutions must meet the criteria and can be submitted as late as the morning of the AGM. Voting and nominations for the ASCA Board of Directors will take place at the meeting. Brandi Rai has been the President for eight years, so her time is complete.

Question: Will Brandi Rai be staying on as an advisor?

Answer: Brandi has offered to stay on for a year.

Question: How do you settle first time nerves at the AGM?

Answer: You are okay to do it on your own. Extroverts will get scooped up. The ASCA Board of Directors is there to help and support you, and Jacquie Surgenor, an EIPS parent and experienced ASCA Conference and AGM attendee, has volunteered to support new school council representatives.

Question: Has there been talk of the \$500 Alberta School Council Engagement Grant being axed?

Answer: It's staying this year as far as we know and then we will have to wait for Alberta Education's Funding Manual for the 2024-25 school year.

COSC Sharing

OPEN FLOOR FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS – All COSC members

- Kudos that the Education Minister will be at this year's ASCA Conference.
- Dislike that the Education Minister isn't taking questions from the floor. Funding for ASCA is gone—this would allow parent engagement in education and an opportunity to notice culture of parent engagement.
 - Parents don't have the opportunity to ask pointed questions and see the authentic reaction.
- School councils have a vote to take back to the table and have robust conversations about the advocacy resolutions.
 - It's a good thing to disagree.
- COSC member Krista Scott is open to helping facilitate questions and how to approach the AGM.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Comment: ASCA is having a golf tournament—individuals are invited to attend in support of ASCA.

Suggestion: If your school council doesn't think an advocacy resolution is beneficial to your school, ask your council what could change that would make it a positive for your school. Some rural communities have a 90-minute bus commute—what'd make it beneficial for everyone?

Comment: School councils can use the School Council Engagement Grant for ASCA workshops or support services, such as redoing school council operating procedures.

Question: When will the descriptions of breakout sessions for the ASCA Conference be released?

Answer: Depends on the presenters but hoping Easter or week of April 1.

Question: How many people are the EIPS Board sponsoring for the 2024 ASCA Conference and AGM?

Answer: Have eight out of nine spots filled currently. Someone is emailing about the last spot right now. As it's up to a maximum of \$5,000 and the cost of attendance is \$500 plus GST, the Board is sponsoring nine school council representatives this year.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:20 P.M.

Next COSC Meeting

DATE: May 1, 2024

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

LOCATION: EIPS Central Services building, boardroom.

MARCH 21, 2024

Chair's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Board Chair Cathy Allen highlighted recent trustee events:

- On February 19, Chair Allen met with Nate Glubish, the Minister of Technology and Innovation and member of the legislative assembly of Alberta for Strathcona-Sherwood Park. Overall, it was a productive meeting focused on shared advocacy priorities.
- On February 21, Chair Allen met with James Johnson, the Education Minister's Chief of Staff. Johnson is new to the role, so the meeting served as an introduction.
- On February 21, Chair Allen and Trustee Randy Footz attended the Vegreville and District Chamber of Commerce annual general meeting. The meeting included details about the municipality, economic development opportunities and current focus area.
- On February 29, Chair Allen and Superintendent Sandra Stoddard took part in a budget debrief with Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaidis. The meeting included school board chairs and superintendents from across the province and a high-level overview of the education budget for the 2024-25 school year.
- On March 1, Chair Allen represented the Board at the EIPS Classified Professional Learning Day event. The keynote speaker was Lisa Vlooswyk, a Calgary-based motivational speaker, teacher and eight-time Canadian long-drive national champion, who spoke about goal setting and strategies to achieve them.
- On March 3-5, trustees attended the 2024 Alberta Rural Education Symposium. The program and keynote speakers were excellent, and all focused on topics relevant to rural school boards.
- On March 7, trustees attended a joint meeting with Strathcona County Council—an ongoing initiative to share information about priorities, strategic plans, infrastructure needs and challenges.
- On March 12, trustees attended an engagement session hosted by Alberta Education. The focus: The scope and sequence for the draft elementary social studies curriculum.
- On March 15, Chair Allen and Vice-Chair Susan Miller met with BGC Strathcona County. The focus: facility development, programming and partnership opportunities.
- On March 18, Chair Allen attended the Alberta School Boards Association's second working session with representatives from Alberta Education.
- On March 18, Chair Allen and Trustee Trina Boymook attended the 2024 High School Culinary Challenge Awards. Chair Allen congratulated the culinary team from Bev Facey Community High for winning silver—just half a point from winning gold. She also congratulated participating teams from Salisbury Composite High and Vegreville Composite High for a job well done.
- On March 19, trustees attended a luncheon hosted by EIPS' Employee Relations Group. At the luncheon, the members of the Employee Relations Group shared successes, discussed challenges and asked questions.
- On March 20, Trustee Boymook attended the Sherwood Park and District Chamber of Commerce luncheon, which featured a presentation on the Edmonton International Airport about new initiatives, cargo availability and how these impact regional economic development.

Superintendent's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Superintendent Stoddard highlighted several recent events:

- On March 7-10, she attended the 2024 Innovative Schools Summit, one of North America's top K-12 education conferences that brings together education experts to share best practices and research-based methodologies. The professional learning sessions were excellent, reinforcing the great work already taking place divisionwide, particularly the high-leverage strategies and capacity-building efforts.

- She, or a designate for her, also joined trustees at:
 - the meeting with James Johnson, the Education Minister’s Chief of Staff;
 - Alberta Educations’ Budget Stakeholders Session;
 - the 2024 Alberta Rural Education Symposium;
 - the joint meeting with Strathcona County Council;
 - Alberta Education’s draft social studies curriculum engagement session;
 - the meeting with BGC Strathcona County;
 - the High School Culinary Challenge Awards—congratulations to the students and teachers who participated, it demonstrates the great teaching and learning happening within the Division; and
 - the Employee Relations Group luncheon.

