



FEBRUARY 2025

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SPECIAL BOARD MEETING: Feb. 12, 2025

New Business

BUSINESS ARISING FROM IN-CAMERA

The Board of Trustees approved Special Matter 2025-1 and Special Matter 2025-2.

BOARD MEETING: Feb. 20, 2025

Chair’s Report

RECENT EVENTS

Board Chair Cathy Allen highlighted recent trustee events:

- On January 23, trustees attended a joint dinner meeting with the Alberta Teachers’ Association (ATA) Local No. 28. The conversation centred on teaching and learning.
- On January 30, trustees participated in Alberta School Boards Association’s (ASBA) advocacy session, which concentrated on Alberta Education’s provincial priorities.
- On February 6, trustees participated in a professional learning session hosted by ASBA. The focus: artificial intelligence, career education, current trends and industry perspectives.
- On February 7, trustees attended the Alberta Teachers’ Association (ATA) Partners in Education Luncheon. The highlight: Keynote speaker Scott Ervin, an educator and owner of Ervin Educational Consulting, who shared an interesting perspective on extreme student behaviour challenges.
- On February 10-12, trustees took part in a Board retreat. Discussion topics included the Board’s direction, priorities and work plan, and generative governance.

Superintendent’s Report

RECENT EVENTS

Superintendent Sandra Stoddard shared recent events and information with the Board, including:

- On February 6-7, Division teachers participated in the 2025 North Central Teachers’ Convention. Each year, staff look forward to attending the conference and learning alongside their colleagues.
- On February 19, EIPS held its monthly leadership meeting with senior administration, principals, directors, assistant principals and assistant directors. The February meeting featured guest speaker Kurtis Hewson, a consultant, author and area expert in collaborative response. Hewson shared insights and strategies to assist the schools in implementing a collaborative framework to help ensure success for all students. The work with Hewson is intended to build capacity for leadership staff to implement strong collaborative structures and processes during early out Wednesdays.
- Superintendent Stoddard also joined the Board at the following events:
 - ASBA’s professional learning session on artificial intelligence (AI) and career technology, which focused on AI and how it can help prepare students for the future.
 - The EIPS Board Retreat, which provided an opportunity for both the Board and senior administration to discuss the Division, its vision and priorities, and potential future challenges.

Association and Employee Relation Reports

ATA LOCAL REPORT

The Board of Trustees received for information the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Local No. 28 report from Maxine Holm, the Local President.

- Recently, ATA President Jason Schilling met with Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaides to discuss concerns about the new curriculum, early learning assessments and expedited teacher certificates.
- On February 4, Holm was acclaimed as the Local's President. She'll now serve a two-year term—July 2025 to June 2027. In Spring 2025, the Local will also hold more elections for various executive and committee positions.
- On February 6-7, the ATA hosted its North Central Teachers' Convention. As always, the feedback was positive, particularly about the quality of keynote speakers and learning sessions.
- On February 7, the ATA hosted its annual Partners in Education Luncheon, which Holm thanked trustees for attending. The event featured good food, great conversation and keynote speaker, Scott Ervin, an educator and owner of Ervin Educational Consulting.
- On March 10-13, the ATA will host elections for its executive positions, including president, vice-president and several district representatives—each for a two-year term.
- The Local looks forward to celebrating Substitute Appreciation Week, which takes place March 10-14.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS GROUP REPORT

The Board received for information the Employee Relations Group (ERG) report from Michelle Miller, the committee's Chair:

- Currently, the ERG has an opening for a Facility Services-Student Transportation representative. The committee hopes to fill the position at the March ERG meeting.
- Work continues on Classified Professional Learning Day, taking place on March 7. The agenda is full, with numerous sessions available for staff. It should be another great day of learning for everyone.
- The ERG has heard feedback from several classified employees about the recent compensation news. For the most part, the feedback is positive. Many still have questions and look forward to attending the town hall this spring.

New Business

BOARD POLICY AMENDMENTS

The Board approved amendments to the following policies:

- [Board Policy 8: Board Committees](#): The approved changes include new information about volunteer compensation and edits to strengthen the policy's clarity, language and readability.
- [Board Policy 9: Board Representatives](#): The approved changes strengthen the policy's clarity, definitions, language and readability.
- [Board Policy 16: Recruitment and Selection of Personnel](#): The approved changes strengthen the policy's clarity, definitions, language and readability.

ANNUAL BORROWING RESOLUTION

The Board approved the Division's borrowing resolution, which outlines the credit facilities available to EIPS for meeting expenditures. Each year, the Division submits a borrowing resolution to the Bank of Montreal to support its existing credit-facility agreements.



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Committee Report

POLICY COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from the Policy Committee meeting held on February 3. The committee reviewed four policies—8, 9, 15 and 16. Policy 15 required no changes. Amendments to Policy 8, 9 and 16 were approved earlier at the February Board meeting (see pg. 2, “Board Policy Amendments”).

STUDENT EXPULSION COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from the Student Expulsion Committee regarding two recent meetings—held on February 4 and February 18. The committee reviewed all relevant information and upheld the school administration’s recommendations. EIPS also recently underwent an expulsion appeal—from 2023. In the end, the province upheld the Division's decision and commented EIPS does an excellent job following its expulsion policy and administrative procedure.

GOVERNANCE AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from a recent Governance and Evaluation Committee meeting—held on February 4. Discussion topics included: section 4 of the *EIPS Trustee Handbook*, the Board’s work plan and orientation planning for the incoming Board next fall. The committee also discussed possible questions to ask trustee candidates in the upcoming municipal election. Later this spring, the Board will engage the Committee of School Councils about additional questions for candidates.

EIPS Condolences

On behalf of EIPS administration and the Board, Superintendent Stoddard extended condolences to the family, friends, colleagues and students of two Division staff members who recently passed away.

Charlene Dey, passed away on January 4. For more than 16 years, Charlene worked for EIPS as an educational assistant at Bruderheim School. Throughout her time there, she made a significant impact on the school, supporting both the teaching team and students, who will remember her for her compassion and caring nature toward students and colleagues.

Pamela Brzezicki passed away on January 21. Pamela worked as a teacher for EIPS for more than 21 years—most of that time was spent working at Fultonvale Elementary Junior High. She was beloved by both students and staff, who will remember her best for her passion and dedication to education.

Board Members

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

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