

# WIN FERGUSON PTA AND SCHOOL COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

**Meeting Date:** September 25, 2023

**Meeting Time:** 6:30PM

**Attendees:**

Bill Korec	Jacqueline Shotbolt	Sasha Kupchenko	Liz Ream	Lainie Gratrix
Trish Kuhn	Jen Shea	Leah Kenchington	Shelley Romanyshyn	
Mitch Scott	Tami Richert			

ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF DISCUSSION
<b>1</b>	<b>Call to Order</b>
	Meeting was called to order at 6:33pm Introduction of attendees Shelley did the reading of the Treaty Acknowledgement
<b>2</b>	<b>Review of Agenda</b>
	Motioned by Shelley seconded by Trish -carried
<b>3</b>	<b>Approval of minutes from last meeting</b>
	Approval of previous minutes motioned by Trish seconded by Shelley -carried
<b>4</b>	<b>Administration Report</b>
	See attached report provided by Bill Korec.  Additional notes on the report points: 5. Teachers will have fewer absences for learning this curriculum this year 6. There was an increased need for school supplies this year, that was met. Feedback from the school start program has been positive so far. 7. The working calendar on the school website has been inputted and is up to date so far for the year. 8. School pictures Oct 2 & 3, retake's will be November 1 & 2. Information went home to kids today. 9. Last fire drill will be tomorrow, there will be a bus evacuation and lockdown drill over the next few weeks. These will be the last drills until spring. 10. The Terry Fox Walk raised approximately \$649, a picture of our school will be recognized in the Sherwood park news. 11. STAR screening is for the whole school and the GOA screening is for grades 2/3 12. The reading intervention program will begin for some students in early November. 14. The new FNMI lead is Tami Richert, there will be an assembly Friday to commemorate Truth and Reconciliation, and the efforts for truth and reconciliation will continue throughout the year. 17. The Breakfast club has started this year, the school is working to have the buses arrive in time for the kids to be able to utilize this program prior to class starting. The school has acquired a new microwave and will be looking to bring in a new fridge to support this program in April/May. So far the Breakfast Club has been very well received.
<b>5</b>	<b>Trustee Report</b>
	See the attached report provided by provided by Jacqueline Shotbolt. Jacqueline can be reached via email at <a href="mailto:jacqueline.shotbolt@eips.ca">jacqueline.shotbolt@eips.ca</a> for any questions or concerns.  All board meetings are broadcast live through YouTube if interested in viewing.
<b>6</b>	<b>Standing Business</b>
	<b>Teachers Wishlist</b> -\$350 Ozobot magnets for coding (preferably 10 sets) -\$500 for reading material for grade 4-5 (possibly applicable for Grade 3 also)  <b>School Start Supplies update</b> \$185 cheque from the School Start program was received  <b>Breakfast club</b> -volunteers are welcome for anyone interested in participating in the Breakfast club, it runs 8:05 am -8:30 am for students. Please reach out to Mrs. Dixon to volunteer. If there is anything you notice that is missing when volunteering, please reach out for Bill to look at acquiring it.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF DISCUSSION
7	<b>New Business</b>
	<p>-PTA will revise the Parents Facebook group name so that the school can create their own official school Facebook group.</p> <p><u>Confirmation of 2023-2024 Council Meeting Dates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September 25, 2023 - Annual General Meeting</li> <li>• October 30, 2023</li> <li>• November 27, 2023</li> <li>• January 29, 2024</li> <li>• February 26, 2024</li> <li>• April 29, 2024</li> <li>• May 27, 2024</li> </ul> <p><u>World Teachers Day</u>  - Is October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023  -Suggestion for an appreciation gift was for – coffee and baked goods for the teachers this year  There are approximately 36 Staff, 18 Teachers, 2 Admin and 16 EA’s for the 2023-2024 school year. – Bill will verify the number for the PTA to ensure enough treats and coffee are provided for the staff.  -Shelley will approach Co-Op to get a selection of baked goods and will look into K-cup pods for coffee.  -There is a \$600 standing motion to help go towards this.</p> <p><u>Custodian Day</u>  - Is October 2<sup>nd</sup>  -Celebrated together with World Teachers Day last year.  -There are 3 custodians at the 2023-2024 school year.  -Shelley will coordinate getting gift cards for the custodians and they drop off.</p> <p><u>Reading Week</u>  -is October 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup></p> <p><u>Christmas Concert</u>  This year the concert will be on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, at the DCC (Dow Centennial Center).</p> <p>The first COSC meeting is this Wednesday Sept 27<sup>th</sup> in Sherwood Park  There is a pre-meeting with snacks at 5:15 p.m. followed by the meeting at 6:30 p.m.  This is a hybrid event where you can attend in person or virtually.</p>
6	<b>Elections</b>
	<p>Motion to dissolve current executives made by Shelley, seconded by Trish. – carried</p> <p>Elections for Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer were held, and the following people were elected and are the new executives and new signers for the bank accounts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair- Shelley Romanyshyn</li> <li>• Vice Chair – Trish Kuhn</li> <li>• Secretary – Jen Shea</li> <li>• Communications – Lainie Gratrix</li> </ul> <p>Motioned and passed to vote in new executive members- carried</p>
7	<b>Actions</b>
	<p>Actions to be taken now by the following confirmed executives:</p> <p><b>Chairperson:</b>  - Notify School Division, in writing, of all new and returning Executive members  - Notify ASCA, in writing, of new chair and contact information  - Meet with Principal</p> <p><b>Vice-Chairperson:</b>  - Arrange updating of website with new names and contact information  - Source and distribute information on resources, support, training available for executive members</p>
.	<b>Adjournment</b>
	Meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm. Next Meeting to be held October 30, 2023

**WIN FERGUSON PTA  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Meeting Date:** September 25, 2023

**Meeting Time:** 6:30PM

**Attendees:**

Bill Korec	Sasha Kupchenko	Liz Ream	Lainie Gratrix
Trish Kuhn	Jen Shea	Leah Kenchington	Shelley Romanyshyn
Tami Richert			

ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF DISCUSSION
<b>1</b>	<b>Call to Order</b>
	Meeting was called to order at 7:56 PM
<b>2</b>	<b>Review of Agenda</b>
	Agenda was motioned by Liz, seconded by Shelley -carried
<b>3</b>	<b>Approval of minutes from last meeting</b>
	Previous minutes were motioned by Liz, seconded by Shelley- carried
<b>4</b>	<b>Treasurer's Report</b>
	<p>Current online banking administrator is Liz Ream.</p> <p>Liz presented the report.            Month end Financials as of September 25 2023            General Account: \$22,590.46            Casino Account: \$3998.45</p> <p>Our available balance as of today is:            General Account: \$3,226.55 after standing motions and expenses.            Casino Account: \$2,498.45. after the \$1500.00 standing motion for expected casino expenses.</p> <p>Additional Notes:            Combined available funds would be \$5725            Deposit for Trish's PTA volunteer hours went to the school directly rather than the PTA account, we will work with Bill to allocate those funds as applicable uses come up.            PTA motioned and approved the motion to pay for the Halloween Dance for \$729.75            Liz asked for a standing motion of \$250 for the hot lunch supplies, Shelley seconded – carried            Liz requires 2 volunteers to audit the books from the last school year so they can be submitted.            - Jen and Lea have volunteered</p>
<b>5</b>	<b>Old Business</b>
	<p><u>PTA Website</u>            This has moved to the PARENTS tab of the Win Ferguson website. <a href="https://www.winferguson.ca/parent-council">https://www.winferguson.ca/parent-council</a></p>
<b>6</b>	<b>New Business</b>

ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF DISCUSSION
	<p><b>6.1 Membership Forms/Signed release forms</b>  6.1.1 Required for attendance to meetings. Membership Forms can be found under “Forms” on the parents tab of the school website. (<a href="https://www.winferguson.ca/parent-council">https://www.winferguson.ca/parent-council</a>)  - Trish provided copies of the form at the meeting.  - This needs to be filled out annually (for new and returning members).  - Forms can be submitted to <a href="mailto:winfergusonpta@outlook.com">winfergusonpta@outlook.com</a></p> <p><b>6.2 PTA Website</b>  6.2.1 All information has been moved to the School website under the parent tab. Meeting minutes will need to be sent to the principal every month.   6.2.2 Did we confirm how far back we need to keep records of and did we locate where these are being stored in the school?  - We did locate the area these are being kept, this will need to be cleaned and reorganized still. Records are required to be kept for 7 years.</p> <p><b>6.3 Halloween Dance</b>  - Doors open at 6pm  -Dance runs 6:30-8:30pm</p> <p>6.3.1 – DJ is booked and will be paid this week  6.3.2 Lea will help head the Halloween dance with Trish  6.3.3 Trish motioned for a float of \$400 – Liz seconded - carried  Trish motioned for \$600 budget for concession – Liz seconded – carried (Concession to be Juice and water, chocolate bars, chips ect)</p> <p>50/50 to go towards bussing and the door entry cash donation will go towards supplies, equipment and activities for the school.  Trish motioned for \$80 to cover janitorial costs. Liz seconded- carried  - We will start looking for volunteers in the coming weeks.</p> <p><b>6.4 Dissolve current executive</b>  6.4.1 Motion to dissolve current executive members.  -Trish motioned, Liz seconded – carried.</p> <p><b>6.5 Election of new executive members</b>  6.5.1 Motion to Elect new executive members.  - Motioned and passed to vote in new executive members- carried</p> <p><b>6.5.2</b>  Elections for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer were held and the following people were elected and are the new executives and new signers for the bank accounts.</p> <p>President- Trish Kuhn  Vice President – Lea Kenchington  Secretary – Jen Shea  Treasurer- .Liz Ream</p> <p>The following people have volunteered to be Directors of committee chairs:  <b>Hot Lunch</b> - Paige Keroack  <b>Fundraising</b>- Jared &amp; Lainie Gratrix  <b>Club/Moo</b> – Lacey Urbanski – Lacey is looking for someone else to take this over but will assist in the meantime, please contact the PTA if interested.  <b>Treat Sales</b>- Heather Summers  <b>Casino</b> – Shelley Romanyshyn  <b>Recycling program</b> – This is to be determined still, please contact the PTA if interested</p>
7	<b>Committee Reports</b>

ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF DISCUSSION
	<p><b>7.1 Hot Lunch</b> – Paige – September 29<sup>th</sup> – The Venue</p> <p><b>7.2 Fundraising</b> – Jared/Lainie - Ongoing fundraisers for Mables labels, Cobbs, BP's receipts &amp; Skip the Depot. -Lainie to look into different options for fundraisers to have one before Christmas.</p> <p><b>7.3 Milk program</b> – starting this week or next once milk is delivered.</p> <p><b>7.4 Treat Sales</b> – First treat sale will be November 17<sup>th</sup> 2023</p> <p><b>7.5 Recycling program</b> – Still looking for someone to head this committee.</p> <p><b>7.6 Casino</b> — Q2 2024.(April/May/June) more info to follow once available.</p>
<b>8</b>	<b>Special Events Committees</b>
	<p><b>8.1 Halloween Dance</b> – DJ has been booked for Oct 27<sup>th</sup>, Trish and Lea will head this committee.</p> <p><b>8.2 Spell-a-thon</b> – tabled, and will move to spring – looking for a lead for this event.</p> <p><b>8.3 Family Bingo</b> – looking to hold in February of this year.</p>
<b>9</b>	<b>Date for Next meeting</b>
	Next meeting to be held October 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2023
<b>10.</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>
	Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM



## Principal's Report – September 2023

1. Start-up went well. Technology upgrades and problems with technology associated with startup. Email messages were created to go out to parents, but it didn't work properly. Meet the staff was efficient and freed up a night for parents and for staff.
2. PD day in August for staff was held at Elk Island National Park. Focus on new staff, team building and on the Seven Sacred Teachings.
3. New Staff – Tami Richert – AP, Kenzie Wilson – Connections teacher, Morgan Vibe – grade 5 teacher, Amanda Osicki – EA Connections, Shawna Resalat – EA grade 1  
 Returning staff – Bailey Wilson – grade 6 teacher, Joanne Simpson - grade 1 teacher, Melanie Rudiak – EA ECS and 6, Stacy Reid – EA grade 6, Kim Buck – Grade 4 EA
4. Cohort numbers
 

