

EICS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monthly Highlights

In June, members of the EICS Board of Trustees and administration toured the construction site for Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic High School in Camrose.
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Board Highlights

Highlights from the June 19, 2024 Public Meeting

FAITH FORMATION

June’s faith formation focused on demonstrating a life of faith to inspire others despite struggling at times with one’s own personal faith journey.

The parable of Jesus walking on water and its allegory to individual faith journeys is a prime example of this experience.

EICS Director of Student and Staff Formation Jody Seymour recounted for Trustees that Peter was invited to join Jesus on the water, but starts to sink when doubt creeps in and he takes his eyes away from Jesus.

“When Peter panics and takes his eyes off Jesus, Jesus corrects him and shows him the way,” Seymour said. “Jesus tells Peter to stay focused on Him. Seemingly simple, but we often lose sight... We often lose trust and fall prey to the other



The EICS Board of Trustees acclaimed Board Chair Le-Ann Ewaskiw to remain Board Chair for the 2024-2025 school year. Trustee Jean Boisvert was elected to be Vice-Chair for the Board.

things and temptations that call us, or we believe in ourselves instead of him.”

Seymour reminded Trustees that their own struggle with faith does not mean they should not answer God’s call to make disciples. But that these struggles should encourage them to form

a deeper relationship with Him.

“Being a disciple doesn’t mean that we are perfect or that we have all the answers. Being a disciple means that we are sinners in need of a saviour, and we are on our own journey,” she said.

“That journey means that we strive to follow

Christ every day — first and foremost in having a personal relationship with Him.”

CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR SELECTED FOR 2024-2025

Board Chair Le-Ann Ewaskiw was acclaimed to serve as Board Chair and Trustee Jean Boisvert was elected Vice-Chair at the Board’s June Organizational Meeting.

Both will retain their roles until October 2025’s municipal election.

LETTER TO ALBERTA EDUCATION ABOUT FUNDING

Trustees voted unanimously to submit a letter to Alberta Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaides that highlights funding challenges which have resulted in staff reductions and increased class sizes at EICS.

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ELK ISLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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Board Highlights

Trustees tour Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic School site

Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic High School (BCA), our new high school in Camrose, is nearly a full year into construction and more than halfway to being complete.

On June 20, members of the EICS Board of Trustees and Senior Leadership toured the school for the first time since construction began in summer 2023.

Camrose MLA Jackie Lovely also toured the facility while members of Alberta

Infrastructure and Delnor Construction were available to answer questions.

Construction is currently on pace to be completed in early 2025, with the high school slated to welcome students for the 2025-2026 school year.

The school's main foyer serves as a central hub with three branching halls that lead to instructional spaces, while the fourth leads to the administrative and staff offices.

The school's chapel is immediately accessible from the foyer, as is the gym, and one of two learning commons for studies. There's a second learning commons on the south end of the school as well as dedicated drama and science rooms on the west side. BCA also features dedicated CTS areas for woodworking, food, and technology.

Stay tuned to eics.ab.ca for more updates about the school throughout the year.

VIRTUAL RENDERINGS

Use your mobile device or computer to view the following rooms in 360-degree virtual renderings.

- [Entrance Foyer](#)
- [Gymnasium](#)
- [North Learning Commons](#)
- [South Learning Commons](#)



Visit our website at eics.ab.ca to see more pictures from the tour.



Board Highlights

Cellphone use in classrooms to be restricted beginning September

BOARD from Page 2

Their letter proposes sufficient annual funding to address inflationary costs and in-year funding adjustments for actual enrolments. Read the letter and learn more about our Trustees' advocacy by [clicking this link](#).

MEETING SCHEDULE APPROVED FOR 2024-2025

Trustees also approved their meeting schedule for 2024-2025, which can be [reviewed here](#).

CELLPHONES IN SCHOOLS

On Monday, June 17 Alberta Education announced a ministerial order for school divisions to begin restricting cellphone and social media use during instructional time.

All school districts in

Alberta are required to have restrictions in place for Sept. 1, 2024 and a fully developed policy by Jan. 1, 2025.

Our division has had a Bring Your Own Device plan since 2016, and schools have been able to create their own cellphone policy since 2019.

Students have also been expected to abide by the division's policies regarding the use of cellphones and privacy rights of others.

LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSES

Trustees approved adding Reading Foundation and Stained Glass courses for interested EICS schools beginning in 2024-2025.

Under Administrative Procedure 218, school administration is able

to work with students to identify potential courses before presenting it to school leadership and ultimately division administration. Alberta Education vetting and Trustee approval are then required before the courses can be offered.

EICS BOUNDARY UPDATED

Effective Sept. 1, 2024, the Elk Island Catholic Schools boundary will be updated to include sections of land southeast of Vegreville following a petition and vote that was driven by parents in the area in the spring.

The boundary now includes the land from the Imperial Roman Catholic Separate School District as outlined in Alberta Education's [Ministerial Order 007/2024](#).

