

École Parc Élémentaire

School Council Meeting

Wednesday March 12, 2025 - Virtual- 7:00 PM

Attendees

Amanda Shand - Chair	Jennifer Dechaine - Member
Devin Klein - Vice Chair	Ralph Sorochoan - School Board Trustee
Danielle Rusk - Secretary	
Tandy Atchison - Principal	
Shelley Boswell - Assistant Principal	
Genista Garnett - Hot Lunch Coordinator	

Absent

Jasmyne Garbe - Treasurer
Rebecca Millburn - Special Events Coordinator
Melanie Redfearn - Member
Amy Archibald - Member

Called To Order: 7:05 PM

Land and People Acknowledgments - Shelley Boswell

Proud moment when a couple of our Grade 6's read out the land acknowledgement to the whole school district on March 6, 2025

Additions to Agenda: None

Approvals

Approval of Agenda, March 12, 2025 - Danielle Rusk 1st, Jennifer Dechaine 2nd

Approval of Minutes, February 12, 2025 - Devon Klein 1st, Genista Garnett 2nd

Principals Report: Tandy Aitchison - Principal

1. Thank you to everyone for Les Pawsitives, kiddos have been so excited to pick something out of the treasure box.
2. Mme. Jordan and Amy Archibald were the coaches for our basketball team that participated in a tournament a couple weekends ago. We didn't win but the kids did great!
3. Battle of Books - EPE took gold at all three levels against Ardrossan. Mme. Millevic and her son did a great job of organizing it and putting it on.

4. Got a few upcoming events:
 - a. Report cards come out on Friday March 14th at 3:30 PM
 - b. March 21 is the start of Spring Break for the students
 - c. April 4 & 5 Grade 6's have Vertically Inclined
 - d. Dance workshops with L'Hirondelle
 - e. April 16 Grades 1-6 will be going to Ardrossan for the Unitheatre
 - f. Swimming lessons will be starting in April for Div 1 and Fitset Ninja for Div 2
5. School Fees for the 2025/2026 school year: Everything will stay status quo except for a few changes:
 - a. Noon hour supervision is going up a bit, it needed to be rounded out and went up 2% \$37.00 for ECS and then \$75 for 1-6
 - b. Performing Arts Fee has now been named the Cultural Fee
6. Registration Numbers are much more stable this year than last year.
 - a. We have 24 students registered for the full day kindergarten pilot program (capped at 25) Last year the numbers dropped for kindergarten registration but this year we are right on par. Kindergarten info night will be in May.
 - b. Grades 1-6 are healthy at all levels, have to wait till we get a budget from EIPS to determine class sizes and configuration - more info in May.

COSC Update: - Devon

1. Provincial Budget - AB falls short in educational funding compared to other provinces
2. ATA had concerns about how assessments are done on students in Grades 1-3
3. ASCA Conference - will be virtual this year, each school gets one login

ASCA Grant: - Amanda Shand

1. Nothing to report

Trustee Report - Provided by Ralph Sorochoan

Full report attached at the end of the minutes.

FCFS Presentation - Amanda Shand

1. Approved the funding at the last meeting we also have \$65.00 to carry over from the ASCA grant from last year to put towards this. Some sessions will be virtual in Lunch and Learn style, others a more lengthy session - More details and info to follow

Questions:

1. Fort Saskatchewan schools seem to have a bad image within the EIPS, it seems like our schools seem to get a bad reputation (even by Fort Saskatchewan residents) . EIPS is aware of this and is trying to work with the schools to help boost their image. Unfortunately Social Media is working against EIPS and is a big thing in our day and age. It is on EIPS radar and they are trying to improve this.

New Business

None

Next Meetings:

- April 9, 2025 @ 7:00 PM Library

Meeting Adjourned at 7:47 PM

Motions: None

EPE School Council – April 9, 2025

Ralph Sorochoan

1) **APPRECIATION** – You are appreciated for your efforts on the School Council! Thank you! 2) **3-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN** – At their March 20th meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the 2026- 29 Three-Year Capital Plan. The priority of projects remains the same, as in the previous few years, with RHJ/FHS as #1 and James Mowat at #2. Recent announcements by the provincial government regarding new school build approvals have primarily centred around previously announced funding stages and very high enrolment areas. The Board continues to advocate for new builds in Fort Saskatchewan as its primary capital funding advocacy effort. 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).

