

# École Parc Élémentaire School Council Meeting

Wednesday May 8, 2024 - School Library. 7:00pm

## Attendees

Amanda Shand - Chair

Jasmyn Garbe - Treasurer

Danielle Rusk - Secretary

Tandy Atchinson - Principal

Jade Jordan - Assistant Principal

Ralph SoroChan - School Trustee

Devon Klein - Member

Jennifer Dechaine - Member

Genista Garnett - Member

## Absent

Rebecca Millburrn - Vice President

Michelle Poitras - Hot Lunch Coordinator

Melanie Redfearn - Member

Tamara Whitton - Member

Amy Archibald- Member

JJ Dechaine - Member

## Called To Order: 7:01 PM

### Land and People Acknowledgments - Jade Jordan

Loving what the rain brings to us, the smell, how fresh it smells, how green everything looks. Very grateful for what it brings to the land. Always so much fun seeing how much the kids enjoy the rain.

### Additions to Agenda:

- None

### Approvals

Approval of Agenda, May 8, 2024 - Jenn Dechaine 1st, Devon Klein 2nd

Approval of minutes, April 10, 2024 - Genista Garnett 1st , Jenn Dechaine 2nd

## Principals Report: Tandy Aitchison - Principal

1. Got the budget on Thursday of last week from EIPS, decrease in the budget, 12 classes this year, only 11 next year, down one teacher. All classes are slated to be under 30 kids.

<b>Class A</b>	<b>Class B</b>
ECS A	ECS B
Grade 1	Grade 1
Grade 2	Grade 2/3
Grade 3	
Grade 4	Grade 4/5
Grade 5/6	

2. Lunch supervision costs once again exceed the school fees, going to look at creative ways to keep the costs down. Trying to get creative to be more cost effective.

3. First PAT was written the French written portion

4. Lemonade sale will be taking place on June 4th, parents need to pre-buy the grizzly bucks for the kids, won't be able to buy any the day of.

5. Sports Day is June 14 - still needing parent volunteers for this

6. Karaoke Music Fest - May 15 in gym. Classes have been partnered (Littles with Bigs), and each class gets 30 minutes.

7. Staff Appreciation Lunch - getting really great feedback from the staff, they are excited so Thank you again for that.

## COSC Update: - Amanda Shand

1. We were recognized at the conference (Ralph will speak more on that)

## ASCA Grant: - Amanda Shand

1. We've been trying to do a parent info session with the money but not sure if it's going to work. Courses that we were looking into have been modified and involve a lot of online pre-course work that just isn't feasible for us.

2. We have \$571 we have to use before the end of June. We can use it to print more cards, volunteer recognition awards (No can't use it for this), re-design the website, translation program for our parents, french/english dictionary.

## Trustee Report - Provided by Ralph Sorochan

Full report attached at the end of the minutes but here are some extra points/discussion notes:

**2) Budget 2024-25** - Seeing a higher enrollment of kids each year but not seeing any increase in funding. EIPS is taking a hard look at the what are the need to haves, versus the nice haves.

**5) Update: Proposed Collegiate Meeting Held in Fort Saskatchewan** - Good turnout, good questions from the crowd. There's a page on the EIPS website which outlines how the meeting went, and how as a parent you can advocate for your kids.

**6) EIPS receives division school council engagement award from the Alberta School Councils Association:** Got an award as a whole award to the parents for their engagement in their child's education.

## School Engagement Survey - Amanda Shand & Jennifer Dechaine

1. Just needs proofing then sent to Tandy and Jade for review before being sent out to the parents.

2. Want to create an incentive to get parents to complete, get a gift card to a local place in town as an incentive, include the extra grizzly hoodie and water bottle.

**Motion: Use \$20 to purchase a Gift Card to Miller's as incentive for the survey.**

## New Business

**None**

Next Meetings:

- June 11th @ 6:30 PM via Zoom

Meeting Adjourned at 7:57 PM

## Motions:

1. *Use \$20.00 to purchase a gift card to Miller's as incentive for completion of the parent engagement survey.*

Motioned by: Amanda Shand

Seconded by : Jenn Dechaine

Voted: All in Favour

**MOTION PASSED**

## EPE Trustee Report – May 8, 2024

Ralph SoroChan

**1) APPRECIATION** – Thanks to everyone for all you’ve done throughout the year!

**2) BUDGET 2024-25** – The provincial budget was released on Feb 29. EIPS received its funding envelope and the funding manual on March 28. Meetings, discussions, and a plethora of accounting work are underway. Some high-level information includes:

- None of the funding rates have changed in the manual.
- Consequently, inflation has not been funded. This creates a budget that is much tighter, as costs for everything increases.
- While the Provincial Government says it has maintained/increased funding, this is only for enrollment growth. So, the increases throughout the province only relate to the increased numbers of students and not the extra costs related to inflation. Subsequently, the Division needs to take a hard look at operations to see where costs can be cut.
- Specialized Learning, PUF, and First Nation, Metis, and Inuit grants have not increased and will only change as they relate to enrollment.
- Classroom Complexity Grant remains the same. This is a priority item for the Board.
- Mental Health Grant has been discontinued. The Mental Health Strategic Plan remains a priority for the Board.
- Infrastructure, Maintenance and Renewal (projects, not capitalized, that prolong the life of the facility) has decreased by \$200,000.
- Capital Maintenance and Renewal funding (capitalized projects including items such as mechanical upgrades, architectural upgrades, major building component upgrades) has increased to pre-covid rates (2.8 million), which is badly needed as the majority of our facilities continue to face challenges associated with their age.
- Operating Reserve Limit has increased to 6% for August 31, 2025. This includes School Generated Funds. Any monies over 6% are to be returned to the Alberta Government.
- Transportation: Thanks to the new provincial funding model for student transportation, most fees will decrease in 2024-25. (**Eligible fee** – K-6 students living 1 kilometre or more from their school; and grades 7- 12 students living 2 kilometers or more from their school. **Ineligible fee** – charged to students who do not meet the distance eligibility criteria as they aren’t funded, regardless of whether they attend their designated or non-designated school.) ✓ *eligible fee (attending designated school)* – will stay the same at \$75
- ✓ *eligible fee (attending non-designated school)* – will drop to \$75, down from \$175 ✓
- ✓ *ineligible fee (attending designated school)* – will drop to \$150, down from \$225 ✓
- ✓ *ineligible fee (attending non-designated school)* – will drop to \$150 from \$325 ✓
- ✓ *kindergarten fee (eligible)* – will increase to \$50—previously \$37.50
- ✓ *kindergarten fee (ineligible)* – will drop to \$100—down from \$112.50
- ✓ *additional bus fee* – no change
- ✓ *non-residences fee* – discontinued, as outlined in the funding manual for eligibility and fee assessment.
- ✓ *Late fee penalty* – \$25, new in 2024-25. It aims to encourage families to pay fees by the June 30 deadline.
- ✓ Student Transportation will also continue to offer a payment-plan option—available to families with fees of \$300 and more—paid over seven months.
- ✓ The department also removed the \$25 administrative fee traditionally applied to the payment plans.

**3) MENTAL HEALTH WEEK MAY 6-12** – Schools throughout EIPS are recognizing Mental Health Week.

Activities include: “Hats on for Mental Health”, daily announcements, art projects, mental health trivia, outdoor games, self-regulation challenges, sidewalk chalk messages, social media promotion, wellness walks, spirit dress days, QR code scavenger hunts, Saffron presentations, family events and more.

**4) BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION DAY** – May 6<sup>th</sup> was Bus Driver Appreciation Day in EIPS. We thank our drivers for all they do to transport our students safely, to and from school, each day!

**5) UPDATE: PROPOSED COLLEGIATE MEETING HELD IN FORT SASKATCHEWAN** – A community meeting was held on April 25 for stakeholders to learn about some of the challenges the Division faces in Fort Saskatchewan and how it plans to address these—specifically, in terms of the limited and aging infrastructure, the region’s growing population and anticipated capacity challenges. The goal for the collegiate is to ensure all Fort Saskatchewan learners receive a high-quality, student-centered education in 21st-century learning spaces—spaces that prepare students for life after high school, develop career opportunities and help build the community, all at the same time.

[Click here for more information on how you can help!](#)

**6) EIPS RECEIVES DIVISION SCHOOL COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT AWARD FROM THE ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCILS’ ASSOCIATION** - On April 27, the Alberta School Councils’ Association (ASCA) awarded Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) with its Division School Council Engagement Award at its annual conference banquet. EIPS parents Krista Scott and Jaquie Surgenor Gaglione presented the award to the Board of Trustees and senior administration at the Division’s Committee of School Councils (COSC) meeting on May 1.

**7) CAREGIVER EDUCATION SERIES: May and June** - Alberta Health Services hosts a series of virtual caregiver information sessions focused on ways to support students’ mental health. The sessions are free and geared toward parents, caregivers, teachers, and community members who want to learn more about challenges impacting children and adolescents. Upcoming topics include understanding anxiety, wellness exchange, test anxiety and silver linings. [Learn more](#)

**8) REMINDER: EIPS ANNUAL EDUCATION RESULTS REPORT** - Every year, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) publishes an Annual Education Results Report, which outlines the Division’s Four-Year Education Plan, opportunities for growth and how it’s supporting students to achieve the best possible outcomes. Read through this year’s [EIPS Annual Education Results Report 2022-23](#) and discover how EIPS fosters learning environments for all students to learn, grow and thrive—and why it matters. [EIPS Four-Year Education Plan: 2022-26](#) [EIPS Three-Year Capital Plan: 2025-28](#)

**9) NEXT BOARD MEETING** – The next regular Board meeting takes place on May 30, 2024, at 10 a.m. Board meetings are held in the Elk Island Public School boardroom. EIPS also livestreams public Board meetings on its [YouTube channel](#).