

WIN FERGUSON SCHOOL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting Date: April 29, 2025 **Meeting Time:** 6:00 PM

Attendees:

Tami Richert
Shelley R

Keri Busenius
Ralph Sorochan

Lainie Gratrix Jen Shea
Krystal Bailey-Thurn

Leah Kenchington
Ryan Frostad

Mandy Spiess

ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF DISCUSSION
1	Call to Order
	Meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm Introduction of attendees Leah did the reading of the Treaty Acknowledgement
2	Review of Agenda
	Motioned by Jen, seconded by Lainie-carried
3	Approval of minutes from last meeting
	Approval of previous minutes motioned by Lainie seconded by Leah -carried
4	Administration Report
	See attached report provided by Keri Busenius. Additional notes on the report points: May 2 nd Professional learning day Teachers will be focusing on effective practices for teaching reading skills and strategies for helping striving leaders Student teachers in 5K were using non permanent surfaces to engage students in fraction problem solving. The school is working to find a space to lay out the Math matts so classes can engage in movement oriented math activities Just before and after spring break Win Ferguson had Elder SkyBlue come work with students to teach the Michif language. Grade 6 are planned to visit Rudolph Henning for a tour and practice with lock combinations Happy National Volunteer Week! The staff provided flowers and snacks for the School Council PTA. Engagement items May is Asian Heritage Month May 4-10 th is Emergency Preparedness Week (there will be drills occurring during this time) Bear witness day May 10 th , Moose Hide Campaign are also upcoming up May 29 th Kindergarten Open House June 25 morning is Grade 6 farewell in the gym
5	Trustee Report

ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF DISCUSSION
	<p>See the attached report provided by Ralph Sorochoan. Ralph is available to answer questions or concerns and can be reached via email at Ralph.Sorochoan@eips.ca or 780-417-8107</p> <p>Some additional notes from the Trustee Report: 3 year capital plan approved at the March 20th meeting. Priority 1 replacement school for a junior/senior high school Priority 2 a replacement school for James Mowat Elementary</p> <p>Campus EIPS The division has submitted the request for funding for a collegiate program called Campus EIPS. Campus EIPS will offer programming to students at secondary schools throughout the division. This does not detract from the new school build in Fort Saskatchewan but would be in addition to. More information is available at EIPS.ca.</p> <p>Budget 2025-26 The Division now has the funding manual from Alberta Education. On April 17th Trustees approved parameters and the budget consideration for EIPS which include: Literacy and numeracy Career pathways Classroom complexity High-quality teaching and learning Equity Curriculum work Rural education Early learning</p> <p>The board also approved the use of reserved and allocations for 2025-26 on April 24, 2025. At the May 29th public meeting the Board will be presented the 2026-26 Spring budget for debate.</p> <p>Student transportation eligibility – there was a slight increase in transportation dollars for 2025-26 to align funding for the eligibility change to 1.6km from the previous 2.4km. This will help mitigate some of the major funding challenges for this year.</p>
6	Standing Business
	<p><u>ASCA Workshops</u> \$240 still available – collab with Ecole Park to take a more admin course, more information to follow once available.</p> <p><u>Teacher Wishlist</u> See PTA meeting minutes</p>
7	Old Business
	<p>Navigating the Shift Workshops (on going thru April), previously called Parent Engagement Series. Covered by COSC - \$500</p> <p>Photographer 25/26 – decided to try Offspring Studios (Peter)</p>
6	New Business
	<p>Kindergarten Open House on May 29th – should we set up an info table?</p> <p>Next COSC meeting: May 7th 2025 at 6:30pm virtual or in person at EIPS central services board room</p> <p>It was inquired on what the school is doing to participate in Pride week it is June 13-19th . Keri noted this is a topic for the next Teacher staff meeting to confirm .</p>
7	Adjournment
	<p>Meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm. Next Meeting to be held May 26th, 2025</p>

WIN FERGUSON PTA
MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting Date: April 29, 2025

Meeting Time: 6:00 PM

Attendees:

Tami Richert
Shelley R

Keri Busenius
Krystal Bailey-Thurn

Lainie Gratrix
Ryan Frostad

Jen Shea

Leah Kenchington

Mandy Spiess

ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF DISCUSSION
1	Call to Order
	Meeting was called to order at 7:09 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 Lainie, seconded by Shelley - carried
4	Treasurer's Report
	<p>Current online banking administrator is Liz Ream.</p> <p>Liz presented the report. Month end Financials as of April 28, 2025 General Account: \$27,799.20 Casino Account: \$22,967.30</p> <p>Our available balance as of today is: General Account: \$8,213.89 after standing motions and expenses.</p> <p>Casino Account: \$16,502.10 after the \$1500.00 standing motion for next casino and other expenses.</p> <p>Additional Notes: -Combined available funds: \$24,715.99 -Bottle Depot Revenue: \$1,174.55 (for teacher top up) -Hot Lunch Revenue: \$1,415.56 (for agendas) -Munch Revenue: \$2,056.17 (for May hot lunch) -Treat Sale: (\$0.54)</p> <p>Keri to confirm if there is a bill for the fidgets to pass on to Liz for payment.</p>
5	Old Business
	<p>5.1 Teacher Wishlist -Fidgets purchased</p> <p>5.2 Alberta Theatre – event took place and was well received</p>
6	Standing Business
	<p>6.1 Teacher Wishlist - Stem – no action on this currently, the Teachers are reviewing what this request would include</p> <p>6.2 Hot Dog Lunch - It was proposed to possibly use munch a lunch and Fort Sask Lunch Box June 6th, if not a flyer will be sent out to families to email requirements for a gluten free option to the PTA. Laine and Jen to coordinate this event.</p> <p>6.3 25/26 Christmas concert -Leah applied for a community grant to help support this cost. Currently waiting on a reply for this. -Are there any other ideas for fundraising for this? Topic to be raised at the next meeting for any potential ideas.</p>
7	New Business

ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF DISCUSSION
	<p>7.1 Wish list – N/A</p> <p>7.2 Track Day - Freezies Leah offered to donate and so did Ryan, to be confirmed closer to.</p> <p>7.3 Hot Dog Lunch – Lainie and Jen will lead this. It will be June 6th If using Munch a Lunch -Can the qty be limited and the price be listed as 0 Will need volunteers to hand out day of Laine to reach out to Paige on collaborating with Munch a lunch for the free hot dog lunch</p> <p>Total numbers 450 (includes staff and students, note there are 2 staff that have dietary restrictions)</p> <p>7.4 Repairs needed to Playground – Blue Imp Warrant? Tami reached out to the city to inquire with Darcy from Facilities. The city noted we should look at replacement pieces to replace for now, however this may require a cement boarder. Additionally the school may require a sand replacement to ensure it is at an appropriate depth for the playground/safe play.</p> <p>School Start -Trish is looking to pass on this responsibility for next years. Ryan may look to take on this responsibility in the future – to be confirmed</p> <p>Addition of a group chat – either Facebook, Text or possibly email for all members of School Council / PTA to ensure everyone stays in the loop -to be discussed further</p>
8	Committee Reports
	<p>7.1 Hot Lunch – Paige – Next hot lunch is May 16 – Canadian Brewhouse</p> <p>7.2 Fundraising – Jared/Lainie –product from the current fundraiser will be handed out tomorrow. Teachers will hand out the original forms as available.</p> <p>7.3 Milk program – Lacey- no update</p> <p>7.4 Treat Sales – Heather- Next Treat Sale complete Some feedback noted that there was some confusion on the roles for volunteers. Can it be clarified for next year when requesting volunteers there needs to be clear definition of what is required when volunteering (a cheat sheet or included in the request sent out for volunteers) and what the requirements for money collection are.</p> <p>Keri will provide some suggestions on dates for next school years treat sales</p> <p>7.5 Recycling program – Shelley – \$1570 collected for bottles so far with May and June still to go. Reminder: We are looking for a volunteer(s) to assist with this program for next year! Please let us know if you are interested.</p> <p>7.6 Casino – Discussion to be had in 2025/2026 school year – Letter sent that next Casino will be July, August or September of 2028 tentatively at the Camrose Casino.</p>
9	Adjournment
	<p>Meeting was adjourned at 7:44PM Next meeting to be held May 26, 2025</p>



