

**WIN FERGUSON SCHOOL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Meeting Date: October 28, 2024

Meeting Time: 6:00 PM

Attendees:

Tami Richert

Keri Busenius

Liz Ream

Lainie Gratrix

Trish Kuhn

Jen Shea

Leah Kenchington

Krystal Bailey-Thurn

Mandy Spiess

Heather Lavergne

ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF DISCUSSION
1	Call to Order
	Meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm Introduction of attendees Leah did the reading of the Treaty Acknowledgement
2	Review of Agenda
	Motioned by Liz seconded by Lainie -carried
3	Approval of minutes from last meeting
	Approval of previous minutes motioned by Liz seconded by Lainie -carried
4	Administration Report
	See attached report provided by Keri Busenius. Additional notes on the report points: Community -Lots of visiting grandparents, community leaders and parents for read in week. Teaching & Learning -Morgan Vibe is helping with student intervention for kids that need a bit of extra help with reading and numeracy. Additional assistance programs going on in the school are noted in the Principal's Report. Zen Den and Sunshine room are very well attended throughout the school. Last week Win Ferguson had a consultant come in to work with different classes, this touches on your brain, how it works and regulation. There will be 4 of these events happening throughout the school year. Some positives from the surveys, parents and caregivers found the school to be safe and caring, with good student citizenship, good quality of education, good communication from school, and good parent engagement. First Nations/Metis & Inuit -Month of October focused on the teachings of the Bison – respect -Respecting the environment, yourself and to others. November will be teachings of the Eagle – love There will be a hoop dancer Dallas Arcand coming to the school tomorrow, the school will get to witness a presentation put on by him. EduKits will be available for the school – we just had Wild berries which taught about different plants and the next will be Sacred Stories. Next week on November 8 th is Indigenous Veterans Day. Operations School photos -Feedback from parent: Not all families had sheets going home to be able to order, kids couldn't chose the poses they wanted and some parents thought the prices were increased. Kindergarten concert may be at the school Dec 17/18 th Grades 1-6 Christmas concert December 19 th Teacher Representative – Mrs. Lavergne -Grade 1 students went to a performance at the Dow last week, the kids were very respectful and had a great time!
5	Trustee Report
	There is currently no trustee report available today, Jacqueline resigned effective October 31 st , new trustee filling in is Ralph Sorochan See the attached report provided after via email by Ralph Sorochan Ralph.Sorochan@eips.ca

ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF DISCUSSION
6	Standing Business
	<p><u>Teacher's Wishlist</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -4 x Ipad's – These were ordered for just under \$2200 -Literacy fund – Teachers will be looking into allocating some of the read-a-thon funds to literacy -Athletics/Physical Education – inquiring if the PTA would support 1 set of goalie pads/helmet. Approximately \$200 to allow grades 4-6 to play two games at the same time.
7	Old Business
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -PTA purchased Bee bots -National Custodial day gift cards were purchased and given -World Teacher Day treats were purchased and dropped off to staff. -School Council/PTA meetings for school year were confirmed -Executives elected last meeting have been updated with ASCA and COSC
6	New Business
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Next COSC meeting is Nov.6, 2024 at EIPS Central Services building in Sherwood Park -ASCA budget is \$500 and they rolled over the remaining \$240 from last year. There is an in person meeting available if interested -Schools request for \$100 per classroom for literacy can be satisfied with the funds available from the Read-a-thon.
7	Adjournment
	Meeting was adjourned at 6:34pm. Next Meeting to be held November 25, 2024

**WIN FERGUSON PTA
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Meeting Date: October 28, 2024

Meeting Time: 6:00 PM

Attendees:

