

## **Elk Island Catholic Separate School Division**

Minutes of the Public Board Meeting

Held on March 20th, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Catholic School, Vegreville, AB

Board Members Present:    Le-Ann Ewaskiw, Board Chair  
                                       Ted Paszek, Vice-Chair  
                                       Jean Boisvert  
                                       Shelley Charchun  
                                       Teresa Makowecki  
                                       Dean Sarnecki  
                                       Al Stewart

Administration Present:    Paul Corrigan, Superintendent  
                                       Tracy Leigh, Secretary-Treasurer  
                                       Brett Cox, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources  
                                       Stefan Johnson, Principal École Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic  
                                       School  
                                       Michael Di Massa, Communications Coordinator  
                                       Lisa Wispinski, Recording Secretary

Public:                                2

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<b>Call to Order</b>	<p>Chair Ewaskiw called the meeting to order at 12:57 and welcomed guests and members of the public.</p> <p>Chair Ewaskiw also thanked the staff and students of St. Mary's Catholic School for allowing the Board of Trustees to host their meeting in the community of Vegreville, and for welcoming them into their school.</p>
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	<p>Keira, a student from St. Mary's Catholic School read the opening prayer. Trustee Makowecki read a prayer as well, and offered condolences to those who have lost loved ones.</p>
<b>Acknowledgement of Land and People</b>	<p>Ethan, a student from St. Mary's Catholic School led the Acknowledgement of Land and People.</p>

	<p>Elk Island Catholic Schools acknowledges that we are, in all the schools and communities of EICS, located within the traditional land of Treaty No.6 and home of the Métis Nation. We also acknowledge the Inuit and other diverse Indigenous peoples whose ancestors have marked their territory since time immemorial, a place that has welcomed many peoples from around the world to make their home here.</p> <p>These traditional territories are a vast area encompassing large portions of central Alberta and central Saskatchewan, an area in which we live, work and play each and every day</p>
<b>Singing of O'Canada</b>	The Board joined in the singing of O'Canada.
<b>Approval of the Agenda</b>	<b>027/2024</b> Trustee Sarnecki moved that the agenda be adopted as circulated. <b>CARRIED</b>
<b>Approval of the Minutes</b>	<b>028/2024</b> Trustee Charchun moved that the Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the February 21, 2024 Public Board Meeting as circulated. <b>CARRIED</b>
<b>Presentations / Delegations</b>	
<b>Faith Formation</b>	Superintendent Corrigan introduced Stefan Johnson. Principal of École Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School. Mr. Johnson presented The Via Pulchritudinis, aka: The Path of Beauty to the Board of Trustees.
<b>Human Resources</b>	<p>Assistant Superintendent Brett Cox shared a presentation with the Board of Trustees, outlining the work that the Human Resource Department does to support staff in our division. Assistant Superintendent Cox shared some feedback they received from the Annual Education Assurance Survey, and how they will use that information to continue to serve staff in the division.</p> <p>Trustee Ewaskiw thanked Assistant Superintendent Cox for his presentation. Superintendent Corrigan thanked Assistant Superintendent Corrigan and his team for their responsiveness and readiness to assist staff.</p>
<b>Unfinished Business</b>	
<b>Policy 21 - School Fees and Charges</b>	<p>Trustee Sarnecki moved that the Board of Trustees approve <i>Policy 21 - School Fees and Charges</i> as presented for second reading.</p> <p>Policy Committee Chair Dean Sarnecki shared that <i>Policy 21 - School Fees and Charges</i> was approved for first reading at the February 21, 2024 Public Meeting with a number of changes, and that there were no further changes</p>

suggested for second reading.

**029/2024** Trustee Makowecki moved to amend Policy 21 - School Fees and Charges to amend the instances of the word “parent” to “parent/guardian”.

***CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

**030/2024** Trustee Makowecki moved to add to the Policy that “schools shall not introduce new fees or increase existing fees by more than 5% per year without board approval. Fees exempt from this requirement are field trips and non curricular travel.”