CLASSIFIED PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY

The EIPS Classified Professional Learning Day took place at Bev Facey Community High on March 1. Throughout the day, classified staff collectively participated in various centrally co-ordinated professional learning sessions. The event also coincided with a professional learning day for certificated staff, who participated in learning sessions throughout the day. Once again, the post-event feedback was overwhelmingly positive. As such, the annual Classified Professional Learning Day remains a high priority for the Division.

SUBSTITUTE APPRECIATION WEEK

March 11-15 was Substitute Appreciation Week. On behalf of the entire Division, Superintendent Stoddard thanked all substitute employees working within EIPS. Their everyday work is essential to operations and student learning—and much appreciated.

Association and Employee Relation Reports

ASBA ZONE 2/3 MEETING

Trustee Jacqueline Shotbolt presented highlights from the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 meeting held on February 23. Highlights include:

- Regular zone business—including the President’s report, CEO’s report, committee reports, ministry updates and membership news, such as upcoming award nominations, school board evaluations, bookkeeping and proposed position statement deadlines.
- A discussion on supports for rural divisions and schools.
- Nathan Neudorf, the Minister of Affordability and Utilities, spoke to members about insurance rates, electricity prices, the carbon tax and related advocacy efforts with the federal government.
- The Alberta Education report included information about the draft elementary social studies curriculum, an upcoming engagement session on parental rights, new mental health initiatives and education supports for children with complex needs. Zone 2/3 members also asked about stakeholder engagement for the draft elementary social studies curriculum.
- Upcoming Zone action items—the Budget Sustainability Engagement Survey, municipal elections political affiliation feedback, bookkeeping and proposed position statements.

ATA LOCAL REPORT

The Board received for information the Alberta Teachers’ Association (ATA) Local No. 28 report from Deneen Zielke, the Local’s President. The report focused on the ATA’s 2024 Political Engagement Seminar, which took place March 1-2. The highlights:

- Nathan Cooper, the Speaker of Alberta’s Legislative Assembly, spoke about legislation and bill passing.
- Various school board trustees discussed recent experiences and current concerns, including the Take Back Alberta movement targeting school board elections and proposed provincial changes to municipal elections—namely legislating political-party affiliations.
- A budget discussion, briefly:
 - According to the ATA’s pulse survey and Statistics Canada data, education funding in Alberta is the lowest in the country.
 - In terms of overall education funding, public schools will receive a 4.4 per cent increase, while charter schools will receive a 15 per cent increase.
 - Over the last six years, the province’s per-pupil spending dropped by 13 per cent.
 - The province borrowed money to balance its budget.
 - The government will likely introduce tax cuts before the next election.
- Keynote speaker Graham Thomson, a journalist and political columnist, spoke about Premier Danielle Smith and her connection with David Parker, the head of the Take Back Alberta movement. The ATA’s takeaway: During the next election, it’s important Albertans aren’t apathetic to ensure the best outcomes for students and public education.

New Business

THREE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN: 2025-28

The Board approved EIPS’ [2025-28 Three-Year Capital Plan](#). Annually, the Board reviews and updates the plan to prioritize its key capital projects. The Division’s top five 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 new school for the Cambrian Crossing neighbourhood (grades K-9).

Priority 4: A modernization and expansion of Vegreville Composite High to accommodate K-12 programming.

Priority 5: A modernization of Win Ferguson Elementary (grades K-6)

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

ASBA EDWIN PARR TEACHER AWARD: 2024

The Board approved EIPS’ nomination for this year’s Edwin Parr Teacher Award nominee, Alexis Kotronis. Annually, the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 hosts the award to honour and recognize first-year teachers and their pedagogical excellence. Kotronis, a first-year teacher at Davidson Creek Elementary, was selected for her outstanding commitment to education, proactive approach and innate ability to create inclusive learning environments for students.

REALLOCATION OF SURPLUS FUNDS

The Board approved changes to the allocation of funds for the 2023-24 school year. The reallocation allows the Division to use any net surplus funds and ensures its operating reserves remain below the provincially mandated 3.2 per cent reserve limit. In total, the Division will use the surplus of \$1.1 million for Windows computer evergreening (\$694,058), for Chromebook evergreening (\$325,000) and to construct a new entrance for Next Step Sherwood Park (\$80,000).

APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICERS

The Board appointed Karen Baranec as the Returning Officer and Laura McNabb as the Substitute Returning Officer for the EIPS trustee election in 2025.

Committee Report

STUDENT EXPULSION COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from four Student Expulsion Committee meetings held on February 21, February 23, March 14 and March 20. The committee reviewed all relevant information and upheld the recommendations put forward by each school's administration.

Reports for Information

THREE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT PLAN: ATTENDANCE AREA

The Board received for information an update on one of the last remaining projects listed in the Division's [Three-Year Engagement Plan](#)—the junior high attendance area cleanup. As background, throughout spring and fall 2022, the [Division consulted stakeholders](#) to explore possible changes to the junior high attendance boundaries in Sherwood Park—moving the feeder school for all regular program students at Brentwood Elementary to F.R. Haythorne Junior High for grades 7 to 9; and moving the feeder school for students living within Lakeland Village, Summerwood and Summerwood North to Clover Bar Junior High for grades 7 to 9.

After analyzing the feedback from the attendance area cleanup, background information, trends, facts and figures, enrolment projections, attendance boundaries and available infrastructure, EIPS administration chose to keep the junior high attendance boundaries in Sherwood Park unchanged. The reason is four-fold:

1. In general, feedback from the attendance area cleanup engagement didn't strongly support either boundary change.
2. After the engagement effort, the province approved construction for the new Sherwood Park replacement school, grades K-9, which impacts student capacity at the replacement school.
3. The Board approved an attendance boundary change for the Cambrian Crossing area structure plan, which impacts the junior high Attendance Area Cleanup engagement by designating students living there to Clover Bar Junior High and F.R. Haythorne Junior High.
4. The Board approved a solution for its French Immersion program and to balance senior high enrolment, which impacts student capacity at Sherwood Heights Junior High and Ardrossan Junior Senior High.