3) **CAMPUS EIPS** - Although the Division has not yet received funding to build a new collegiate school (first and foremost on its priority list), The Board has approved a school name for the Division's new collegiate **program** called Campus EIPS. Starting in 2025-26 Campus EIPS will offer programming to students at secondary schools throughout the Division, including Ardrossan Junior Senior High, Bev Facey Community High, Fort Saskatchewan High, Lamont High, Salisbury Composite High, Strathcona Christian Academy Secondary, Vegreville Composite High and Next Step. As with any division wide program, there are many factors to consider, from transportation to registration. This does not detract from the new school build in Fort Saskatchewan which, when built, will become the flagship school for this program in our Division.

4) **ASBA EDWIN PARR TEACHER AWARD: 2025** -The Board approved EIPS' nomination for this year's Edwin Parr Teacher Award nominee, Janna MacLelland. Every year, the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 hosts the award program to honour and recognize outstanding first-year teachers who demonstrate excellence in the *Teaching Quality Standard*. MacLelland, a first-year French Immersion teacher at Ardrossan Elementary, was selected as EIPS' nominee for her commitment to education through her exceptional learning spaces, inclusive approach to learning and innate ability to engage with children.

5) **Budget 2025-26** - The Division now has the **funding manual** from Alberta Education. Important budget considerations for EIPS include:

- Literacy and numeracy
- Career pathways
- Classroom complexity
- High-quality teaching and learning
- Equity—eligible classified staff have received a lump sum payment
- Curriculum work
- Rural education
- Early learning—the Division is exploring **full-time kindergarten pilot programs** for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and French Immersion

- 6) **FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS: 2024-25** - The Board received for information a report regarding the Division's financial projections for the rest of the 2024-25 school year. Overall, there are no areas of concern and no excessive deficits or surpluses. EIPS projects its accumulated surplus to increase by \$57,215, from the amount reported in the Fall Budget Report. There are also some offsetting changes, including a projected decrease in School Generated Funds Reserves and a reduction in Central Services Reserves from an anticipated deficit in Student Transportation— offset by an increase in Division Unallocated Reserves from unused contingency funds. Finally, the Division projects its reserve funds to remain within the provincially mandated limit (see pg. 56, "[Financial Projections 2024-25](#)").
- 7) **UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2024 TO FEBRUARY 2025** - The Board received for information the EIPS Unaudited Financial Report for the six-month period ending Feb. 28, 2025. Overall, expenses exceeded revenue, resulting in an operating deficit of \$34,938. In total, revenue for the six months is \$102.24 million, which represents 50 per cent of the year-to-date budget—an expected percentage for the fiscal year midpoint. Similarly, total expenses are \$102.28 million, which also represents 50 per cent of the year-to-date budget. Generally, the variances are the result of timing differences, meaning expenditures aren't incurred evenly over the year and are expected to resolve themselves by the end of the school year, when all expenses are incurred (see pg. 68, "[Unaudited Financial Report for Sept. 1, 2024 to Feb. 28, 2025](#)").
- 8) **REMINDER: UPCOMING TRUSTEE ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER 2025** – The next municipal election is on October 20, 2025. If you or anyone you know is interested in running for public office, check out the details for candidates on www.eips.ca. Two trustees will be elected from Electoral Subdivision No. 1, comprised of lands within the corporate limits of the City of Fort Saskatchewan.
- 9) **CAREGIVER SERIES: April Sessions** - Recovery Alberta offers free online programming for parents and caregivers of children and youth. Sessions are offered through Zoom. The list of [April 2025 sessions](#) is now available.
- 10) **NEXT BOARD MEETINGS** – The next regular Board meeting takes place on April 17, 2025, at 10 AM. A Special Board Meeting has been called on April 24, 2025, to review and debate the 2025-26 EIPS budget. Board meetings are held in the Elk Island Public School boardroom. EIPS livestreams public Board meetings on its YouTube channel.
- 11) **INQUIRIES?** - If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at ralph.sorochan@eips.ca or 780 417 8107.
- 12) Have a wonderful month of April!