ECS	<b>62</b>	Grade 4	<b>55</b>
Grade 1	<b>48</b>	Grade 5	<b>54</b>
Grade 2	<b>71</b>	Grade 6	<b>60</b>
Grade 3	<b>63</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>413</b>
5. Teachers and new curriculum
6. School supplies
7. School calendar
8. School pictures – **Monday Oct 2 and Tuesday Oct 3 / Retakes Nov 1 and 2**
9. Evacuation drills
10. Terry Fox and Red Day - **Friday September 22**
11. Fall academic screenings – STAR (LA and Math), GOA screening – grade 2/3
12. New programs – Connections/ Reading Intervention for some grade 2 students
13. Leadership Retreat in Red Deer, AB
14. Orange Shirt day and new FNMI lead - **Friday September 29/ Tami Richert**
15. New Counsellor – **Mrs. Hudson**
16. Upcoming PD Day – **Friday October 6** – all EIPS Staff
17. *Breakfast Club*

## Trustee Report – September 2023



### NEW

1. **WELCOME / APPRECIATION** – Thank you to all EIPS schools and departments for their work preparing for the return to school start-up. Trustees are all looking forward to the 2023-24 school year.
2. **BOARD EVALUATION** – On August 24, after the Board meeting, trustees participate in a Board Self-Evaluation Report workshop, which the Board uses to map its work and functions for the upcoming year.
3. **BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING** – Held on August 25, 2022. Trustee Allen was elected Board Chair and Trustee Miller was elected Board Vice-Chair. Appointments to various committees will be approved at the September Board Meeting.
4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM IN-CAMERA** – The Board moved the following motion: “that the Board of Trustees approve housekeeping amendments to the Strathcona Christian Academy Society Agreement.”
5. **TRANSPORTATION FEE SCHEDULE** – The mandated changes to the eligibility criteria will be effective for the 2024-25 school year; however, EIPS implemented these changes in the 2023/24 calendar years. This resulted in *reduced fees* for riders starting this fall. In terms of fees, the Board approved the recommendation for [Student Transportation fees 2023-24](#)
6. **FRENCH IMMERSION** – EIPS administration is working on a recommendation report regarding the French Immersion program, which they've been looking into since 2017-2018 through surveys and a recent video. They've heard from over 1000 families. The Board of Trustees will receive the EIPS administration's *Report for Recommendation* on October 19, 2023. At that time the Board of Trustees will discuss the administration's recommendation and ask questions. **If**, a decision is made, EIPS will begin a transition plan – to start in the 2026-27 school year. For more details, please check the EIPS website. Thanks to all the parents for sharing their thoughts!
7. **PARENT ENGAGEMENT** – On August 17, Superintendent Stoddard took part in the Walk Alongside Alberta meeting, hosted by the Alberta School Councils' Association. Walk Alongside Alberta is a new initiative to build systemic parent engagement in public education. The key presenter was Debbie Pushor, a professor at the University of Saskatchewan and renowned parent engagement expert, who spoke about her research on the benefits of parent engagement within the education system. EIPS is the first Alberta school division to join the Walk Alongside Alberta initiative.
8. **COSC MEETING DATES** – To kick off the 2023-24 COSC meeting season, Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) Board of Trustees is hosting an in-person Meet and Greet on **Oct. 4, 2023**. Doors open at 5:15

PM All meetings are scheduled to start at 6:00 PM, and will be held at Central Office in Sherwood Park (683 Wye Road). **Meeting dates: October 4, 2023 - Meet and Greet; November 1, 2023; January 10, 2024; February 7, 2024; March 6 1, 2024; April 3, 2024; May 1, 2024.** You can also join [COSC on Facebook](#) to share information and ask questions with other school councils.

- NEXT BOARD MEETING** – The next regular Board meeting takes place on **Sept. 21, 2023, at 10 a.m.** Board meetings are held in the Elk Island Public Schools boardroom at 683 Wye Rd. in Sherwood Park. EIPS also livestreams public Board meetings on its [YouTube channel](#).

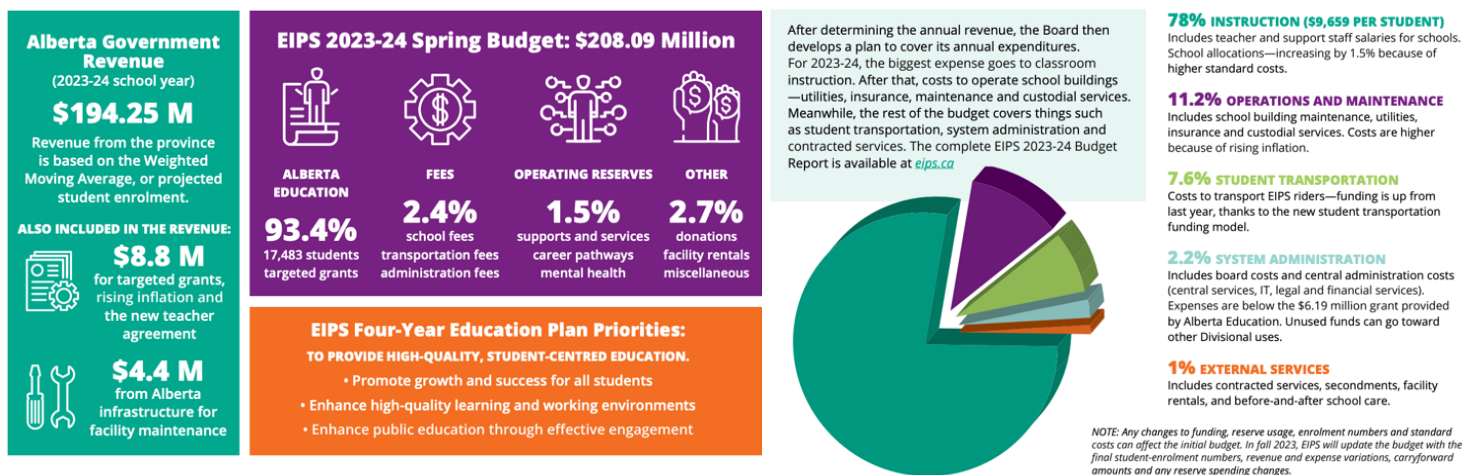
## REMINDERS

- ALBERTA’S BUDGET 2023** – The Board of Trustees approved the assumptions, allocations, school fees and transportation fees, all of which are the building blocks for developing the actual budget. The assumptions are based on the Board’s mission and belief statements, the Division’s *Four-Year Education Plan*, Alberta’s Budget 2023 and the provincial *Funding Manual for School Authorities 2023-24 School Year*. As with all assumptions, changes such as funding, reserve usage and enrolment numbers can affect the initial budget.