Keeping the attendance areas unchanged honours the feedback and ensures EIPS junior high schools have sufficient student capacity in the long term. As such, for the upcoming 2024-25 school year, the junior high attendance area for students living within Brentwood Elementary's attendance area and the areas of Lakeland Village, Summerwood and Summerwood North will stay status quo.

FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS: 2023-24

The Board received for information a report regarding the Division's financial projections for the 2023-24 school year. Overall, there are no areas of concern, deficits or excessive surpluses. Briefly, EIPS projects its accumulated surplus to rise by \$800,000 from what was reported in the Fall Budget Report. The increase is primarily the result of projected surpluses for utility, staffing and snow removal budgets; increased interest income; and unbudgeted software rebates—which are offset by reallocating the surplus funds. Overall, the Division's projected reserves remain well within the provincially mandated limit (see pg. 147, "[Financial Projections 2023-24](#)").



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2023 TO FEBRUARY 2024

The Board received for information the EIPS Unaudited Financial Report for the six-month period ending Feb. 29, 2024. Overall, expenses exceeded revenue, resulting in an operating deficit of \$18,872. Revenue for the six months is \$101.21 million, representing 51 per cent of the year-to-date budget—an expected percentage for the fiscal year midpoint. Meanwhile, total expenses are \$101.23 million, also representing 51 per cent of the year-to-date budget. (see pg. 160, "[Unaudited Financial Report for Sept. 1, 2023 to Feb. 28, 2024](#)").

Board Members

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cathy Allen, *Board Chair* | P 780 417 8109

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)



2025-28 Three-Year Capital Plan

Public Board

March 21, 2024

1.0 Funded Capital Project Update

Sherwood Park Replacement School

Project Type: New School: Replacement

Project Scope: Replace Sherwood Heights Junior High and École Campbelltown into one school adjacent to the existing Sherwood Heights Junior High building. Once complete, the request also includes funds to demolish the two former school buildings.

Project Capacity: Core student capacity of 1,015

Project Grades: Kindergarten to Grade 9

On March 4, 2022, the Alberta Government announced design funding for the Sherwood Park replacement school. The funding enabled Alberta Infrastructure, as the project manager, and their consultants to work with EIPS and Alberta Education to design the new school. The goal of the design process was to determine how best to replace Sherwood Heights Junior High and École Campbelltown with one new facility located adjacent to the existing Sherwood Heights Junior High building. Then on March 1, 2023, Alberta Education announced construction funding for the Sherwood Park replacement school. Since the announcement, the project team has worked to complete detailed design. EIPS expects to begin construction in mid-2024. The project will be completed in two phases. Phase 1 consists of constructing the replacement school, bus parking and drop-off parking. Phase 2 consists of demolishing the Sherwood Heights Junior High building and adding a staff parking lot. At this point, it is too early to tell when the replacement school will be ready to welcome students. However, EIPS expects the replacement school to be completed in the 2026-27 school year—at the end of Phase 1. And it expects Phase 2 to be finished by fall 2027, depending on the contractor's construction schedule.

The replacement school has been designed to be a three-storey building. Division 1 classrooms, the learning commons and career and technology foundations (CTF) spaces for foods and construction will be on the main floor. There will also be science classrooms and junior high ancillary spaces. In addition, the school will have two gymnasiums, one large and one small. The design of each will serve to support school athletics, sports teams and after-hours community rentals. The second and third floors are connected by a feature staircase that will serve as a gathering space for students. In addition, most of the Division 2 and Division 3 classrooms are located on the second and third floors.

Looking ahead, EIPS and Strathcona County have started conversations to transfer École Campbelltown to the County upon the completion of the replacement school. Strathcona County has expressed an interest in the facility. However, at this time no decision has been made by EIPS or Strathcona County.

For additional details about the Sherwood Park replacement school visit the school's information page at eips.ca.

2.0 Aggregated Priority List

Priority	School(s)	Sector	Year 1	Capacity	Cost (Millions)
1	Rudolph Hennig Junior High, Fort Saskatchewan High	3	<i>New School:</i> Replace Rudolph Hennig Junior High and Fort Saskatchewan High into one new facility on the Southridge site to accommodate grades 7-12 programming—result of the 2018 Fort Saskatchewan value scoping session	1,400 [^]	\$84
2	James Mowat Elementary	3	<i>New School:</i> Replace James Mowat Elementary on the Westpark site to accommodate grades K-6 programming—result of the 2018 Fort Saskatchewan value scoping session	650	\$32.9
Priority	School(s)	Sector	Year 2	Capacity	Cost
3	Cambrian Crossing – Cambrian Neighbourhood	1	<i>New School:</i> Build a new Kindergarten to Grade 9 school in the Cambrian neighbourhood	950	\$46.2
4	A.L Horton Elementary, Vegreville Composite High	5	<i>Major Modernization:</i> Modernize and expand Vegreville Composite High to accommodate grades K-12 programming—result of the 2022 Vegreville value scoping session	765	\$58.8
5	Win Ferguson Elementary	3	<i>Major Modernization:</i> Modernize Win Ferguson Elementary to accommodate grades K-6 programming—result of the 2018 Fort Saskatchewan value scoping session	470	\$23.2
6	Salisbury Composite High	1	<i>Major Modernization:</i> Modernize Salisbury Composite High to accommodate grades 10-12—result of the 2020 Sherwood Park value scoping session	1,978	\$110.3
Priority	School(s)	Sector	Year 3	Capacity	Cost
7	Sector 4 value scoping session	4	<i>Engagement:</i> Conduct a Sector 4 value scoping session—planning funds only	TBD	n/a
8	Cambrian Crossing – Hearthstone Neighbourhood	1	<i>New School:</i> Build a new Kindergarten to Grade 9 school in Hearthstone neighbourhood	950	n/a

[^]opening capacity—expandable to 1,600.