***DEFEATED (5-2)***

Trustee Makowecki asked for a recorded vote:

FOR:

Jean Boisvert

Teresa Makowecki

AGAINST:

Shelley Charchun

Le-Ann Ewaskiw

Dean Sarnecki

Al Stewart

Ted Paszek

**031/2024** Trustee Sarnecki moved that the Board of Trustees approve *Policy 21 - School Fees and Charges* as amended for second reading.

***CARRIED***

## **New Business**

### **Three Year Capital Plan**

**032/2024** Trustee Stewart moved that the Board of Trustees approve the Division’s 2025-2028 Three-Year Capital Plan for submission to the Government of Alberta.

***CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

Elk Island Catholic School Division engaged Edmonton Public Schools (EPSB) to develop a 3-year Capital Plan to address the Division’s low utilisation rates and most pressing facility concerns. In discussion with senior administration, it was determined that in addition to a 3-year Capital Plan, an integrative 3-year Capital and 10-year Facility Plan would help identify a strategic direction for future capital request over the next ten years and beyond.

The key objectives of this study were as follows:

- Ensure that students are accommodated in communities as close to home as possible.
- Establish a path to an effective and efficient use of Division space and resources.

- Develop an advocacy tool to address the most pressing infrastructure needs of the Division.

The following recommendations are divided into short, medium and long-term timeframes in order to establish a facility strategy that includes maintenance, environment, programming and student accommodations. Short-term priorities are generally identified as the Division's 3-year Capital Plan. Medium and long-term recommendations take into consideration the time required to prepare capital funding requests to Alberta Education:

**Short Term Recommendations (1-3 years):**

**Fort Saskatchewan: 2 to 1 Consolidation**

*Zone 2 Fort Saskatchewan*

Pending the outcome of a Value Scoping session, the Division will request planning funding for a new accommodation solution in Fort Saskatchewan. (\$20M)

**Sherwood Park: 2 to 1 Consolidation**

*Zone 1 - Sherwood Park*

Consideration of a 2 to 1 consolidation of K-4 schools in Sherwood Park. Request for a value scoping session and public engagement to explore options aimed at reducing excess capacity in Zone 1, increasing utilization, improving learning environments, and determining the best location of a replacement school. (\$20.6M)

**Vegreville: 2 to 1 Consolidation**

*Zone 5 - Vegreville*

Funding to explore a right-sizing option involving a K-12 consolidation in either St. Martin's or St. Mary's School. Request for a value scoping workshop/consolidation study and public engagement to develop options aimed at reducing excess capacity in Zone 5. (Option 1: \$10.8M / Option 2: \$14.1)

**Medium Term Recommendations (4-6 Years):**

**Sherwood Park Rural: 2 to 1 Consolidation**

*Zone 2 - Sherwood Park Rural*

Funding to explore a right-sizing option in Zone 2. Request for a value scoping workshop and public engagement to develop options aimed at reducing excess capacity, increasing utilization, and improving learning environments. (TBD)

	<p><b>Long Term Recommendations (7-10 Years):</b></p> <p><b>New K-8 School</b>  <i>Zone 1 - Sherwood Park</i>  New K-8 School in Cambrian Crossing as a result of a targeted reduction of excess student spaces in Sherwood Park Zone 1 and Zone 2. (\$28.9M)</p> <p><b>New K-8 School</b>  <i>Zone 2 - Sherwood Park - Rural</i>  New K-8 School in Bremner as a result of a targeted reduction of excess student spaces in Sherwood Park Zone 1 and Zone 2. (\$28.9M)</p>
<p><b>Policy 15 - Hearings on Teacher Transfers</b></p>	<p>Trustee Sarnecki withdrew <i>Policy 15 - Hearing on Teacher Transfers</i> from the agenda for further consideration by the Policy Committee.</p>
<p><b>Superintendent's Report</b></p>	
	<p>Superintendent Corrigan shared updates on the following:</p> <p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan (ASEBP) Trustees Report March 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The premium base rate increase of 7.8% for 2024-25 will have a significant impact on the division budget.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● St. Mary's University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Superintendent Corrigan shared information on the Masters Program at St. Mary's University.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Campus Saint Jean <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Superintendent Corrigan shared that administration is working Campus Saint Jean to enhance the French Immersion Program at Elk Island Catholic Schools.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Catholic School Review - St. John XXIII Catholic School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The St. John XXIII school community participated in the Catholic School Review in March. The process gathers information to assist the school community in impacting the faith life and learning of students and staff. Thank-you to the parents, staff and students for their dedication in demonstrating their faith through active involvement in the school's Catholic culture.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Active School Engagements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Senior administration met with all schools this month to engage in conversation regarding the year so far, and progress with their</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