For the allocations, EIPS will receive an additional 4.8% in funding. Broken down, it works out to \$8.8 million. Despite the increase, it’s still a tight budget. That’s because \$6.6 million is for specifically targeted grants—many previously funded through the province’s bridge funding, now eliminated. The remaining \$2.2 million covers rising inflation for utilities and employee benefits costs.

The Board expects schools to receive a bit more money than the previous year, up by 1.6%, to cover the higher costs—the exact allocations for each school will vary. Small rural schools will also receive additional money based on their funding level detailed in the province’s *Funding Manual for School Authorities*. Meanwhile, departments will see slightly lower allocations, 1.1%. However, that drop is mostly because of one-time spending projects planned in 2022-23, funded by reserves.

EIPS BUDGET 2023-24 at a glance:





11. **SCHOOL FEES: 2023-24** – The Board approved the proposed school fees for 2023-24, which outlines how fees are charged for optional courses; alternative programs; extracurricular; lunch supervision; non-curricular goods and services; and activity expenses, such as field trips. Earlier this year, parameters were set by the Board to ensure students achieve quality education, while also ensuring fees aren't cost-prohibitive for families. Any fees that exceeded the listed parameters—above a 5% to 7% increase—were reviewed and vetted by Financial Services. Now approved, schools will post fees on their individual websites for the 2023-24 school year (see pg. 79, ["2023-24 School Fees"](#)).
12. **STUDENT ENROLLMENT NUMBERS** – Financial Services will be using enrolment from end-of-day Sept. 13, 2023, in PowerSchool to get approximate enrolment numbers and calculate updated revenue for the Division for the upcoming fall budget.
13. **GoA MANDATORY ASSESSMENTS FOR GRADES 1-3** – EIPS schools are required to complete the Government of Alberta (GoA) mandatory assessments for grades 1-3. Students in grades 2 and 3 need to be assessed before the end of September. Grade 1 students need to be assessed in January.
14. **CLASSROOM COMPLEXITY GRANT** – The Classroom Complexity Grant was established by the government last spring. For EIPS, that equates to \$850,000 for the entire division to address needs over three years. The limitation of complexity funding received given our size and Division and the amount we received and the recommendation brought forward to the board is to use a focused approach as this would generate better services for kids in need of this extra grant funding.

## UPDATED

15. **EIPS THREE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT PLAN** – Three-Year Engagement Plan.

There are four projects included in the plan:

- a. [Three-Year Strathcona County Engagement](#)
- b. [Enrolment Pressure Engagement](#)
- c. [LOGOS Program Review](#)
- d. [Vegreville Value Scoping Session](#)

## ENGAGEMENT: A RECAP FROM 2022-23

Last year, the Division embarked on a three-year public engagement strategy aimed at areas the Division can improve operations to best serve students, staff and families. Collectively the four-part strategy ensures EIPS continues providing high-quality education to all students.

### PROJECT 1

Addresses student accommodation in Strathcona County—looking primarily at the secondary level, system programming and the French Immersion program. Work will continue into the 2023-24 school year.

### PROJECT 2

Addresses the enrolment pressures at James Mowat Elementary. After extensive engagement efforts, the Board approved introducing a random selection process for new students and introducing an alternative designated school for learners living in James Mowat's attendance boundaries—Fort Saskatchewan Elementary.

### PROJECT 3

Addresses the declining enrolment in the elementary Logos Christian program. After consultations, EIPS consolidated the program at Brentwood Elementary.

### PROJECT 4

Addresses the low utilization rates at EIPS' two Vegreville-based schools. A community-supported solution was developed through a value scoping session with stakeholders—modernize Vegreville Composite High to accommodate a consolidated program, kindergarten to Grade 12. Since then, the Board made the request to the province through its *EIPS Three-Year Capital Plan*.

16. **BOARD ADVOCACY STRATEGY** – Was updated on March 29, 2023 The Board of Trustees represents the best interests of students by way of interaction and engagement with school families, constituents, community partners, provincial government departments, locally elected officials and Alberta’s Minister of Education. The intent of advocacy is twofold:
- a. *Influence the Government of Alberta’s education policy*
  - b. *Seek and secure sufficient resources in order to meet the needs of EIPS students Through consistency, diplomacy, persistence and engagement with key stakeholders, effective advocacy can help enhance the quality of education offered by EIPS schools and benefit the overall public education system in Alberta.*

## **2022-23 Advocacy**

2022-23 Board Advocacy Strategy.

### **Priorities**

**Mental Health Supports**

**Curriculum**

**Infrastructure - Sherwood Park and Fort Saskatchewan**

**Election Issues**

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **17. UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES**

- Sept. 18-19 – Board Retreat
- Sept. 20 – MLA Kyle Kasawski engagement
- Sept. 21 – Board Meeting
- Sept. 22 – ASBA Zone 2/3 Meeting
- Sept. 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Oct. 2-5 Read in Week
- Oct. 4 – Meet and Greet COSC
- Oct. 5 World Teachers’ Day
- Oct. 6 Professional Learning Day- No School
- Oct. 10 World Mental Health Day
- Oct. 17 Fort Saskatchewan School Tours (Fort C, Fort E, Next S, Fort H, Ecole P)



# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

AUG. 24, 2023

## Chair's Report

### RECENT EVENTS

Board Chair Trina Boymook highlighted recent trustee events:

- On July 3-5, Chair Boymook, Vice-Chair Colleen Holowaychuk and trustees Jacqueline Shotbolt and Cathy Allen attended the Canadian School Boards Association's 2023 National Gathering and Congress in Banff, Alta. The Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) was this year's host, which organized an impressive lineup of speakers; First Nations, Métis and Inuit traditions; and valuable networking opportunities for school board trustees from across the country.
- On August 21, to kick-start the school year, Chair Boymook attended and spoke at the Elk Island Public Schools Leadership meeting with principals, directors, assistant principals and assistant directors. As always, it was exciting to be there, to meet with everyone and feed off all the positive energy. Divisionwide, everyone's looking forward to welcoming students back to class on August 31.
- On August 23, trustees participated in a professional learning session, which focused on building a first-team mindset.

### NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION

Chair Boymook was honoured to meet the Division's newest employees at the annual Off to a Good Start conference, an orientation program for new EIPS staff and administrators. The orientation ran from August 22-23. Chair Boymook brought greetings at the event on behalf of the Board. She's thrilled to have the new staff joining the EIPS team and wishes them the best in the upcoming school year.

### WELCOME BACK PANCAKE BREAKFAST

On August 24, the Board hosted a Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast for staff at EIPS Central Services. The breakfast is an annual event trustees put on to kick-start the school year and thank EIPS staff for the work they do for the Division. Chair Boymook thanked her fellow trustees and Carol Langford-Pickering, the Executive Assistant to the Board of Trustees, for helping organize the breakfast.

### BOARD EVALUATION

On August 24, after the Board meeting, trustees participate in a Board Self-Evaluation Report workshop, which the Board uses to map its work and functions for the upcoming year.

### TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Ralph Sorochan thanked all EIPS schools and departments for their work preparing for the school startup. Trustees are all looking forward to the 2023-24 school year.

## Superintendent's Report

### STARTUP AND WELCOME

With the 2023-24 school year officially starting on August 31, Superintendent Sandra Stoddard offered a warm welcome to all staff, students and their families who are either new or returning to the Division for the 2023-24 school year. Given the Division's unwavering commitment to student success, she is confident the upcoming year will be a great one for everyone within EIPS.

Superintendent Stoddard also introduced three new members of the EIPS Executive Team:

- Ragan Johnson, the Associate Superintendent of Human Resources;
- Ryan Marshall, the Associate Superintendent of Support for Students; and
- Weylin Gilewich, the Director of Information Technologies.

As well, throughout the summer, EIPS staff were busy planning and preparing for the new school year to ensure students have another successful academic experience. Most recently, the Division held its first Leadership meeting of the year, which included all principals, directors, assistant principals and assistant directors. The energy was palpable, and everyone's looking forward to welcoming students on August 31. Human Resources also hosted its annual Off to a Good Start conference, an orientation program for new principals, assistant principals, teachers and classified staff.

## PARENT ENGAGEMENT

On August 17, Superintendent Stoddard took part in the Walk Alongside Alberta meeting, hosted by the Alberta School Councils' Association. Walk Alongside Alberta is a new initiative to build systemic parent engagement in public education. The key presenter was Debbie Pushor, a professor at the University of Saskatchewan and renowned parent engagement expert, who spoke about her research on the benefits of parent engagement within the education system. EIPS is the first Alberta school division to join the Walk Alongside Alberta initiative.

## Association and Employee Relation Reports

### ATA LOCAL REPORT

The Board received for information the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Local No. 28 report from Deneen Zielke, the Local's President:

- Zielke hopes everyone had a relaxing and rejuvenating summer break.
- On August 14-18, the ATA hosted its Annual Summer Conference. Zielke attended various training and professional learning sessions. The highlight: keynote speaker Tareq Hadhad, a Syrian refugee and founder of Peace by Chocolate, based in Nova Scotia. Hadhad shared a motivational story about his journey to Canada, risk-taking, entrepreneurship, giving back and the power of community. The Local looks forward to bringing some of the ideas he discussed to fruition this year.
- Zielke thanked EIPS Human Resources for inviting her to speak to new teachers at the Off to a Good Start conference.
- Zielke looks forward to the year ahead with hope and a focus on positive change.

## New Business

### BUSINESS ARISING FROM IN CAMERA

The Board moved the following motion:

- "that the Board of Trustees approve housekeeping amendments to the Strathcona Christian Academy Society Agreement."

### TRUSTEE SCHOOL LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE LIST

The Board approved the Trustee School Liaison Representative List for the 2023-24 school year (see pg. 9, ["2023-24 Trustee School Liaison Representative List."](#))



# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

## BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: 2023-24

### NOMINATION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

The Board held its annual organizational meeting, which included nominations and elections for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions. Trustee Cathy Allen was elected the Chair, and Trustee Susan Miller was elected the Vice-Chair. Both individuals will lead the Board of Trustees throughout the 2023-24 school year.

### BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board approved the regular Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule for the 2023-24 school year (see [Board of Trustees: Meetings](#)”).

### BOARD COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS

The Board reviewed the 2023-24 Board Committees and Representative Appointments list. Individual trustees were asked to indicate to the Chair the committees they want to serve on. The Board will approve the finalized list during the Board meeting on Sept. 21, 2023.

## Board Members

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

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

**Cathy Allen**, *Board Chair* | P 780 417 8109

**Laura McNabb**, *Director, Communication Services* | P 780 417 8204

[www.eips.ca](http://www.eips.ca) | Twitter: [@eips](#) | Facebook: [elkislandpublicschools](#)

# Caregiver Education Team Newsletter

September 2023



Alberta Health Services is proud to offer FREE online programming to caregivers of school-age children and youth as well as adults in the community who want to learn more about addiction and mental health topics.

Sessions are offered online through the Zoom conferencing application. A link to access the online session will be sent by email to those who have registered for the session.

## Adult Education Sessions

### Understanding Anxiety Series

For adults supporting their own wellness or the wellness of others.