3.0 Capital Priority

Elk Island Public Schools Capital Plan Priorities by Sector 1 and Sector 3

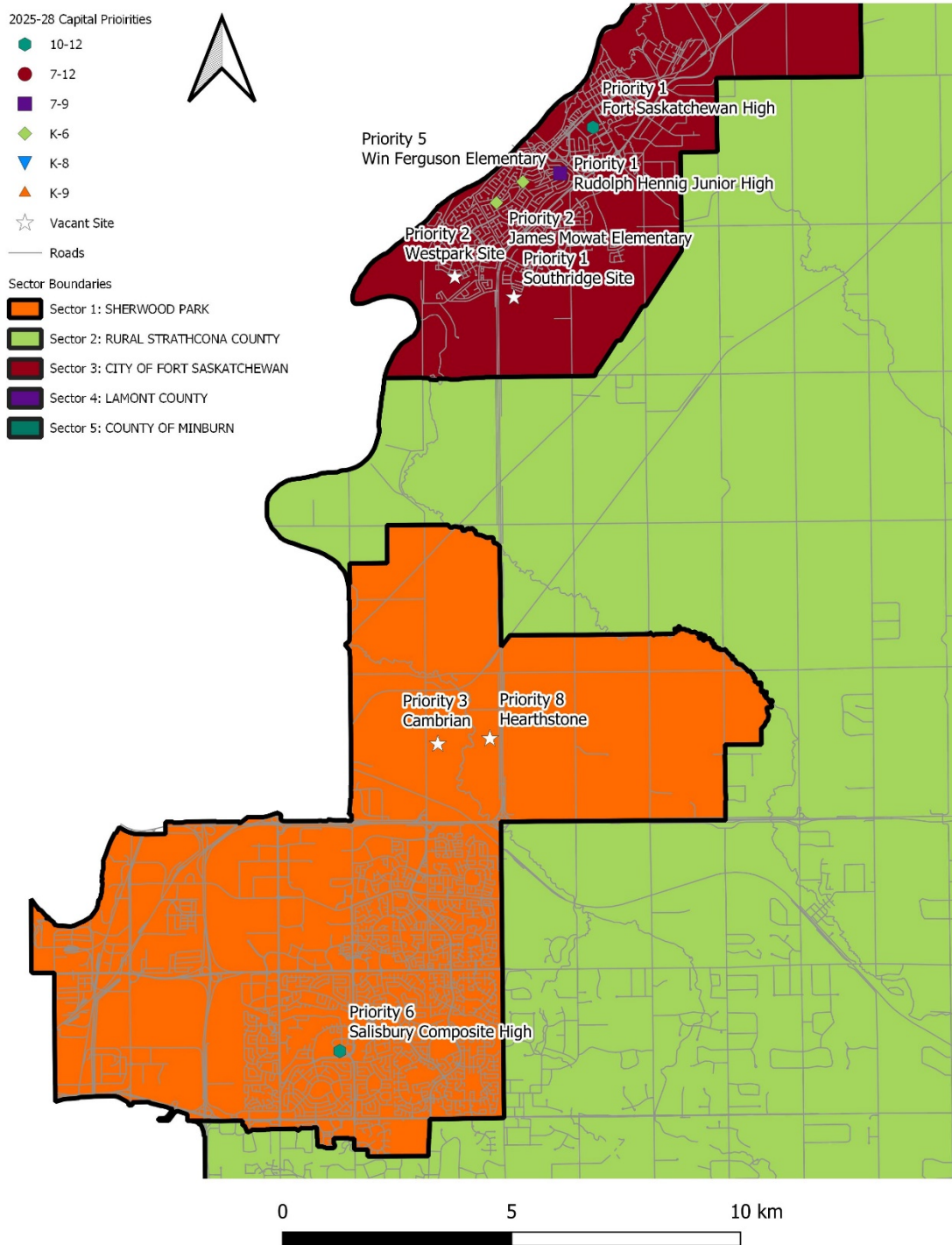


Figure 1: The location of capital priorities within Sector 1 and Sector 3.