Tami Richert

Keri Busenius

Liz Ream

Lainie Gratrix

Trish Kuhn

Jen Shea

Leah Kenchington

Krystal Bailey-Thurn

Mandy Spiess

ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF DISCUSSION
1	Call to Order
	Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM
2	Review of Agenda
	Agenda was motioned by Leah, seconded by Jen -carried
3	Approval of minutes from last meeting
	Previous minutes were motioned by Leah, seconded by Liz- carried
4	Treasurer's Report
	<p>Current online banking administrator is Liz Ream.</p> <p>Liz presented the report. Month end Financials as of October 28, 2024 General Account: \$37,994.06 Casino Account: \$26,502.57</p> <p>Our available balance as of today is: General Account: \$4,734.01 after standing motions and expenses.</p> <p>Casino Account: \$21,502.57 after the \$1500.00 standing motion for expected casino expenses.</p> <p>Additional Notes: Combined Available funds \$64,496.63 Read-a-thon Literact support remaining to be spent is \$15,067.36 The purchase of agendas was \$1,358.02</p> <p>Halloween Dance profits \$1,603.47 (excluding water and chocolate bars adjustments) Revenues -Donations: \$1497.84 -Concession: \$992.75 -50/50: \$388</p> <p>Expenses -DJ: \$729.75 -Concessions: \$689.63</p> <p>Remaining treats will be reallocated as follows: -126 bags of chips to treat sakes @ 0.48 = \$60.48 -24 chocolate bars to treat sales -142 Juice boxes to hot lunch @0.59 = \$83.78 -20 Bottles of water to bingo?</p>
5	Old Business
	<p>5.1 Membership Forms/Signed release forms Required for attendance at meetings. Membership Forms can be found under "Forms" on the parents tab of the school website. (https://www.winferguson.ca/parent-council) - This needs to be filled out annually (for new and returning members). - Forms can be submitted to winfergusonpta@outlook.com</p>
6	New Business

ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF DISCUSSION
	<p>6.1 Halloween Dance Feedback; What went well, any feedback for next years event? -Recommendation to increase concession budget next year to \$700 as costs have increased. -Some people asked if they had to be present for the 50/50 – the answer was vague, more clarity for next year. -Discussion of using the Rafflebox next year instead of tickets for 50/50 next year.</p> <p>Liz motioned to amend the concession budget, increasing it from \$600 to \$700 for this years (2024) Halloween dance – Lainie seconded – carried</p> <p>6.2 Rocks and Rings This event benefits all the students as the whole school gets to take part. Does the PTA want to support this again this year? -the cost is \$250 for 2 days – Trish motioned for \$600 to support 2 sets of the 2 day option, Leah seconded – carried</p> <p>6.3 Family Bingo Is there any interest in having the bingo event this school year since it was put on hold last year? If so what dates work for the school in Feb or March? -The PTA and the school are interested in doing Bingo this year, Tami and Keri will provide dates for next meeting, and the PTA will also bring up any motions or volunteer needs.</p> <p>6.4 Christmas Concert -50/50 will go to support the Christmas concert expenses. -Krystal and Liz will coordinate the setup of the 50/50. -if you buy a 50/50 you can get a chance to win the best seats in the house – the number of seats will be confirmed.</p>
7	Committee Reports
	<p>7.1 Hot Lunch – Paige – Next hot lunch is Boston Pizza November 22nd. Last lunch was a success with lots of participation</p> <p>7.2 Fundraising – Jared/Lainie – Lainie will put out a poll to see if there is any interest in a fundraiser before Christmas</p> <p>7.3 Milk program – Lacey Urbanski -Price went up to \$1.25 to cover the Saputo price increase. We had recorder orders for the beginning of the year. The fridge is sounding rough, may need to purchase a new one for next year. Leah may know of a potential donation prospect for a new fridge, she will reach out for additional information</p> <p>7.4 Treat Sales – First treat sale will be November 7th & 8th, \$0.50 per treat</p> <p>7.5 Recycling program – Shelley – still going well.</p> <p>7.6 Casino – Discussion to be had in 2025/2026 school year</p> <p>7.7 Family Bingo – Trish will run this, more information to come</p>
8	Date for Next meeting
	Next meeting to be held November 25 th , 2024
9	Adjournment
	Meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM

Trustee Report – October 2024

Ralph Sorochan

- 1) **APPRECIATION** – Thank you, for being here today! Your efforts, on behalf of students, is very much appreciated!!
- 2) **BUDGET 2024-25** -
 - a) EIPS is now updating its 2024-25 budget with the final student-enrolment numbers (up 160 students or 1.06% increase from last year, for a total of 17,949), revenue and expense variations, carry forward amounts and any reserve spending changes.
 - b) At a Special Meeting of the Board on October 3, the Board of Trustees passed a motion to utilize the following dollars from Unallocated Capital Reserves:
 - \$1,000,000 to the Salisbury Composite High Chiller project; and
 - \$328,000 increase to the Voice Over Internet Protocol-VOIP (telephone system), both of which are to be started and completed in the 2024-25 year.
 - c) The Board’s budget had a surplus of \$39,592 from last year that was allocated to the Leveraging Student Achievement Fund, which will be distributed to schools.
 - d) Unaudited Financial Statements for Sept 01, 2023, to August 31, 2024 are now available for your perusal. For details, see the information presented to the Board of Trustees on October 17 in the [Board Package](#).
- 3) **BOARD ADVOCACY** -
 - a) On September 18, a letter was sent to the Education Minister, letting him know that EIPS is “shovel ready” for a replacement junior/senior collegiate school in Fort Saskatchewan, as per the provincial school funding announcement.
 - b) On September 18, trustees attended a town hall related to the provincial capital funding announcement—facilitated by Premier Danielle Smith and Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaidis. The meeting gave Alberta-based trustees, school administrators and educators the chance to ask questions and learn more about the new funding.
 - c) A letter is being prepared to be sent to the Education Minister, to address the funding formula review being undertaken by the provincial government.
 - d) See attachment at the end of the report for additional advocacy efforts.
- 4) **FUTURE EIPS CALENDARS** – At the September 19th Board Meeting, Trustees received and considered research on the positive impact collaboration and professional learning has on student achievement. Trustees directed Administration to develop potential calendar options for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 Division Calendars, and a stakeholder calendar survey. A video, links to detailed research, and a stakeholder survey was sent out to families on October 10, to consider possible alternatives to the current calendar. The survey closed on October 21. Please note:
 - a) The survey was for stakeholder feedback, and your opinions matter!
 - b) Status quo calendars remain an option.
 - c) Instructional minutes will not change – the distribution of minutes, however, changes in the suggested options.
 - d) **The Board has made no decisions** about what the calendar will be.