**Part 1:  
An Introduction**  
Wednesday, September 20  
12:00 – 1:00 pm

**Part 2:  
Calming Our Bodies**  
Wednesday, September 27  
12:00 – 1:00 pm

**Part 3:  
Settling Our Minds**  
Wednesday, October 4  
12:00 – 1:00 pm

**Part 4:  
Overcoming Avoidance**  
Wednesday, October 11  
12:00 – 1:00 pm

## Caregiver Education Sessions

### Parenting Teens in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

For parents and caregivers of youth in grades 7-12.

**Part 1:**  
Monday, September 18  
12:00 – 1:00 pm

**Part 4:**  
Monday, September 25  
12:00 – 1:00 pm

## Participant Feedback

“Thank you! Just a wealth of great information.”

“The time was good and with two presenters it didn’t feel boring at all. Great job.”

“I like the interactive portions because it helps to connect with other people who are watching.”

“Going over tips and strategies helped quite a lot.”

## Sessions at a Glance



AMH Education Services  
Addiction & Mental Health  
Edmonton Zone

For more information, visit [www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca](http://www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca)

# Caregiver Education Sessions

September 2023



These free sessions are intended to provide parents, caregivers, and community members with information regarding addiction and mental health challenges that can affect children and youth. When topics are presented as a series, participants can attend one or all sessions.

## Registration

Sessions are offered online through the Zoom conferencing application.

A link to access the online session will be sent by email to those who have registered for the session.

To register, click [HERE](#) or go to:

[www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca](http://www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca)

## Parenting Teens in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Respectful Limit Setting for Adolescents

In these sessions, we will explore the challenges of being a teenager and the importance of the parent/teen relationship. We will continue to look at ways to increase communication and understanding around healthy boundaries with your teen.

### Part 1: Teen Development and Challenges

In this one-hour Lunch & Learn webinar, we will look the challenges of both being and raising a teenager. We will look at some of the unique factors that today's teens face and how their development in these key years impacts their behaviours and relationships.

**Date: Monday, September 18, 2023**

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

For caregivers of youth grades 7-12, [for adults only](#).

### Part 2: Parent Responsiveness

In this one-hour Lunch & Learn webinar, we will discuss parenting strategies to promote healthy teenage development with a focus on relationship, communication, and respectful limit setting.

**Date: Monday, September 25, 2023**

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

For caregivers of youth grades 7-12, [for adults only](#).

## Participant Feedback

“The virtual format is very convenient and makes it much easier to attend these sessions.”

“Thank you - this learning journey is so helpful for my growing family.”

“Enjoyed the short videos. Session time was perfect.”

“I liked the format, especially the interactive part as it keeps you focused.”



AMH Education Services  
Addiction & Mental Health  
Edmonton Zone

For more information, visit [www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca](http://www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca)

# Adult Education Sessions

September 2023



These free sessions are intended to provide community members with information and strategies regarding addiction and mental health challenges that can affect us all. When topics are presented as a series, participants can attend one or all sessions.

## Understanding Anxiety Series

### Part 1: An Introduction

This session will distinguish between normal worries and anxiety that is no longer helpful or productive and will help participants to identify signs that they or those they care for may be experiencing anxiety.

**Date: Wednesday, September 20, 2023**

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

For adults supporting their own wellness or the wellness of others.

### Part 2: Calming Our Bodies

In this session, we will review how the body reacts to stress triggers, ways we can start to notice the body's stress responses, and strategies for regulating ourselves, children, and youth.

**Date: Wednesday, September 27, 2023**

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

For adults supporting their own wellness or the wellness of others.

### Part 3: Settling Our Minds

In this session, we will look at how anxiety can lead to negative thoughts and thinking traps that can hold us back. Strategies for encouraging more realistic thinking will be discussed.

**Date: Wednesday, October 4, 2023**

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

For adults supporting their own wellness or the wellness of others.

### Part 4: Overcoming Avoidance

In this session, we will discuss how avoidance of stressors can increase our stress response over time. We will discuss ways to manage stressful situations in steps and effective coping skills.

**Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2023**

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

For adults supporting their own wellness or the wellness of others.

## Registration:

Sessions are offered online through the Zoom conferencing application.

A link to access the online session will be sent by email to those who have registered for the session.

To register, click [HERE](#) or go to:

[www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca](http://www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca)

## Participant Feedback

“Thank you for another great session. I’m enjoying them so much!”

“The time was just right as I work in the daytime. Thank you so much for providing this support!”

“Thanks so much for sharing with us in this session.”

“The questions asked to participants were helpful.”



AMH Education Services  
Addiction & Mental Health  
Edmonton Zone

For more information, visit [www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca](http://www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca)



# EIPS

## QUARTERLY UPDATE

### SUMMER 2023

## EIPS NEWS

### Design plans revealed for replacement school

| *The Sherwood Park and Strathcona County News*

### EIPS Trustees focused on spring budget

| *The Sherwood Park and Strathcona County News*

### Bev Facey student wins gold at Skills Alberta

| *The Sherwood Park and Strathcona County News*

### Ardrossan Elementary wins Minecraft design challenge

| *FortSaskOnline.com*

### EIPS Students create communities for the Homeless

| *The Fort Saskatchewan Record*

### Fort High students excited about inaugural slo-pitch team

| *The Fort Saskatchewan Record*

### Students send thank you messages to Fort Saskatchewan firefighters

| *The Fort Saskatchewan Record*

## INBOX

“Is the Sherwood Park replacement school still going through? If so, are there details about the timeline, design and grade configuration?”

Yes, work is underway as we speak. Earlier this year, the province announced funding for the replacement school and named Alberta Infrastructure, the project manager. That means the province is leading the entire project, including the new replacement school's design, construction and timelines.

Before approving the construction funding, the province hired ACI Architecture Inc. to develop the [school design](#), finalized late last spring. Now complete, the construction phase is projected to start in early 2024—with a completion date sometime in 2026-27. As for programming, it's still under Board review. What is certain, though, is the new infrastructure will replace the École Campbelltown and Sherwood Heights Junior High buildings. You can learn more about the new replacement school by visiting [eips.ca](https://eips.ca).