Elk Island Public Schools Capital Plan Priorities by Sector 4 and Sector 5

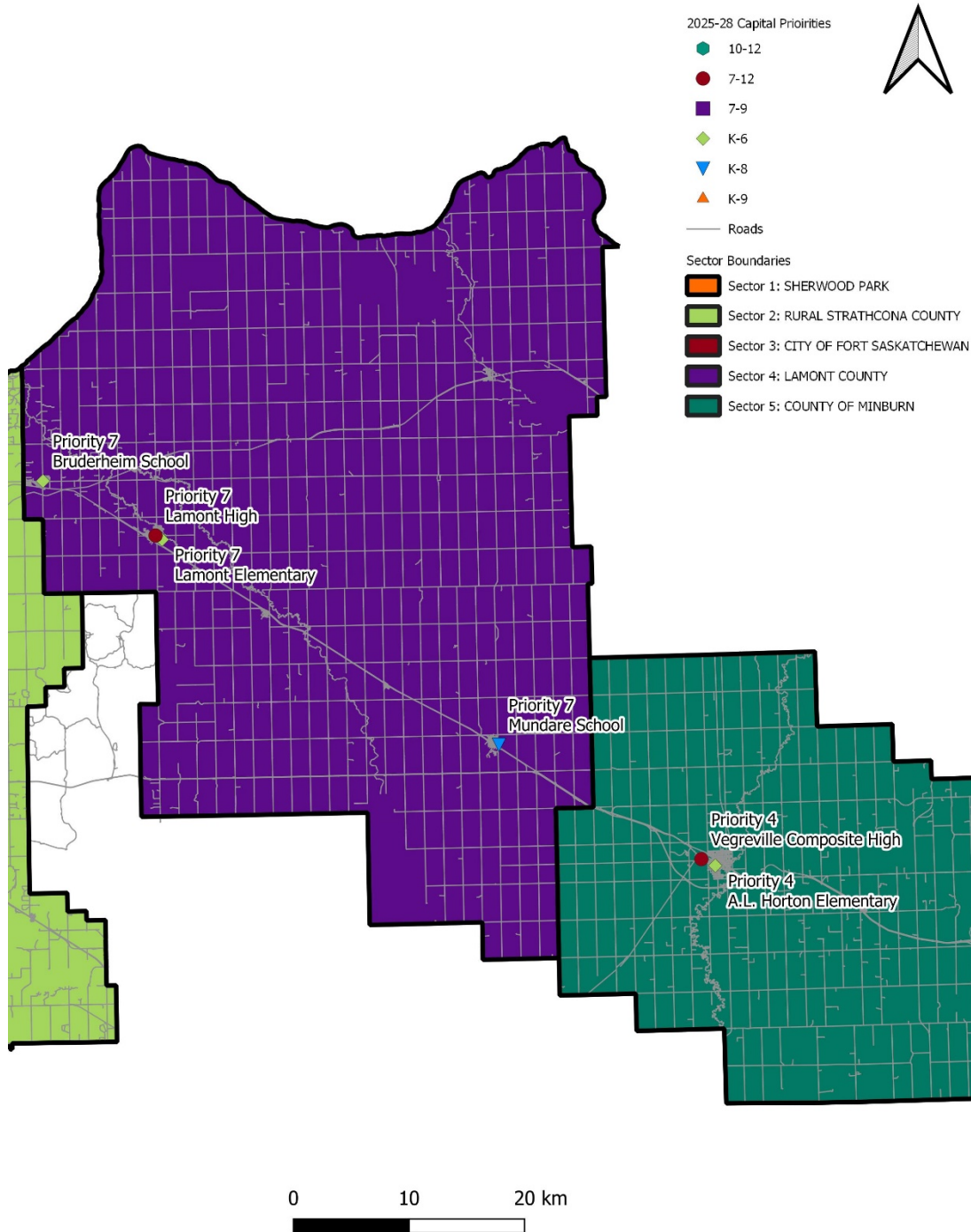


Figure 2: The location of capital priorities within Sector 4 and Sector 5.

4.0 Project Scope and Rationale

Priority 1: Rudolph Hennig Junior High and Fort Saskatchewan High Replacement

Project Type: New School: Replacement

Project Scope: Replace Rudolph Hennig Junior High and Fort Saskatchewan High with one school located on the Southridge school site. Once complete, the request also includes demolishing the two former school buildings.

Project Capacity: Core student capacity of 1,400—expandable to accommodate 1,600 students

Project Grades: Grades 7 to 12

Project Cost: Approximately \$83,950,000.

Priority 1 listed in the *2025-28 Three-Year Capital Plan* is a capital request to replace Rudolph Hennig Junior High and Fort Saskatchewan High with a single facility offering grades 7-12. The requested core student capacity is 1,400—expandable to accommodate 1,600 students. As well, the request includes locating the replacement school to the Southridge school site (see pg. 4, “Figure 1”).

In 2018, EIPS conducted a [Fort Saskatchewan value scoping session](#) for Sector 3. The session identified viable, long-term, community-derived options to meet the area’s growing enrolment pressures and facility-condition concerns. The requested two-to-one replacement school aligns with the outcomes developed at the Fort Saskatchewan value scoping session.

Considering both buildings’ conditions and enrolment growth, replacing the two schools on the Southridge site also allows EIPS to accommodate current and future growth while also addressing significant five-year maintenance costs. The five-year maintenance cost for Rudolph Hennig Junior High is \$3,657,985 and the five-year maintenance cost for Fort Saskatchewan High is \$2,265,595.

A review of the schools’ functionality indicates both schools have issues with sightlines and inadequate career and technology foundations (CFT) and career and technology studies (CTS) spaces. Both schools also have challenges meeting emerging program opportunities for core subject areas because of too few and undersized classrooms—many of which have limited or no natural light. In addition, there are ongoing challenges at both schools related to acoustics and circulation within the hallways and classrooms.

Since completing the value scoping session, The City of Fort Saskatchewan rezoned the Southridge school site as public-service lands, which now has effective transportation access and utility servicing. The city has approved the subdivision of the school site and is evaluating lot grading plans and landscaping plans. Conversations also continue with Southridge’s developer to ensure the school site can be turned over to the city and EIPS once provincial funding is approved. As well, Alberta Education awarded EIPS planning funds to undertake a series of technical studies in 2021. Since then, EIPS has completed an environmental site assessment, a geotechnical study and an access-management plan. No major issues were identified. EIPS has since shared all studies with Fort Saskatchewan and Alberta Education. Thanks to these efforts, the project can commence as soon as the province announces approval.

EIPS continues to explore partnership opportunities for the replacement school. In January 2023, the Division submitted a Collegiate School Status Initial Proof of Concept Application to Alberta Education. Ultimately, EIPS was unsuccessful in our application and the Government of Alberta is reviewing the Collegiate program. However, EIPS remains committed to the idea: To provide leading-edge space and programming to better assist students preparing for careers, employment, apprenticeships and post-secondary education.

So much so that in December 2023, EIPS organized and hosted a comprehensive event to gather valuable feedback from key stakeholders. This event brought together representatives from industry, post-secondary, and parent councils, fostering a collective environment for the exchange of ideas and perspectives. The insights gained from this event are integral to refining and enhancing the Heartland Collegiate model we aim to implement. Additional information sessions are planned for early 2024 to engage students and families. With the aim of gathering their perspectives to further EIPS’s vision of the Heartland Collegiate School.

The Division recognizes the importance of learning from established schools. As such, EIPS is actively engaged in exploring opportunities at similar schools in Texas. By partnering with both industry leaders and school authorities in the region, we seek to gain insights into the structure, programming, operations, and funding models of successful collegiate schools. This collaborative effort is a testament to EIPS’ commitment to delivering a cutting-edge educational experience for students in the Industrial Heartland, preparing Alberta’s workforce.

The Southridge location is ideal for the collegiate educational model. It is located in Fort Saskatchewan and within Alberta’s Industrial Heartland—home to more than 40 medium- to large-sized corporations specializing in a range of industries, including petrochemical, carbon capture, and supply and services (see pg. 13, “Appendix A”). Already, EIPS has established a positive relationship with several of these companies, including Agrium Inc., Dow Chemical Co., Shell Scotford and Sherritt International Corp. Given the already established relationships, EIPS feels if the collegiate model is approved, it can formalize partnerships immediately.

