

Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary School Council Meeting-May 22, 2024 Trustee Report

ASCA AWARD

Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) awarded Elk Island Public Schools with its Division School Council Engagement Award. We are honoured to receive this award as it is an example of the partnership we have between the Division and the families at the schools across EIPS. Without their support, we wouldn't be the school division we are today.

ASBA EDWIN PARR TEACHER AWARD: 2024

The Board approved EIPS' nomination for this year's Edwin Parr Teacher Award nominee, Alexis Kotronis. Annually, the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 hosts the award to honour and recognize first-year teachers and their pedagogical excellence. Kotronis, a first-year teacher at Davidson Creek Elementary, was selected for her outstanding commitment to education, proactive approach and innate ability to create inclusive learning environments for students.

THREE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN: 2025-28

The Board approved EIPS' [2025-28 Three-Year Capital Plan](#). Annually, the Board reviews and updates the plan to prioritize its key capital projects. 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)

Now approved, the Division will submit the *Three-Year Capital Plan* to the province for funding consideration. Every year, each school board creates a list of building projects that are important to their communities for the next 3 years. The Alberta government uses information from the individual school board plans to create a provincial capital plan. The provincial capital plans consider many factors, including:

- a school's impact on health and safety of students
- the condition of the buildings
- enrolment trends
- each school board's 3-year capital plan

The provincial capital plan helps government decide which projects will be approved when funding is available for school projects. If a project is approved, the local school board, Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure work together on the details of the project to help ensure it meets students' needs.

2024-25 SPRING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Funding rates remain unchanged. This is a status quo budget.
- Enrolment growth is funded. This means overall revenue will increase slightly from the year before. Revenue is calculated on a three-year weighted moving average – 2022-23 (20%) Actual, 2023-24(30%) Estimate, 2024-25(50%) Projection. The projected enrollment for 2024-25 is up by 53 students.
- Student transportation funding remains the same. There was a funding increase in 2023-24.
- The Classroom Complexity Grant remains the same. EIPS is seeing increased demands placed on the classrooms due to the growing number of students with increased diverse needs.
- There is no funding to cover inflationary increases – CPP, EI, Employee benefits, utilities and insurance. The division will allocate reserve funds to offset these increased costs.
- The Mental Health Grant is discontinued. These funds supported the Reset Rooms in junior high schools.
- EIPS will ensure it uses all available resources to meet the priorities, goals and outcomes listed in its Four-Year Education Plan and that all students have the necessary skills to transition to the next grade or the world of work

DID YOU KNOW?

Alberta Reserves are accumulated surplus funds that may be designated to a school, department or priority. The Board of Trustees approves the transfer of funds to and from reserves and has a yearly plan on how those reserves are used—to the benefit of students. EIPS identifies high-demand areas and uses its operating reserves for initiatives like student learning, new curriculum work, consultant support, mental health initiatives, technology upgrades, public-health best practices and other one-time projects. Operating reserves are also used to furnish and equip new schools and classrooms. With its capital reserves, EIPS replaces ageing equipment, purchases technology, modernizes and expands student learning spaces, and funds emergent capital needs.

Learn more:

- [Board Policy 2: Role of Board](#)
- [Administrative Procedure 501: Financial Management](#)

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION FEES: 2024-25

The Board approved the Student Transportation fee schedule for the 2024-25 school year. Student Transportation offers an enhanced transportation fee structure. As such, all riders pay a fee for transportation services. It's an equitable structure for riders and allows EIPS to maintain its current level of service. Thanks to a new provincial funding model for student transportation—introduced in 2023-24—which expands the rider eligibility distance and money to cover higher fuel and inflationary costs, some fees will decrease in 2024-25. The Division will also apply a 40% rebate to current Student Transportation riders. Additionally, Student Transportation will continue to offer a payment-plan option—available to families with fees of \$300 and more—paid over seven months. The approved 2024-25 student fee schedule is available online at [Student Transportation Fees 2024-25](#).

THANK YOU TO THE SCHOOL COUNCIL VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to the parents and guardians for taking the time to attend the School Council meetings this school year and for everything you do at the school. I know that you have a never-ending number of responsibilities to look after, so your time is precious and so incredibly appreciated. Thank you for all

your hard work and thank you for being involved in your child's education. Have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you in September 2024.

Please contact me with questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,
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