## FOR STARTERS

**It seems fitting to wrap up the 2022-23 school year by recapping the Division's budget and what it means for the upcoming school year. That's precisely what you'll find in this issue of the *EIPS Board Update*. But first, and most exciting, I want to introduce Elk Island Public Schools' new Superintendent, Sandra Stoddard.**

You likely know her already. For the last six years, she's worked as the Division's Associate Superintendent of Supports for Students. And, in that time, she's earned the respect of trustees, staff, students, families and stakeholders across the Division. We're thrilled to have her on board. Her expertise, abilities, creativity and commitment will help build the Division and enhance

our work to meet the diverse educational needs of the communities we serve.

Over the coming year, we'll find ways to help you get to know Superintendent Stoddard a bit better. Until then, I encourage you to read through this issue as we offer a deep dive into the 2023-24 budget, key focus areas and the Board's plans to continue delivering high-quality programming. Also, in "Inbox," we offer the latest update on Sherwood Park's newest replacement school and on Page 4, a quick update on EIPS' Three-Year Engagement Plan. Read through. I hope it provides perspective, a broad picture and transparency of the work taking place within the Division. Enjoy!

**Trina Boymook,**  
Board Chair, Elk Island Public Schools

# AT A GLANCE: EIPS BUDGET 2023-24

## EVER WONDER WHAT GOES INTO MAKING EIPS' BUDGET?

### Here's a brief look at the Board's budget process and what's ahead for 2023-24

Every spring, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) prepares a budget for the upcoming year. It's based on provincial funding, the *Funding Manual for School Authorities*, projected student enrolment, expense estimates, the Division's key priorities and belief statements, and stakeholder feedback. The goal: To ensure a budget that maintains the Board's commitment to student achievement and provides system stability.

For the 2023-24 school year, EIPS' operating budget is \$208.09 million. Of that, \$204.95 million will come from the Division's annual revenue—mainly made up



of funding from Alberta Education. That revenue is based on projected enrolment and specifically targeted grants, such as student supports, school nutrition, transportation and building operations. Other revenue comes from donations, facility rentals and school generated funds—collected on a cost-recovery basis for optional courses, alternative programming, lunch supervision, extracurricular opportunities and field trips. Meanwhile, the remaining \$3.14 million of the budget comes from operating reserves to support schools and departments, career pathways and the Division's mental health strategic plan.

**Alberta Government Revenue**  
(2023-24 school year)

**\$194.25 M**

Revenue from the province is based on the Weighted Moving Average, or projected student enrolment.

**ALSO INCLUDED IN THE REVENUE:**

**\$8.8 M**  
for targeted grants, rising inflation and the new teacher agreement

**\$4.4 M**  
from Alberta infrastructure for facility maintenance

**EIPS 2023-24 Spring Budget: \$208.09 Million**

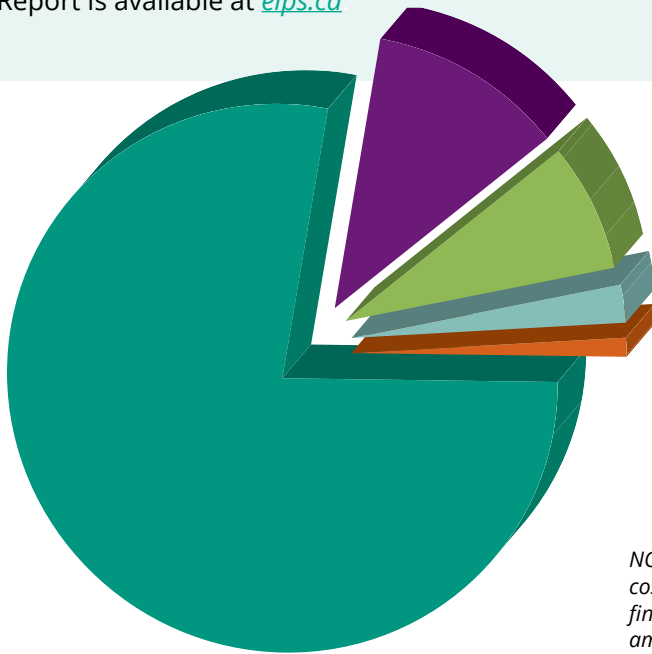
<b>ALBERTA EDUCATION</b>	<b>FEEES</b>	<b>OPERATING RESERVES</b>	<b>OTHER</b>
<b>93.4%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
17,483 students targeted grants	school fees transportation fees administration fees	supports and services career pathways mental health	donations facility rentals miscellaneous

**EIPS Four-Year Education Plan Priorities:**  
TO PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY, STUDENT-CENTRED EDUCATION.

- Promote growth and success for all students
- Enhance high-quality learning and working environments
- Enhance public education through effective engagement

# EIPS EXPENSE BREAKDOWN 2023-24

After determining the annual revenue, the Board then develops a plan to cover its annual expenditures. For 2023-24, the biggest expense goes to classroom instruction. After that, costs to operate school buildings—utilities, insurance, maintenance and custodial services. Meanwhile, the rest of the budget covers things such as student transportation, system administration and contracted services. The complete EIPS 2023-24 Budget Report is available at [eips.ca](http://eips.ca)



## 78% INSTRUCTION (\$9,659 PER STUDENT)

Includes teacher and support staff salaries for schools. School allocations—increasing by 1.5% because of higher standard costs.

## 11.2% OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Includes school building maintenance, utilities, insurance and custodial services. Costs are higher because of rising inflation.

## 7.6% STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Costs to transport EIPS riders—funding is up from last year, thanks to the new student transportation funding model.

## 2.2% SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION

Includes board costs and central administration costs (central services, IT, legal and financial services). Expenses are below the \$6.19 million grant provided by Alberta Education. Unused funds can go toward other Divisional uses.

## 1% EXTERNAL SERVICES

Includes contracted services, secondments, facility rentals, and before-and-after school care.

*NOTE: Any changes to funding, reserve usage, enrolment numbers and standard costs can affect the initial budget. In fall 2023, EIPS will update the budget with the final student-enrolment numbers, revenue and expense variations, carryforward amounts and any reserve spending changes.*

## Budget Process Timeline

EIPS projects enrolment for the upcoming school year and submits it to Alberta Education.