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Priority 2: James Mowat Elementary Replacement

Project Type: New School: Replacement

Project Scope: Replace James Mowat Elementary and locate the new school on the Westpark school site. Once complete, the request also includes demolishing the former school building.

Project Capacity: Core student capacity of 650

Project Grades: Kindergarten to Grade 6

Project Cost: Approximately \$32,920,000

Priority 2 listed in the *2025-28 Three-Year Capital Plan* is a capital request to replace James Mowat Elementary and relocate it to the Westpark school site (see pg. 4, “Figure 1”). The request also includes a student capacity of 650, which will allow the school to grow by 244 student spaces.

In October 2018, EIPS conducted a [Fort Saskatchewan value scoping session](#) for Sector 3. The session identified a James Mowat Elementary replacement school as part of the best-performing option to meet Sector 3’s growing enrolment pressures and facility-condition concerns. Currently, James Mowat Elementary is in a building more than 40 years old with a utilization rate at 99 per cent and a Facility Condition Index rating of “Fair”. The facility also has a five-year maintenance cost of \$2,265,595. Currently, The City of Fort Saskatchewan owns the Westpark school site, it also has municipal services and is zoned appropriately for a school facility.

As of the 2023-24 school year, James Mowat Elementary is operating at full capacity—despite adding another modular classroom in 2022-23. The modular unit is one of 10 classroom units at the school—two were constructed in 1976, six in 1981, one in 2012 and one in 2016. The older modular classrooms, built in 1976 and 1981, are safe for students. However, they are starting to require extensive upgrades and will need additional infrastructure investments within this *2025-28 Three-Year Capital Plan* period. EIPS continues to monitor the modular classrooms.

To alleviate the enrolment pressures at James Mowat Elementary a random selection process was implemented for any new students wanting to attend the school—starting in the 2023-24 school year. The new process will help the school manage the enrolment pressures it is currently facing. The Division is piloting the process for two years. If the process works well, James Mowat Elementary will continue using the random selection process for new students as long as the school has closed boundaries. All new students living within the James Mowat Elementary attendance area, who are not selected through the random selection process, are redirected to, and guaranteed a spot at, their alternate-designated school, Fort Saskatchewan Elementary.

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Priority 3: Cambrian New K-9 School

Project Type: New School

Project Scope: Build a new school in Cambrian to accommodate K-9 programming

Project Capacity: Core student capacity of 950

Project Grades: Kindergarten to Grade 9

Project Cost: Approximately \$46,150,000

Sherwood Park's new Cambrian Crossing residential area structure plan (ASP) welcomed its first residents in late 2023. By the time it is completed, anticipated in 2037, Strathcona County projects more than 12,000 people living in the area. Using residential areas with similar characteristics, density, dwelling type and the expected pace of development, EIPS anticipates 3,345 school-aged children to reside in the area—many of whom will register with the Division. The ASP is comprised of two neighbourhoods, Cambrian and Hearthstone. Rohit Group of Companies is the developer for Cambrian located west of Oldman Creek and Mattamy Homes is the developer of Hearthstone located east of Oldman Creek. Both neighbourhoods have a planned school site. Collectively the two sites can accommodate three school buildings. The site in Cambrian is planned for one school, while the site in Hearthstone is planned to accommodate two school buildings. In conversations with Rohit, Cambrian Boulevard, the road fronting the school site will be constructed in 2024—including underground services. Rohit has serviced 217 lots so far and plans to service an additional 240 lots in 2024 (see pg. 14, "Appendix B").

EIPS has already taken steps to accommodate the growth from Cambrian by designating students to schools with space for regular English and French Immersion. For French Immersion programming students are designated to Heritage Hills Elementary, Sherwood Heights Junior High and Salisbury Composite High. For regular programming, Cambrian is designated to Westboro Elementary, Clover Bar Junior High, and Salisbury Composite High.

The Division developed moderate enrolment projections for Cambrian that suggest Westboro Elementary, Clover Bar Junior High and Salisbury Composite High can accommodate the anticipated growth beyond 2034. However, as development is just beginning the absorption rate of new homes and the pace of development are difficult to determine. As such, EIPS will continue to monitor the development and adjust the enrolment projections to reflect the actual development pattern.

While space challenges in Sherwood Park are not anticipated for years. EIPS must consider the impact of other residential developments. Mainly, Bremner in Sherwood Park, Ardrossan East in Rural Strathcona County, and Southfort and Point-Aux-Pins in Fort Saskatchewan. To ensure all future residents have access to high-quality infrastructure the Division is beginning to advocate for new infrastructure in our new communities.

Priority 4: Vegreville Composite High Major Modernization and Addition

Project Type: Major modernization and addition

Project Scope: Complete a major modernization and addition of Vegreville Composite High to accommodate kindergarten to Grade 12 programming. Once complete, the request also includes demolishing A.L. Horton Elementary.

Project Capacity: Core student capacity of 765

Project Grades: Kindergarten to Grade 12

Project Cost: Approximately \$58,800,000

In September 2022, EIPS conducted a [Vegreville value scoping session](#) for Sector 5. The session identified modernizing and expanding Vegreville Composite High as the best-performing option to accommodate kindergarten to Grade 12 students living in the sector. Throughout the discussion, participants from all stakeholder groups expressed the importance of the CTS at Vegreville Composite High, which is why this option was rated as the best performing. The next best option was building a new replacement school that also combines A.L. Horton Elementary and Vegreville Composite High but would result in reduced CTS than in a major modernization.

Since completing the value scoping session, EIPS has worked closely with Alberta Infrastructure and Alberta Education to further explore the two highest-ranking solutions. Alberta Infrastructure also provided detailed cost estimates for both options. The current cost for the modernization solution is \$58,817,390. The anticipated replacement school cost is \$53,599,226. After further discussions with Alberta Education, reviewing the value scoping session and examining the community's rationale for a modernization, it makes the most sense to choose the modernization over the replacement school. So much so, Alberta Education recommends EIPS now pursue technical investigations to further develop the modernization project scope and budget.