- 5) **MODULAR CLASSROOM PLAN** – The Board of Trustees approved the Modular Classroom Plan submission for 2024-25. The plan includes a request for provincial funding to achieve the following:
- add two new B-Type modular classrooms from Alberta Education to SouthPointe School;
 - demolish two modular classrooms and reclaim the site at Westboro Elementary;
 - replace eight A-Type modular classrooms at James Mowat Elementary with eight new A-Type units; and
 - demolish eight modular classrooms at Win Ferguson Elementary and relocate six units from Wes Hosford Elementary.

- 6) **TRUSTEE RESIGNATION** - Residents residing in Strathcona County Ward Electoral Subdivision #1, which is comprised of all lands within the corporate limits of the City of Fort Saskatchewan, are hereby advised that Mrs. Jacqueline Shotbolt has resigned her position as trustee of Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) as she is relocating outside of the ward, effective Oct. 31, 2024.

Two legislative sections apply in this situation: Section 21(1)(b) of the *Local Authorities Election Act* (LAEA) states that a person may be nominated if the person has been a resident of a ward for the six months prior the election. Section 87(1) of the *Education Act* states that a person is disqualified from remaining as a trustee if they cease to be qualified for nomination under the LAEA.

Residents of Strathcona County Ward Electoral Subdivision #1—lands within the corporate limits of the City of Fort Saskatchewan—will continue to be represented by Trustee Ralph Sorochan until the next local authorities election in October 2025.

As outlined in the *Education Act* Section 81(2), a by-election need not be held: during the three-year period immediately following a general election if there is only one vacancy on the Board, and during the fourth year following a general election, unless the number of vacancies on the board reduces the board to a number that is less than the quorum of the board plus one.

As the Board is currently within the fourth year following a general election and the remaining trustees on the Board still meet the requirement of not less than the quorum of the board plus one, the Division will not hold a by-election.

- 7) **ASSURANCE REVIEWS** - Assurance Reviews are a forum for schools and departments to share their individual results, annual plans, successes, and challenges. The review informs the Division's Annual Education Results Report and allows trustees to gain a holistic understanding of what's happening throughout the Division. All School Reviews are scheduled for November, while Central Department Reviews have started today and continue tomorrow.
- 8) **REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONIES** – This year, all school Remembrance Day ceremonies must take place on November 8—according to the [Remembrance Day Act](#). I will be attending the ceremonies at FSE. I will also be representing EIPS at the Fort Saskatchewan Ceremonies on November 11th.
- 9) **BULLYING AWARENESS WEEK** – will be celebrated November 18-22 throughout EIPS. It promotes awareness and understanding of bullying and its impacts. Schools throughout the Division will be engaged in different activities to take part in this important initiative. Remember, school staff address this topic regularly and not just during this week in November that is legislated by the Alberta government.
- 10) **THE NEW K-9 SHERWOOD PARK REPLACEMENT SCHOOL NEEDS A NAME!** - Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is looking for input from current and future families, Division staff and interested community members on what the new school's name should be. Your input will help the Board of Trustees determine the name and ensure future decisions made about the school best reflect the feelings and opinions of the families and the community it will serve. We invite you to complete the short survey to share your thoughts.. [Complete the survey](#) by October 31, 2024.
- 11) **SCHOOL COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT GRANT** - The \$500 School Council Engagement Grant from Alberta Education is once again available for school councils to use. Remember to have one member from the council at your school complete this [contact form](#) by

Friday, October 25. [Grant Process and FAQs](#).