JANUARY



The province releases its *Funding Manual for School Authorities*, which allows the Board to begin work developing a budget built on two key principles:

- equitable distribution of funds and programs
- transparent and understandable allocations

MARCH



The Board approves the Division's spring budget.

LATE MAY



FEBRUARY

The province announces the budget for the upcoming year. EIPS conducts its Returning Student Registration Process—used for budget allocations.

LATE APRIL - EARLY MAY

The Board approves:

- budget assumptions
- budget allocations
- fees—school, transportation, administration

EARLY JUNE

Schools and central departments use the projected allocations to start planning for the upcoming school year.



## WHAT'S AN ACCUMULATED SURPLUS?

Essentially, a school division's accumulated surplus is the reserves it has available. By the end of 2023-24, EIPS projects an accumulated surplus of \$3.48 million—made up of asset retirement obligation (-\$9.6 million), investment in tangible capital assets (\$7.66 million), capital reserves (\$840,000) and operating reserves (\$4.58 million). In terms of reserve usage, school divisions no longer have the flexibility to use reserves freely. Ministerial approval is now required before accessing and there's a new operating reserve limit. School boards have to return any money over that limit in their reserves at the end of each year. Given these reserve rules, EIPS plans to use \$3.14 million from the operating reserves in 2023-24—used to support schools and departments, career pathways programming and the Division's mental health strategic plan. That will leave \$3.45 million in the unallocated Division reserves, which is well within the province's operating reserve limit and also allows for the Division's financial stability.

## More Students Eligible for Busing

### GOOD NEWS FOR RIDERS!

New provincial funding will decrease fees for all riders in 2023-24. The new funding includes expanded distance eligibility, allowances for students attending a school or program of choice, and added fuel money for fuel coverage and inflationary costs. [Learn more](#)



## ENGAGEMENT: A RECAP FROM 2022-23

Last year, the Division embarked on a three-year public engagement strategy aimed at areas the Division can improve operations to best serve students, staff and families. Collectively the four-part strategy ensures EIPS continues providing high-quality education to all students.

### PROJECT 1

Addresses student accommodation in Strathcona County—looking primarily at the secondary level, system programming and the French Immersion program. Work will continue into the 2023-24 school year.

### PROJECT 2

Addresses the enrolment pressures at James Mowat Elementary. After extensive engagement efforts, the Board approved introducing a random selection process for new students and introducing an alternative designated school for learners living in James Mowat's attendance boundaries—Fort Saskatchewan Elementary.

### PROJECT 3

Addresses the declining enrolment in the elementary Logos Christian program. After consultations, EIPS consolidated the program at Brentwood Elementary.

### PROJECT 4

Addresses the low utilization rates at EIPS' two Vegreville-based schools. A community-supported solution was developed through a value scoping session with stakeholders—modernize Vegreville Composite High to accommodate a consolidated program, kindergarten to Grade 12. Since then, the Board made the request to the province through its *EIPS Three-Year Capital Plan*.



ALBERTA  
EDUCATION

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*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Calgary - Bow*

Dear Parents,

Another school year has started and as Alberta's new Minister of Education, I want to introduce myself and give you a quick update about some of the things your government has been doing to ensure our students are set up for success.

A top priority for my parents was getting me a high-quality education, since I'm a second generation Calgarian. Having immigrated to Calgary in the 1970s their educational opportunities were limited, and they firmly believed that a strong education is the path to greater success and prosperity. I took their advice to heart and went on to earn my PhD in political science and conflict resolution. I'm passionate about education and will work hard to set our students up for success.

As the 2023/24 school year gets underway there are several important highlights I want to share with you.

**I firmly believe that the upcoming school year will give students the tools and resources they need to succeed.**

Here are some of the things that we are working on:

**1) We are injecting new funding to start the school year off on the right foot.**

For the current school year, Alberta's government has increased funding to many of our school divisions to make sure they have the financial resources they need to give our kids a world-class education. Funding has increased by seven per cent from last year increasing the total amount of taxpayer dollars going directly to our school divisions to \$7.4 billion. In addition, a new Classroom Complexity Grant will be implemented which provides \$126 million over three years in new funding to help school authorities hire more educational assistants to help our teachers manage classrooms that are increasingly more complex with more students with diverse learning needs. As well, our hardworking teachers will also receive a two per cent salary increase this September as part of a deal reached with teachers last year and finally, we are providing \$414 million in new funding, a 32 per cent increase, to help bus another 80,000 students to school.

**2) We are hiring more teachers and staff in our classrooms.**

As students head back to class, they may start to see new friendly faces in their school. Budget 2023 provided funding to hire up to 3,000 new educational staff over three years, including teachers, educational assistants, bus drivers and other school support staff such as speech language pathologists and psychologists. Ensuring students have the supports they need to succeed in and out of the classroom is a top priority of mine.

**3) We are focused on improving student mental health.**

Alberta's government is supporting almost 80 mental health pilot projects across the province, with an investment of \$50 million. These projects will encourage student well-being through new and innovative approaches to providing supports and services like counselling, social and emotional learning, student assessment and training for school staff. For more information, please click [here](#).

**4) We will continue to lead the country in early literacy and numeracy assessments.**

As a father of two, I want to know how my girls are progressing in their academic journey and I know many of you want the same. In September of 2022, Alberta's government implemented new mandatory literacy and numeracy screening assessments for all students in Grades 1 – 3. These assessments will help identify students who are struggling with literacy and numeracy skill development and inform teacher intervention lesson plans and techniques to improve student skills. Based on school reporting, these interventions are working. I am very proud of the work that is being done here. Please know Alberta is leading the country with this type of early assessment and screening and will continue to foster new and improved ways to improve the education system. For more information, please click [here](#).

In closing, I want to thank and acknowledge all our hardworking teachers, educational assistants, principals, and other school support staff. The work that you do is deeply acknowledged and appreciated by Alberta's government and I want to express my personal appreciation for your work. I look forward to serving as our province's Minister of Education for our great province and am confident we can continue to provide every student with a world-class education.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Demetrios Nicolaides". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Demetrios Nicolaides ECA PhD  
Minister of Education