Priority 5: Win Ferguson Elementary Major Modernization

Project Type: Major modernization

Project Scope: Complete a major modernization of Win Ferguson Elementary.

Project Capacity: Student capacity of 495—the same as the current building

Project Grades: Kindergarten to Grade 6

Project Cost: Approximately \$23,200,000

In October 2018, EIPS conducted a [Fort Saskatchewan value scoping session](#) for Sector 3. The session identified modernizing Win Ferguson Elementary as part of the best-performing option to meet the sector's growing enrolment pressures and facility-condition concerns. A major modernization allows the Division to address concerns related to the school's deferred maintenance and needed mechanical and electrical systems upgrades. It also allows EIPS to address current and future community needs by improving access to high-quality learning environments.

In terms of the current school building, it is more than 47 years old, has a 79 per cent utilization rate, a Facility Condition Index rating of "Fair," and a five-year maintenance cost of \$2,877,197. Additionally, the school includes 12 modular classroom units. Four were constructed in 1978, and four in 1979. So, the modernization project cost also accounts for replacing these eight modular classrooms. The remaining four units were built after 2013 and are in good condition.

Priority 6: Salisbury Composite High Modernization

Project Type: Major modernization

Project Scope: Complete a major modernization of Salisbury Composite High.

Project Capacity: Core student capacity of 1,978—the same as the current building

Project Grades: Grades 10 to 12

Project Cost: Approximately \$110,250,000

In 2020, the Board raised concerns about the underutilized space at Salisbury Composite High. It was also raised during a [Sherwood Park value scoping session](#) for Sector 1 in fall 2020. Since then, EIPS has taken significant steps to improve the building's utilization rate through relocating programs and leasing surplus space. For example, in 2021, EIPS relocated its Next Step Sherwood Park outreach program to the Salisbury Composite High building. Through these efforts, the school's net student capacity has decreased to 1,805 from 1,978. The Division is also working on its Three-Year Strathcona County Engagement for French Immersion and senior high. As part of this engagement, EIPS has adjusted the senior high attendance boundary for Salisbury Composite High and Bev Facey Community High effective when the Sherwood Park replacement school opens. The purpose: to balance the attendance areas of Sherwood Parks two high schools and improve the senior high French Immersion retention.

Given the school was built in 1968 and had major additions added in 1973 and 1979, it does require significant maintenance and upgrades, hence the request for a major modernization. There are several mechanical and electrical upgrades needed, instructional renovations and the school's five-year maintenance cost is \$11,984,529. Completing a major modernization of Salisbury Composite High aligns with the outcomes of the Sherwood Park value scoping session, addresses the deferred maintenance issues and optimizes student learning spaces. Another advantage: A major modernization will enhance the CTS programming within the Division by building further opportunities for innovation and personalized pathways.

Priority 7: Sector 4 Value Scoping Session

Project Type: Solution

Project Scope: Conduct a value scoping session—dependent on funding approval.

In May 2023, The Board of Trustees closed Andrew School. The decision was made after a year-long engagement process with the community. Now, within the County of Lamont, Sector 4, EIPS has four schools, all with significant available student capacity. Of those four schools, they all operate above the Division's average per-student cost, which is \$7,097. Two of the sector's schools are among the Division's five highest operating schools. Mundare School ranks second and operates at \$11,485 per student, while Bruderhiem School ranks third and operates at \$11,157 per student. Lamont Elementary, \$8,385, ranks sixth, and Lamont High, \$8,380, ranks seventh. Note, Andrew School ranked number 1 with an operating cost of \$14,165 per student.

Conducting a Sector 4 value scoping session will help EIPS identify effective ways to right-size Division space, evaluate programming opportunities and ensure boundaries accurately reflect student needs. In general, value scoping sessions aim to identify solutions that provide the highest value for money while maximizing the utilization and functionality of school infrastructure. As well, the input from these sessions ensures a broad range of perspectives are considered and used to develop, and evaluate, potential solutions. The ultimate goal of a Sector 4 value scoping session: To develop community-derived options to better utilize the available school spaces in Sector 4.

Priority 8: Hearthstone New K-9 School

Project Type: New school

Project Scope: Build a new school in Cambrian to accommodate K-9 programming

Project Capacity: Core student capacity of 950

Project Grades: Kindergarten to Grade 9

As with Priority 3, Sherwood Park’s new Cambrian Crossing residential area structure plan (ASP) welcomed its first residents in late 2023. By the time it is completed, anticipated in 2037, Strathcona County projects more than 12,000 people living in the area. Using residential areas with similar characteristics, density, dwelling type and the expected pace of development, EIPS anticipates 3,345 school-aged children to reside in the area—many of whom will register with the Division. The ASP is comprised of two neighbourhoods, Cambrian and Hearthstone. Rohit Group of Companies is the developer for Cambrian located west of Oldman Creek and Mattamy Homes is the developer of Hearthstone located east of Oldman Creek. Both neighbourhoods have a planned school site. Collectively the two sites can accommodate three school buildings. The site in Cambrian is planned for one school, while the site in Hearthstone is planned to accommodate two school buildings. In conversations with Mattamy Homes, the school site and road fronting the school will be constructed in 2026—including underground services. Mattamy Homes has serviced 185 lots so far and plans to service an additional 128 lots in 2024 (see pg. 15, “Appendix B”).

EIPS has already taken steps to accommodate the growth from Hearthstone by designating the neighbourhood to schools with space for regular English and French Immersion. For French Immersion programming students are designated to Heritage Hills Elementary, Sherwood Heights Junior High and Salisbury Composite High. For regular programming students are designated to Glen Allen Elementary, F.R. Haythorne Junior High and Bev Facey Community High.

The Division developed moderate enrolment projections for Hearthstone that suggest Glen Allen Elementary, F.R. Haythorne Junior High and Bev Facey Community High can accommodate the anticipated growth beyond 2034. However, as development is just beginning the absorption rate of new homes and the pace of development are difficult to determine. As such, EIPS will continue to monitor the development and adjust the enrolment projection to reflect the development pattern.