- 12) **CAREGIVER SERIES: OCTOBER SESSIONS** - Alberta Health Services offers free online programming for parents and caregivers of children and youth. Sessions are offered through Zoom. The list of [October 2024 sessions](#) is now available.
- 13) **NEXT BOARD MEETING** – The next regular Board meeting takes place on November 28, 2024, at 10 AM. Board meetings are held in the Elk Island Public School boardroom. EIPS also livestreams public Board meetings on its [YouTube channel](#).
- 14) Have a great Fall Break!



EIPS Advocacy in Action

Introduction

One of the critical roles of the Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Board of Trustees is to represent students' best interests, acting as the voice for public education on behalf of the communities they serve. Each year, the Board determines the focus of its advocacy efforts, which are also in alignment with the Division's [priorities and goals](#). The intent of the Board's advocacy is twofold: To influence the Government of Alberta's education policy, and to seek and secure sufficient resources to meet the needs of all EIPS students.

The Advocacy Committee will meet in October 2024 to recommend the areas of focus for the 2024-25 school year, which will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees as a whole. The advocacy focus areas for the past year included:

- Infrastructure: *addressing capacity issues and providing learning spaces that promote student achievement and growth.*
- The value of public education: *equitable access, opportunities that meet the needs of a diverse student body, and choice in education.*
- Autonomy of locally elected school boards: *school boards should have the flexibility to invest resources in ways that best meet the unique demands of the communities we serve.*
- Education funding: *funding serves the student needs, and is allocated in ways that are equitable, efficient and give students the best chance of academic and career success.*

Quarterly, through this newsletter, *EIPS Advocacy in Action*, the Division will advise school families and EIPS employees about the Board's work and advocacy efforts to ensure EIPS continues to provide high-quality, student-centred education.

Advocacy Efforts: Summer 2024

Correspondence and conversations:

Throughout the summer of 2024, the Board of Trustees sent one letter to an elected official, as well as engaging one-on-one:

June: Met with the Hon. Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, Parliamentary Secretary for Settlement Services and Ukrainian Evacuees and MLA for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville, Board Chair and Vice-Chair to discuss career pathways, apprenticeship and trades opportunities for students within Alberta's Industrial Heartland, and EIPS' vision for a collegiate school in Fort Saskatchewan.

June: Sent a letter to the Hon. Demetrious Nicolaidis, Minister of Education, advocating for financial support of the proposed replacement junior/senior high school in Fort Saskatchewan, which the

Division will operate under a collegiate model. The school would provide a wide-range of educational and skilled training opportunities that would meet the labour force needs of various sectors in Alberta’s Industrial Heartland—and throughout the province.

July: Spoke with the Hon. Nate Glubish, Minister of Technology and Innovation and MLA for Strathcona-Sherwood Park, to update him on current challenges within the education sector and opportunities for enhanced learning within the division.

EIPS PRIORITIES AND GOALS:

PRIORITY 1: PROMOTE GROWTH AND SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS; GOAL 1: EXCELLENT START TO LEARNING, GOAL 2: SUCCESS FOR EVERY STUDENT

PRIORITY 2: ENHANCE HIGH-QUALITY LEARNING AND WORKING ENVIRONMENTS; GOAL 3: QUALITY INFRASTRUTURE FOR ALL

PRIORITY 3: ENHANCE PUBLIC EDUCATION THROUGH EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT; GOAL 2: ENGAGED AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

Other

Trustees and the superintendent also attended additional events and meetings that allowed for opportunities to discuss issues and advocate for education:

July: Attended Premier Danielle Smith’s speech, delivered at the Strathcona County Chamber of Commerce Luncheon.

September: Participated in the media conference announcing the opening of new CASA Classrooms at eight schools in Alberta—including one at Bev Facey Community High. Took the opportunity to express EIPS’ gratitude for the tremendous cross-ministry work undertaken by Alberta Education, Alberta Addiction and Mental Health, and Alberta Health to make these essential supports for students a reality in our Division.

September: Took part in the groundbreaking ceremony for the Sherwood Park Replacement School—with completion anticipated for the beginning of 2026-27 school year. The start of construction is the culmination of more than a decade of advocacy on behalf of both the community and the Board of Trustees, and the support of locally elected municipal and provincial representatives.

