



Board Highlights

March 2023

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Board of Trustees Annual Assurance Plan

The Elk Island Catholic Schools (EICS) Board of Trustees participated in a day of Professional Learning on March 9th, 2023 at St. Sophia's Ukrainian Catholic Parish. The morning began with Divine Liturgy celebrated by Father Rendy Yakimec. Following the liturgy, Trustees worked on developing their Trustee Annual Assurance Plan, focusing on 2 division outcomes:

- Foster a meaningful connection with families, parishes and Catholic organizations to be advocates and witnesses for the success of Catholic schools.
- Provide appropriate, transparent and timely communication with schools, families and community stakeholders.

To view the Trustee Annual Assurance plan, please click [here](#).



Provincial Election Advocacy

Throughout the year, the EICS Board of Trustees advocate among many stakeholders on a variety of priorities that matter to Catholic Education and, specifically, the education of students attending our schools.

With a provincial general election this spring, our Trustees are targeting their advocacy to focus on four specific areas.

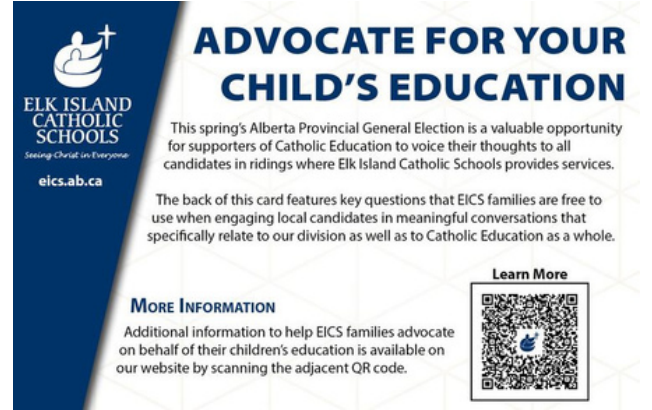
The Board of Trustees are committed to continue to advocate for support in 4 key areas:

1. Catholic Education
2. Instructional Funding
3. Capital Funding
4. Mental Health



This spring's Alberta Provincial General Election is a valuable opportunity for supporters of Catholic Education to voice their thoughts to all candidates in ridings where EICS provides services.

Elk Island Catholic Schools has created some resources for families to use when engaging local candidates. For more information, please visit our website's [election advocacy page](#).



ADVOCATE FOR YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION


This spring's Alberta Provincial General Election is a valuable opportunity for supporters of Catholic Education to voice their thoughts to all candidates in ridings where Elk Island Catholic Schools provides services.

The back of this card features key questions that EICS families are free to use when engaging local candidates in meaningful conversations that specifically relate to our division as well as to Catholic Education as a whole.

Learn More

MORE INFORMATION

Additional information to help EICS families advocate on behalf of their children's education is available on our website by scanning the adjacent QR code.



Division Faith and Wellness Day

EICS staff celebrated Faith and Wellness Day together for the first time in three years on March 3rd, 2023. Staff and parish priests from school communities across the division gathered at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish to celebrate mass, led by Father Jim Corrigan.

Following mass, keynote speaker Chief Cadmus Delorme of the Cowessess First Nation delivered powerful messages recounting his personal experience in Canada's journey toward Truth and Reconciliation.

In the afternoon, our staff had opportunities to focus on their spiritual, mental, and physical wellness through participating in a variety of activities, including volunteering at the Strathcona Food Bank, prayer walks, yoga sessions, and joining their peers in friendly board games and sporting events.



Division News

EICS Assurance Survey

Thank-you to our parents, staff, and students for taking the time to provide feedback on the EICS Assurance Survey. Schools are currently reviewing the data, and creating their annual assurance plan which will be shared with school councils and on school websites.

To view the data from the survey, please see the [EICS Assurance Dashboard for 2022-2026](#).

Supporting Ukrainian Newcomers

Partnering with St. Sophia's Ukrainian Catholic Parish, EICS hosted an Open Gym afternoon for Ukrainian families at Archbishop Jordan Catholic school on March 11th. Families were invited for an afternoon of fun and games led by Archbishop Jordan students in the Ukrainian Bilingual program.



Here Comes the Sun: EICS Received Mental Health Grant Focused on Holistic Wellness

A \$440,000 grant funded by Alberta Education's Mental Health in Schools Pilot will empower each of our district's schools to further elevate their holistic mental health supports for students.

Called Here Comes the Sun, the pilot project runs through June 2024 and is in partnership with St. Francis Xavier Church in Camrose, members of the Indigenous community, EdCan Network, and the Edmonton-based wellness organization PEPY. These partnerships enable school chaplains, health champions, and Indigenous mentors to develop additional skills that will further help EICS students, families, and staff to more proactively support and strengthen their overall wellbeing.

To read more about the project, please visit [News Release: Here Comes the Sun](#).

Public Board Meetings

The April Board of Trustees meeting will take place in Vegreville:

April 19th, 2023
1:00 p.m.

St. Martin's Catholic School
4314 - 54A Avenue
Vegreville

Members of the public are always welcome to attend.

Visit our website for [meeting agendas and minutes](#).

Trustee Community Engagement and Advocacy

Each month, Trustees engage the community in pursuit of building a more meaningful connection with families, parishes, and Catholic organizations, and to advocate for the success of Catholic schools.

February / March Advocacy:

- Attended school council meetings in their communities
- Carnaval at École Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School
- Attended Ash Wednesday masses with our school communities
- Catholic Education Parent Advisory Committee (CEPAC)
- REAL Foundation meeting
- Alberta School Board Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 Coffee Conversation
- Cup of Love Hot Chocolate Fundraiser at Holy Spirit Catholic School
- Meeting with administration for an overview of the provincial budget announcement.
- Alberta Rural Education Symposium: Three R's of Rural Education: Resilience, Reconciliation, and Rejoicing
- Board Professional Development Day and Divine Liturgy at St. Sophia's Ukrainian Catholic Church
- Linking Generations Annual Family Meet and Greet in Sherwood Park and Fort Saskatchewan

Upcoming Advocacy

- Fort Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Gale Katchur State of the City Address
- Sherwood Park Chamber of Commerce, Lunch with Premier Danielle Smith
- Evening of Conversation with MLA's and Candidates
- Advocacy meeting with Battle River School Division Board of Trustees at St. Francis of Xavier Catholic Church
- Blessed Carlo Acutis high school site blessing in Camrose
- Young Author Conference Opening Ceremony
- St Joseph's College Awards and Commencement
- Public Board Meeting at St. Martin's Catholic School in Vegreville
- Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church
- Catholic Education Parents Advisory Committee (CEPAC) meeting
- REAL Foundation Meeting
- Board and Superintendent Evaluation
- SPICE / BLUEPRINTS Retreat
- School Assurance Presentations
- REAL Foundation Golf Tournament