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Cambrian



Image taken from <https://rhtmaps.lotworks.ca/maps/cambrian> on January 18, 2024.

Caregiver Education Team Newsletter

April 2024



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.

Caregiver Education Sessions

Understanding Autism

For parents and caregivers supporting teens in grades K-12.

Tuesday, April 2
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Parenting Teens in the 21st Century

For parents and caregivers of youth in grades 7-12.

Part 1:
Tuesday, April 9
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Part 2:
Tuesday, April 16
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Caregiver Education Sessions

Keeping Scattered Kids on Track

Supporting Children and Youth with ADHD

For parents and caregivers of children and youth in grades K-12

Part 1:
Thursday, April 18
12:00 – 1:00 pm

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

Adult Education Sessions

NEW! Wellness Exchange Series

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

Part 1: Problem Solving
Wednesday, April 3
6:00 – 7:30 pm

Part 2: Positive Activities
Wednesday, April 17
6:00 – 7:30 pm

See below for May Wellness Exchange sessions.

Sessions at a Glance



Professional Practice & Education Services
Addiction & Mental Health
Edmonton Zone

For more information, visit www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

Caregiver Education Sessions

April 2024



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.

Understanding Autism

In this introduction to autism spectrum disorder (ASD), participants will learn how ASD may affect the way children and adolescents interpret and interact with the rest of the world and the people in it. Once we understand the core characteristics of ASD, we will then discuss strategies to support our child's wellness.

Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

For parents and caregivers of children and youth grades K-12; for adults only.

Parenting Teens in the 21st Century Respectful Limit Setting for Adolescents

In these sessions, we will explore the challenges of being a teenager, teen development, and the importance of the parent/teen relationship. We will continue to look at ways to increase communication and understanding around healthy boundaries with your teen.

Part 1: Teen Development and Challenges

Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

For caregivers of youth grades 7-12, for adults only.

Part 2: Parent Responsiveness

Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

For caregivers of youth grades 7-12, for adults only.

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:

“I appreciate being able to attend these sessions from home. Always come away with good advice and reminders. Thank you!”

“Particularly well presented! Very impressed. Perfect time and length.”



Professional Practice & Education Services
Addiction & Mental Health
Edmonton Zone

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Caregiver Education Sessions

April 2024



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Keeping Scattered Kids on Track

Supporting Children and Adolescents with ADHD

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is one of the most common mental health conditions diagnosed in children. Come to these **Lunch & Learn sessions** and learn about the signs and symptoms of ADHD, ways that ADHD impacts achievement, self-worth, and relationships in children and youth, and strategies to support success.

Part 1: Thursday, April 18, 2024

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

For caregivers of children grades K-12, [for adults only.](#)

Part 2: Thursday, April 25, 2024

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

For caregivers of children grades K-12, [for adults only.](#)

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:

“...they were great. I also appreciated the ability to tune in over my lunch hour virtually. Thank you!”

“This was a very well delivered and prepared presentation - thank you.”



Professional Practice & Education Services
Addiction & Mental Health
Edmonton Zone

For more information, visit www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

Adult Education Sessions

April 2024



Wellness Exchange is a series of skill-building workshops that are modelled after the evidence-informed disaster recovery intervention found in *Skills for Psychological Recovery (SPR)*, applying the same action-oriented approach to non-disaster situations such as managing life's daily stressors.

Wellness Exchange Series

The goal of Wellness Exchange Workshops is to help increase our ability to cope with change, build resilience, and improve our overall well-being.

Skills are taught in a **series of 5 different workshops**, each workshop focusing on a new skill.

Participants are welcome to join one or more sessions in the series.

Session 1: Problem Solving

In this session, we will practice problem-solving skills that help us clearly define our problems and look at a variety of possible solutions, address the entire situation and influence what we can, and increase our confidence in the decisions we make.

Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2024

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

For adults supporting their own wellness.

Session 2: Positive Activities

In this session, we will consider and plan for regular positive activities that help us feel more connected to ourselves, our values, and others, increase our sense of hope, meaning, and purpose, and improve our physical and emotional health.

Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

For adults supporting their own wellness.

Session 3: Managing Reactions

In this session, we will look at how managing our reactions can help us protect our well-being, maintain our healthy connections, make effective decisions, and respond to stressors in healthy ways.

Date: Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

For adults supporting their own wellness.

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:

“Thanks for offering this topic. Your insight and knowledge are really appreciated. Thanks so much.”

“Thank you for the wonderful webinar that was presented.”



Professional Practice & Education Services
Addiction & Mental Health
Edmonton Zone

For more information, visit www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

Adult Education Sessions

April 2024



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Skills are taught in a **series of 5 different workshops**, each workshop focusing on a new skill.

Participants are welcome to join one or more sessions in the series.

Session 4: Helpful Thinking

In this session, we will practice ways to improve our helpful thinking skills to increase our confidence in coping with stressors, improve our mood, and reduce the intensity of our reactions.

Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

For adults supporting their own wellness.

Session 5: Healthy Connections

In this session, we will look at ways we can build and maintain our healthy connections to increase our confidence, provide us with a sense of belonging, reduce isolation, and build our coping skills and increase our resiliency.

Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2024

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

For adults supporting their own wellness.

Wellness Exchange was developed by the Mental Health Promotion & Illness Prevention Program and the Urgent Mental Health Outreach Team. It has been adapted from the Skills for Psychological Recovery: Field Operations guide with permission from the National Centre for PTSD. ©2021, Alberta Health Services.

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

Wellness Exchange workshops are not group therapy, nor are they a substitute for the advice of a qualified health professional. The material is intended for general information only and is provided on an "as is", "where is" basis. Although reasonable efforts were made to confirm that accuracy of the information, Alberta Health Services does not make any representation or warranty, express implied or statutory, as to the accuracy, reliability, completeness, applicability, or fitness for a particular purpose of such information. Alberta Health Services expressly disclaims all liability for the use of these materials, and for any claims, actions, demands or suits arising from such use.



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Addiction & Mental Health
Edmonton Zone

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