

# EPE School Council Meeting

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*April 27, 2022 @ 7:00pm | Meeting called to order by Jennifer Dechaine*

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## In Attendance

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Dan Verhoeff, Amanda Shand, Shelley Boswell, Ralph Sorochan, Jennifer Dechaine, Meghan Anderson, Leanna Bechtel, JJ Dechaine, Amy Archibald, Melanie Redfearn,

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## Land and People Acknowledgement – Jennifer D.

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We acknowledge 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 acknowledge the traditional homeland of the Métis Nation.

We recognize our responsibility as Treaty members and honour the heritage and gifts of the First Peoples.

We commit to moving forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of collaboration and reconciliation.

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## Additions and Approval of Agenda

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Approve: Amanda S.  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Melanie R.

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## Approval of March 23, 2022 Minutes

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Approval: JJ D.  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Melanie R.

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## Principal's Report – Dan V.

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Office News – We have Mme. Sherri Prince replacing Mme. Margie Davidson.

Budget News & Update – Enrolment numbers are still fluctuating. Once we have more concrete numbers, staffing will be solidified for next year. We are likely looking at a ¾ split next year.

Literacy Update – We have Kelly Watson working with our French Immersion kids preparing for PAT's.

Mme. Parker will be shifting her focus to our Kindergarten and Grade 1's for the last six weeks of school.

Upcoming Events –  
EPE hosted a School Education Plan event

Grade 4 Orienteering starts next week  
Grade 1-3 swimming  
Div 2 – Fitset Ninja coming May 4.  
Education Week  
Hats Off for Mental Health

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### COSC Update – Leanna B.

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Discussion on budgets and preparations for ASCA

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### Elk Island Trustee Report – Ralph Sorochan

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Report below

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### Old Business – Jennifer D.

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Teacher Appreciation – Amanda S. sent out a survey for Teacher Appreciation Luncheon to the staff. 13 have responded this far with overall very positive feedback.

Green Space & DOW Grant – Jennifer D.

Stencil Update – They have arrived! Unfortunately, some arrived damaged, but the company will be replacing them. They will be installed on May 19 and Dow will send volunteers. News outlets to be informed.

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### New Business – Jennifer D.

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Margie's Farewell – Jennifer D. – Margie's Drop In farewell was very well received! Margie was thrilled!

ASCA – Amanda S. – there were 18 virtual sessions that Amanda will be uploading to the Drive.

Smudging – Overall very positive experience for the kids.

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### Questions & Comments

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### Adjournment @ 8:20pm

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Next Meeting May 25, 2022 @ 7:00pm

## **EPE Trustee Report – April 27, 2022**

### **Ralph Sorochan**

1) **APPRECIATION** to everyone for coming out, tonight.

2) **ADVOCACY LETTER for FUEL PRICE SUPPORT** – The Board recently sent an advocacy letter to the Minister regarding rising fuel prices and the challenges school divisions are facing, as a result. We have asked for the fuel-price contingency fund to be reinstated. The fuel-price contingency fund provided insulation from fuel-price fluctuations for school divisions provincewide, and with the recent increase in prices, would provide much-needed relief for school divisions. We found out yesterday, that our request was denied.

3) **STUDENT FORUM AT AGORA** - Close to 80 students from Elk Island Public Schools took centre stage at a division wide engagement session this week. On April 12, students from junior high and senior high schools throughout EIPS gathers to share ideas at the Division's Student Forum 2022. Led and facilitated by EIPS, the forum focused on career pathways and student well-being.

4) **FRIENDS OF EDUCATION AWARD** – The Board of Trustees recently approved a nomination for Shell Canada in Fort Saskatchewan, for the 2022 Friends of Education Award; an annual Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) recognition for organizations that contribute to education within their local community. We have just received word, that Shell Canada in Fort Saskatchewan has been selected for the award. We congratulate and thank them for their dedicated work.

5) **ANNOUNCEMENT FOR NEW SCHOOL DESIGN FUNDING** – The Government of Alberta recently announced it is proceeding with design work on an Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) facility for Sherwood Park students. Sherwood Heights and Campbelltown Schools will combine to become one new school. EIPS will begin work with the provincial government designing the new building and a public engagement process will take place in the coming months.

A new jr/sr high school for Fort Saskatchewan, remains next in line on the Division 3-year Capital Plan.

6) **SPRING 2022 BUDGET** – The Board took part in multiple budget working sessions over the last few months to present a spring budget to the government by May 31. Multiple budget decisions were voted on and approved at Thursday's public board meeting.

- The Board of Trustees approved the 2022-23 school fees, as presented.
- The Board of Trustees approved the Facility Rental and Lease Fees for the 2022-23 school year, as presented.
- The Board of Trustees approve the Student Transportation Fee Schedule for the 2022-23 school year, as presented.
- Board of Trustees approve 2022-23 funding in the amount of \$6,430,598 from the Division Allocated Operating Reserves for Focus on Unfinished Learning, Curriculum, Mental Health of Students and staff, Consultants: Assessment, Numeracy, Early Learning, Career Pathways, and Professional Development, and other projects.

7) **RETIREMENT, LONG SERVICE AD EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION** – EIPS employees will be recognized in May, for retirement, years of service and achievements related to education or their role as an employee. Congratulations to each of them and a huge "Thank you" for their service!

The Board of Trustees will embark on in-person school tours, starting in the month of May. The tours, this spring, will encompass the schools in Sherwood Park, as these schools were to be the next in the rotation, prior to covid.

9) **CURRICULUM ANNOUNCEMENT** – On April 13, 2022, Adriana LaGrange, the Minister of Education, announced the new mathematics and English language arts and literature

curriculums, for kindergarten through Grade 3, and physical education and wellness curriculum, for kindergarten through Grade 6, are now finalized. By September 2024, it's anticipated all remaining subjects will be implemented at the elementary level. Up to that point, we will continue to carefully assess the materials, provide constructive feedback to Alberta Education and advocate for the best interests of EIPS students. The Division encourages all school families to continue reviewing the draft curriculum in the remaining elementary subjects, and to share their thoughts and suggestions with Alberta Education.

10) **LITERACY AND NUMERACY ASSESSMENTS EARLY YEARS** - The Minister recently announced that starting in the 2022/23 school year, school authorities will be required to administer literacy and numeracy assessments to all Grades 1–3 students. Grades 2 and 3 students will be assessed in September 2022, and Grade 1 students in January 2023. Student results will then be reported to Alberta Education

11) **GRADE 1 LEARNING DISRUPTION FUNDING** - EIPS has finally been approved to receive \$357,544 in learning disruption funding to support students in Grade 1 for the 2021/22 school year. This is based on a per-student funding rate of \$478. The learning disruption funding is intended to provide between 12 and 16 weeks of targeted programming during this school year. School authorities will have flexibility to design this programming to best meet their local needs. Final reporting on student gains in learning and numeracy achievements is due to Alberta Education by June 15, 2022, and funding can be revoked if AB Ed is not satisfied with the results.

12) **UPCOMING MEETINGS** – \_EIPS Board Meeting – \_May 25th at 9:00 AM.

13) **IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS** – \_April 27 – \_Administrative Professional’s Day; Week of May 2 – Bus Driver’s Appreciation; Week of May 2 – \_Education Week; Week of May 2 – \_Mental Health Week

14) **QUESTIONS**