EIPS PRIORITIES AND GOALS:

PRIORITY 1: PROMOTE GROWTH AND SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS; GOAL 1: EXCELLENT START TO LEARNING, GOAL 2: SUCCESS FOR EVERY STUDENT

PRIORITY 2: ENHANCE HIGH-QUALITY LEARNING AND WORKING ENVIRONMENTS; GOAL 3: QUALITY INFRASTRUTURE FOR ALL

Summary

Throughout the 2023-24 school year, the Board of Trustees focused advocacy efforts on:

- promoting growth and success for all students;
- enhancing high-quality learning and working environments; and
- enhancing public education through effective engagement.



Principal's Report to School Council
October 28, 2024

1. Events & Celebrations

- ATHLETICS
 - Gr 5-6 volleyball teams practicing and playing games with other schools

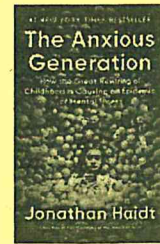
- STUDENT LEADERSHIP
 - Student leaders have two clubs on the go, initiated one school spirit day so far this year, and grade ones have Socktober on the go
 - Choir meets Thursdays
 - Cookie Leaders meet Wednesdays
 - Kindergarten Helpers, Lunchroom Helpers, Recycling Crew, K-1 Bus Helpers, Playground Helpers, Assembly Crews

- COMMUNITY
 - Read-In week including Rudolph Hennig buddy readers and visiting readers at school
 - Early interviews in October attendance:
 - K-3 classes – 81-100% parents/caregivers attended
 - Gr 4-6 classes – 62-92% parents/caregivers attended
 - Linking Generations & grandparent volunteers active at school
 - Thank you to the SAC/PTA volunteers for the Family Halloween Dance, Hot Lunches, & Treat Sales!

- TEACHING & LEARNING
 - Teacher rep sharing – Ms. Lavergne
 - GOA Assessments identified Gr 1-3 students in need of intervention for reading and numeracy this fall
 - EYE-TA Kindergarten assessment ongoing into November
 - Learner supports ongoing: READ Program for Gr 2 (division), reading intervention grades 1-2 (school), OT/SLP/PT/Assistive Tech consultants working with Kindergarten and students with complex needs, Student Support Team (SST) meets weekly and consultant joins monthly
 - Wellness supports in school – Zen Den well visited, Sunshine Room (sensory) is active, breathing strategies posted at water fountains
 - PAT data from June 2024 – Science 6: 90% acceptable, 37% excellence (on par with division); Social Studies 6: 89% acceptable, 28% excellence (on par with division)
 - Oct 4 professional learning day – teachers met with professional learning communities division wide



- October staff meeting – teachers reviewed the 2023-24 EIPS and Alberta Assurance survey data
- The school is safe, staff are caring, student citizenship, quality of education, good communication from school, parent involvement/engagement - positives & maintained
- Learning supports provided, student knowledge of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit teachings (parents), student engagement in learning (54 student responses) - declined
- Staff book study – *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt



- FIRST NATIONS, METIS, & INUIT
 - Sacred Teachings, Dallas Arcand Hoop Dance, Turtle Islanders
 - EduKits – Wild Berries & Sacred Stories
 - Métis Week November 18-22 (one week after official dates)

- OPERATIONS
 - School photos – feedback from parents?
 - Upcoming:
 - Nov. 8 Remembrance Assembly
 - Fall Break Nov. 11-15
 - Nov. 22 Assurance Review
 - Nov. 29 report cards online
 - December 19 Christmas Concert Gr 1-6
 - Kindergarten Concerts at school December 17/18
 - Next SAC/PTA meeting – Associate Superintendent Ryan Marshall attending



2. School Information Update

- Enrolment and classes – 407 students
 - Kindergarten – 52 students (2 classes)
 - Grade 1 – 62 students (3 classes in AM, 2 classes in PM)
 - Grade 2 – 49 students (2 classes)
 - Grade 3 – 69 students (2 classes + 1 combined class)
 - Grade 4 – 62 students (2 classes + 1 combined class)
 - Grade 5 – 54 students (2 classes)
 - Grade 6 – 51 students (2 classes)
 - Connections Program – 8 students



- Welcome to Mrs. Johnston assisting in the Connections Program
- Ms. Vibe is now working as a literacy intervention teacher two mornings a week – grades 1-2 currently
- Staff representative this month is Ms. Lavergne (Grade 1)
- READ Program (division initiative) is Mrs. Traci Austen

3. Asks for SAC/PTA from Staff

- Update – iPads ordered for just under \$2200 (English as an additional language learners – Google Translate/RAZ Kids app, plus more; communication and literacy)
- Literacy fund – asking for \$100 per classroom for literacy purchases (\$1600) in November
- Athletics/Physical Education – ask re: purchasing one additional set of goalie pads/helmet (will be 4th set to allow for two games running for grades 4-6)