**Principal's Report to School Council
April 29, 2025**

1. SCHOOL EDUCATION PLAN IN FOCUS

- *School goal #1: Through consistent and daily use of small-group instruction and evidence-based practices, our students will demonstrate growth in **reading**.*

-The May 6 professional learning conversations will focus on effective practices for teaching reading skills and strategies and helping striving readers.

- On the May 2 professional learning day we are sharing assessment data we've gathered for our young readers and are discussing our next steps to continue student and staff growth in this area.

-Book clubs with social justice topics were a big part of grade 6 these last two months.

-Our division's Grade 4 Literacy Intervention Teacher Mrs. Emsley will be working with eight students beginning in early May. Our school's literacy intervention teacher Ms. Vibe is working with grade 1-3 students on phonics, phonemic awareness, and reading comprehension.

- *School goal #2: By implementing high-leverage instructional strategies that support small group instruction in math class, all students will demonstrate growth in **number sense**.*

-Student teachers in 5K were using vertical non-permanent surfaces to engage students in fractions problem solving (photo). Students practiced group work skills and used pattern blocks to show fractions, too!

-The division's Grade 4 Numeracy Intervention Teacher Mrs. Emsley wrapped up her work with eight students this week. Increased confidence in math, ability to perform operations efficiently and correctly, and number sense increased for all striving young mathematicians. Our school's numeracy intervention teachers, Mrs.



- May is Asian Heritage Month
- May 4-10 is Emergency Preparedness Week
 - a number of fire drills and other practice drills are taking place this month
- May is time for Bear Witness & Moose Hide Campaigns
- May 27 from 6-7:30 PM is the First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Family Gathering at West River's Edge
- May 29 is the Kindergarten Open House (sign up for 4:30-6:30 visit spots)
- June 25 morning is the grade six farewell in in the gym
- Field trips throughout May and June
- May/June swim lessons for grades 2-3
- Rec swims are in April and June for grades 4-6

2. SCHOOL OPERATIONS

- Enrollment information for 2025/26:
 - Kindergarten – 45 students registered right now (more to come)
 - Grade 1- 51
 - Grade 2- 66
 - Grade 3- 48
 - Grade 4- 74
 - Grade 5- 63
 - Grade 6- 60
- 36 new Chromebooks and a cart have arrived and are now in grade 4D
- New badminton and volleyball pole equipment purchased/repaired
- Updating hallway signage to inspire, uplift, engage
- Hundreds of new library books purchased, with a focus on student favourites, new curriculum, and diversity
- Ad for Noon Supervisors will be posted on Apply to Education soon for the 25/26 school year

WFG School Council – April 29, 2025

Ralph Sorochan

- 1) **APPRECIATION** – You are appreciated for your efforts on School Council! Thank you!
- 2) **NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK April 27-May 03** – I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you who have dedicated your time, energy, and passion to enriching the lives of our students and staff in Elk Island Public Schools. Your invaluable contributions not only transform our school environments, but leave a lasting impact on our community. Whether it's assisting in the classroom, organizing fundraising events, or engaging in a myriad of activities, your generosity of time, spirit, and expertise is truly invaluable, and we are immensely grateful for your support. Your selflessness, dedication, and commitment to making a difference does not go unnoticed.
THANK YOU!
- 3) **3-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN** – At their March 20th meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the 2026-29 Three-Year Capital Plan. The priority of projects remains the same, as in the previous few years, with RHJ/FHS as #1 and James Mowat at #2. Recent announcements by the provincial government regarding new school build approvals have primarily centred around previously announced funding stages and very high enrolment areas. The Board continues to advocate for new builds in Fort Saskatchewan as its primary capital funding advocacy effort.
The Division's top five capital priorities are:

Priority 1: A replacement school for Rudolph Hennig Junior High and Fort Saskatchewan High (grades 7-12).
Priority 2: A replacement school for James Mowat Elementary (grades K-6).
Priority 3: A new school for the Cambrian Crossing neighbourhood (grades K-9).
Priority 4: A modernization and expansion of Vegreville Composite High to accommodate K-12 programming.
Priority 5: A modernization of Win Ferguson Elementary (grades K-6).
- 4) **CAMPUS EIPS** - Although the Division has not yet received funding to build a new collegiate school (first and foremost on its priority list), The Board has approved a school name for the Division's new collegiate **program** called Campus EIPS. Starting in 2025-26 Campus EIPS will offer programming to students at secondary schools throughout the Division, including Ardrossan Junior Senior High, Bev Facey Community High, Fort Saskatchewan High, Lamont High, Salisbury Composite High, Strathcona Christian Academy Secondary, Vegreville Composite High and Next Step. As with any division wide program, there are many factors to consider, from transportation to registration. This does not detract from the new school build in Fort Saskatchewan which, when built, will become the flagship school for this program in our Division.
- 5) **ASBA EDWIN PARR TEACHER AWARD: 2025** -The Board approved EIPS' nomination for this year's Edwin Parr Teacher Award nominee, Janna MacLelland. Every year, the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 hosts the award program to honour and recognize outstanding first-year teachers who demonstrate excellence in the *Teaching Quality Standard*. MacLelland, a first-year French Immersion teacher at Ardrossan Elementary, was selected as EIPS' nominee for her commitment to education through her exceptional learning spaces, inclusive approach to learning and innate ability to engage with children.
- 6) **Budget 2025-26** - The Division now has the **funding manual** from Alberta Education. On April 17, at its public board meeting, trustees approved the following budget considerations for EIPS' 2025-6 budget, which include:

Subdivision No. 1, comprised of lands within the corporate limits of the City of Fort Saskatchewan.

- 12) **CAREGIVER SERIES: April Sessions** - Recovery Alberta offers free online programming for parents and caregivers of children and youth. Sessions are offered through Zoom. The list of April 2025 sessions is now available.
- 13) **NEXT BOARD MEETINGS** – The next regular Board meeting takes place on May 29, 2025, at 10 AM. Board meetings are held in the Elk Island Public School boardroom. EIPS livestreams public Board meetings on its YouTube channel.
- 14) **INQUIRIES?** - If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at ralph.sorochan@eips.ca or 780 417 8107.
- 15) Have a wonderful rest of your month!



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 met in October 2024 to recommend the areas of focus for the 2024-25 school year, and the advocacy plan was subsequently reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees as a whole.

Advocacy Priorities for 2024-25:

The Board identified areas for advocacy efforts which align with the focus areas of the Strategic Plan. Advocacy in these areas occur as a matter of course in interactions with others and as opportunities present themselves.

1. Education funding
2. The value of public education
3. Autonomous school boards
4. Capital investment
5. Curriculum

- 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*
- The value of public education: *equitable access, opportunities that meet the needs of a diverse student body, and choice offered within public 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.*
- Capital investment: *addressing capacity issues and the need to provide learning spaces that promote student achievement, growth, and enhanced career pathways.*
- Curriculum: *Advocate for funding and resources to effectively transition students into new curricula; provide constructive and meaningful feedback to the Minister of Education on student*

- ***December:*** Attended the Christmas Open House events held by the Hon. Nate Glubish, Minister of Technology and Innovation and MLA for Strathcona-Sherwood Park; and Kyle Kasawski, MLA for Sherwood Park.
- ***January:*** Took part in the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Local 28 dinner meeting with EIPS Board of Trustees
- ***January:*** Participated in the final public engagement info session with school families regarding the transition plan for French Immersion students in Strathcona County and Fort Saskatchewan.