assurance plans.

- Assurance Update
  - Schools and division departments are working with their assurance survey data and engaging their communities in follow up conversations to dig deeper into some of the feedback received.
- Archbishop Richard Smith Visits Fort Saskatchewan Schools
  - We were blessed to have Archbishop Smith visit our four Fort Saskatchewan Schools as a part of his Our Lady of the Angels parish visit.
- Social Studies Curriculum
  - The draft K-5 Social Studies Curriculum was released March 14th. Elk Island Catholic Schools is hosting sessions for staff to provide their feedback.

#### Community Engagement

- St. Luke Catholic School parent engagement night (March 13th, 2024)
  - Superintendent Corrigan attended the parent engagement evening on March 13th, to discuss the school assurance plan, school programs, and to hear from families about the importance of building a strong community school.
- Fort Saskatchewan Value Scoping Sessions
  - EICS commissioned 2 comprehensive value scoping sessions in Fort Saskatchewan at the end of February. Facilitated by START Architecture, the goal was to explore a value comparison to determine what the optimal solution is in addressing enrolment and maintenance issues for the Our Lady of the Angels and St. John XXIII Catholic Schools.
  - Representatives from the Government of Alberta, the municipality of Fort Saskatchewan, EICS board members, staff and administration, along with members from the school community evaluated options in determining a path forward for the community.

**033/2024** Trustee Makowecki moved that the Board of Trustees receive the Superintendent Report as information.

***CARRIED***

#### Secretary Treasurer Report

Secretary Treasurer Tracy Leigh presented the February Financial and Governance Report.

**034/2024** Trustee Boisvert moved that the Board of Trustees receive the

	Secretary-Treasurer's Report as information.	<i><b>CARRIED</b></i>
<b>Correspondence</b>		
	<p>Chair Ewaskiw shared the following correspondence with the Board of Trustees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GrACE Newsletter   February</li> <li>● CSBA Nutrition Framework Letter of Support, M.P. Genuis</li> <li>● CSBA Nutrition Framework Letter of Support, M.P. Stubbs</li> <li>● CSBA Nutrition Framework Letter of Support, M.P. Kurek</li> <li>● Property Tax Assessment Information Letter</li> <li>● Letter to Camrose Mayor and City Council - March 7, 2024</li> <li>● Linking Generations</li> <li>● CCSTA Convention Correspondence - Thank-you</li> </ul>	
<b>Trustee Reports</b>		
<b>Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (ACSTA)</b>	Trustee Sarnecki shared a verbal report on Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (ACSTA), reminding trustees about the upcoming MLA Engagement evening on April 15th, 2024.	
<b>Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA)</b>	<p>Trustee Boisvert shared a verbal report on Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA), reminding trustees about the ASBA Zone 2/3 MLA Engagement evening on May 8th, 2024.</p> <p><b>035/2024</b> Trustee Paszek moved to accept the verbal trustee reports as information.</p>	<i><b>CARRIED</b></i>
<b>Board Meeting Evaluation</b>	Trustees were encouraged to complete the Board Meeting Evaluation.	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Chair Ewaskiw led the closing prayer.	
<b>Adjournment</b>	Chair Ewaskiw declared the meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.	

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Board Chair, Le-Ann Ewaskiw

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Secretary Treasurer, Tracy Leigh