



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 23, 2025

The regular meeting of the Elk Island Public Schools Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, January 23, 2025, in the Boardroom, Central Services, Sherwood Park, Alberta. The Board of Trustees meeting convened with Board Chair Allen calling the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

C. Allen, Board Chair
S. Miller, Vice-Chair
T. Boymook
R. Footz
C. Holowaychuk
D. Irwin
R. Sorochan

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

S. Stoddard, Superintendent
R. Marshall, Associate Superintendent, Supports for Students
R. Johnson, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources
C. Cole, Secretary-Treasurer
J. Anderson, Executive Director, Division Supports and Student Transportation Services
L. McNabb, Director, Communication Services
C. Langford-Pickering, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. with all trustees noted above in attendance.

IN-CAMERA SESSION

001/2025 | Trustee Holowaychuk moved: That the Board meet in camera (9:02 a.m.).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

002/2025 | Trustee Irwin moved: That the Board revert to regular session (10:06 a.m.).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Board recessed at 10:06 a.m. and reconvened at 10:13 a.m. with all trustees noted above in attendance.

LAND AND PEOPLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Board Chair Allen welcomed all in attendance to the public session, followed by the Land and People Acknowledgment.

AGENDA

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

003/2025 | Trustee Sorochan moved: That the Agenda be adopted, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Chair Allen called for confirmation of the Dec. 19, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes.

004/2025 | Trustee Holowaychuk moved: That the Board of Trustees approve the Minutes of Dec. 19, 2024 Board Meeting, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BOARD REPORT

Board Chair Allen highlighted recent trustee events for information.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Stoddard highlighted the recent COSC meeting held on January 8th and the Leadership meeting held on January 22, as well as spoke to the recent news in the media.

COMMENTS, PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS AT BOARD MEETINGS

No comments, presentations or delegations were reported.

Association/Employee Groups

ASBA ZONE 2/3 REPORT

Trustee Holowaychuk presented for information the ASBA Zone 2/3 report from the meeting held on Jan. 17, 2025.

ATA LOCAL REPORT

Board Chair Allen welcomed the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) representative M. Holm. Representative Holm presented for information the ATA Local #28 report.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS GROUP (ERG) REPORT

Board Chair Allen welcomed the ERG representative M. Miller. Representative Miller presented the ERG report for information.

Business Arising from Previous Meeting

BOARD POLICY 3: ROLE OF THE TRUSTEE

At the public Board meeting on Dec. 19, 2024, Trustee Boymook requested that **motion 249/2024 be tabled** so that the Policy Committee could further review the proposed amendments to Board Policy 3: Role of the Trustee.

Trustee Footz presented to the Board the recommended amendments to Board Policy 3: Role of the Board for approval.

005/2024 | Trustee Boymook moved: That the Board of Trustees approves amendments to Board Policy 3: Role of the Trustee, as presented.

In Favour: Trustee Irwin, Trustee Holowaychuk, Vice-Chair Miller, Board Chair Allen, Trustee Boymook and Trustee Footz

Opposed: Trustee Sorochan

CARRIED

New Business

BUSINESS ARISING FROM IN CAMERA

No business arising from in camera.

BOARD POLICY 11: BOARD DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

Trustee Footz presented to the Board the proposed amendments to Board Policy 11: Board Delegation of Authority for approval.

006/2025 | Trustee Irwin moved: That the Board of Trustees approves amendments to Board Policy 11: Board Delegation of Authority, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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 26-27, 2025. Administration noted that the ASCA memberships for school councils have been covered by EIPS.

007/2025 | Trustee Footz 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 26-27, 2025. To qualify, members must be part of a school council with an active ASCA membership and apply before the registration deadline, April 7, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SIGNING AUTHORITY MATRIX

Director Lewis presented to the Board for approval the proposed changes to the Signing Authority Matrix for approval.

008/2025 | Trustee Holowaychuk moved: That the Board of Trustees approves amendments to Signing Authority Matrix, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Reports for Information

SCHOOL STATUS REPORT FOR 2023-24

Assistant Director Dragon presented for information the School Status Report for 2023-24. The Board of Trustees received the report for information.

The Board recessed at 11:36 a.m. and reconvened at 11:45 a.m. will all trustees noted above in attendance.

ANNUAL OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION (COR) AUDIT REPORT

Superintendent Stoddard highlighted the importance of the Division's participation in the Certificate of Recognition (COR) audit as it is not a requirement for school boards to do. It demonstrates our commitment as a division to the safety and the well-being of our staff and students.

Brandy Chimko, OH&S Specialist presented for information the annual Occupational Health and Safety COR Audit Results report for 2023-24. The Board of Trustees received the report for information.

The Board shared gratitude for the excellent work and as the Division serves approximately 18,000 students and 1,400 FTE employees, occupational health and safety are very important and for an outside agency to

come in and say we are doing remarkable work as an organization says a lot. Gratitude was shared for telling EIPS' story and modeling improvement.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT CHANGE

Superintendent Stoddard shared how important it is to share the student transportation eligibility requirement change with parents/guardians so that they are aware of the change, the impact on service provision and transportation fees.

Director Weder presented for information the changes to the student transportation eligibility requirement for students in grades 1-6 moving from 1.0 km to 1.6 km. The Division has been provided a transition year—with changes coming in effect in 2026.27.

Director Weder noted a correction in the report to the first sentence under background that Alberta's government amended the **funding manual** not the *Student Transportation Regulation*. To read,

BACKGROUND:

*In March 2023, Alberta's government amended the ~~Student Transportation Regulation~~ **funding manual** to reduce distance eligibility from 2.4 kilometres to 1.0 kilometres for Grades 1 to 6 students and 2.0 kilometres for Grades 7 to 12 students.*

Director Weder highlighted the additional concerns with the funding manual change not being aligned with the Student Transportation regulation and the further impact this will have on increased bus fees.

The Board of Trustees received the report for information.

The Board noted that the report provides information to support their planning process and public awareness.

009/2025 | Trustee Boymook moved: That the Board of Trustees write a letter of concern to the Minister of Education on student transportation eligibility requirements.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question for clarification was asked by Trustee Holowaychuk regarding the one-year transition funding to clarify that providing the service to families in the transition year would provide the Division the necessary time to inform families of the changes that will result based on the government's decision.

Trustee Irwin proposed a motion for the Board of Trustees to provide direction to administration with regards to a transition year.

Point of clarification called by Superintendent Stoddard that the decision regarding the transition year would not impact fees and as such is an administrative decision that is aligned with current Board Policy.

010/2025 | Trustee Holowaychuk moved: That the Board meet in camera (12:19 p.m.).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

011/2025 | Trustee Sorochan moved: That the Board revert to regular session (12:35 p.m.).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee Boymook requested a future generative discussion to understand the impact of the changes to eligibility on service levels and fees before administration makes the decision and noted that Board Policy 17: Student Transportation Services would need to change if we change fees and service levels. More information and data are required.

Committee Reports

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Board Chair Allen presented a report for information from the Advocacy Committee meeting held on Jan. 7, 2025.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Trustee Footz presented a report for information from the Policy Committee meeting held on Jan. 13, 2025. The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 3, 2025.

GOVERNANCE AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Boymook presented a report for information from the Governance and Evaluation Committee meeting held on Jan. 14, 2025.

Trustee Notices of Motion and Requests for Information

No notices of motion or requests for information were reported.

Board Chair Allen declared that the Board had reached the end of the public session at 12:41 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Allen declared the meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

Cathy Allen, Board Chair

Sandra Stoddard, Superintendent