



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Trustees

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October 27, 2021

2021-2022 EICS Board of Trustees Organizational Meeting

During the Board of Trustees annual organizational meeting on October 27, 2021, the Board elected Ted Paszek as Chair and Le-Ann Ewaskiw as Vice Chair.

Chair Ted Paszek congratulated the incumbents to the Board and welcomed new Trustees Dean Sarnecki representing Strathcona County / Sherwood Park and Shelley Charchun, representing Camrose.

Chair Paszek expressed appreciation to outgoing trustees Michelle Szott and Ron Baier for serving their communities and for their dedication to Catholic education.

The Board appointed members as representatives to Board Committees and approved the Board of Trustee meeting schedule for 2021-2022

Presentations to the Board

Assistant Superintendent of Faith and Wellness Paul Corrigan shared a presentation to the Board showcasing various department initiatives such as mental wellness workshops, workplace wellness, division wellness administrative procedure, staff faith formation, new teacher retreat, chaplain retreat and introduced his staff to the Board.

Unfinished Business

Policy 5 – Role of the Board Chair

Policy 5 received second and third reading, reflecting a minor wording change.

New Business

Advocacy regarding COVID-19

The Board shared correspondence from Minister LaGrange in response to their letter dated September 24, 2021 requesting the government reinstate contact tracing and mandatory isolation in schools for positive cases of COVID-19.

Next Meeting
November 24,
2021



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The Board moved to give our Chair, along with our Superintendent, direction to send a letter to the Minister of Health and the Minister of Education stating our objections to Boards having to make decisions regarding mandatory vaccinations and medical issues related to COVID.

Board Meeting Reports

- **September 30th Enrolment**
 - Enrolment numbers as of September 30, 2021: 8,372 students are registered with Elk Island Catholic Schools, a decrease of 546 students from 2020.
- **2021-2022 Average Class Size Data**
- **September Division and Governance Financial Reports**

Trustee Reports

Alberta School Boards' Association (ASBA): Information was shared about the upcoming Fall General Meeting on November 15, 2021

Trustee Community Advocacy

Trustees continued their work in the community, attending events such as:

- School council meetings.
- Virtual Truth and Reconciliation Gathering with EICS Central Learning Services.
- Virtual Ukrainian Bilingual Program Divine Liturgy on October 1, 2021.
- ASBA Speakers Corner – Building understanding of Indigenous intersectionality and reconciliation.
- Playground blessings at St. Nicholas Catholic School and St. John Paul II Catholic School.

Remembrance Day

Trustees will attend Remembrance Day celebrations in their respective communities, according to guidelines in place. Commemorating 100 years of the Poppy as Canada's symbol of Remembrance, the Board will honour our fallen and our veterans by participating in local Poppy Campaigns by sponsoring wreaths in their communities.



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Retirement Announcement

At the October 27, 2021 Board Meeting, Superintendent Shawn Haggarty announced his retirement from Elk Island Catholic Schools.

Beginning his teaching career 35 years ago, Shawn Haggarty joined the EICS family 10 years ago, serving as Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Deputy Superintendent, and for the last few years as Superintendent.

The Board expressed appreciation and gratitude for his dedication to Elk Island Catholic Schools. Shawn has served the EICS community with perseverance, openness, and grace, especially through the past 18 months, always putting the interest of students, staff, and parents first.

Mr. Haggarty will be working with the Board and EICS Administration on a transition plan over the next few months. The EICS Board of Trustees and EICS community wish Shawn and his family all the best in retirement.

Upcoming Public Board Meeting – November 24th, 2021

EICS Public Board meetings will continue to be available virtually in 2021. Parents and members of the public are always welcome to attend the EICS Board of Trustee public board meetings. Please email lisaw@eics.ab.ca or call 780-449-6469 to request the link to the virtual meeting.

Please note that the November 24th, 2021 public board meeting will begin at 2:30 pm.

Please watch our [website](#) for agendas and minutes for upcoming meetings.