POLICY REVIEWS

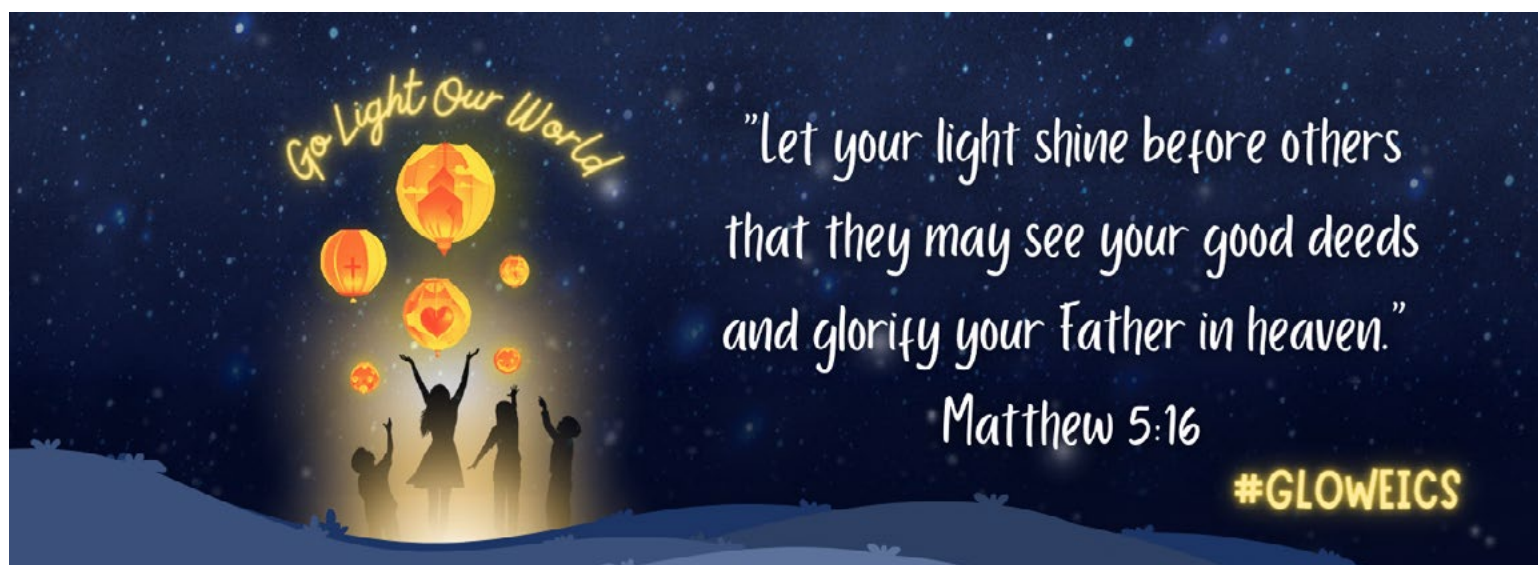
The Policy Committee reviewed the following policies during June's public meeting:

- [Policy 16: Recruitment and Selection of Personnel](#)
- [Policy 9: Board Representatives](#)

Second reading for Policy 16 was approved. Changes added clarity to the superintendent being the only employee of the EICS Board of Trustees, and that position's role to ensure smooth operation of the division.

A minor change was also made to the requirements of the secretary-treasurer's hiring conditions.

Policy 9 did not pass second reading and will return to the Board in the fall with additional revisions.



Division News in Pictures



Above: Members from the EICS Board of Trustees, Senior Leadership, and St. Isidore Learning Centre met with Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville MLA Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk to discuss the Trades and Apprenticeship Promotion Plan. Also in the photo are representatives from Elk Island Public Schools and trade associations.

Right: A “Career Re-Alignment” celebration was held in mid-June for Thérèse deChamplain-Good, our Assistant Superintendent of Educational Excellence, who will be leaving our division at the end of the school year.



Bottom: Our Student Transportation Department (bottom right) recently hosted its inaugural Give A Pencil Car Wash fundraiser to collect donations to purchase school supplies for EICS students who need them. EICS staff, including Superintendent Paul Corrigan (bottom left) volunteered to wash vehicles in support of the fundraiser.



School News in Pictures



Schools across our division celebrated National Indigenous History Month throughout June with activities that explored Indigenous art and music. They also listened to Indigenous stories, played traditional Indigenous games, and spent time honouring nature.



School News in Pictures

Schools across our division celebrated Mass and hosted farewell ceremonies as the 2023-2024 school year comes to an end. Clockwise from top right: Our Lady of Mount Pleasant Catholic School's farewell Mass; our Ukrainian Bilingual Program celebrated Grade 4, 8, and 12 students at St. Nicholas, St. Theresa, and Archbishop Jordan (ABJ) Catholic schools; ABJ also celebrated a year-end Mass with Madonna Catholic School that was led by Fr. Jim; St. Luke's Grade 8 farewell; and Fr. Carlos led a farewell Mass for Our Lady of the Angels Catholic School.



School News in Pictures

Trustee Event Calendar for June

June 1 - 2

Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association AGM and Convention.

June 2

St. André Bessette Catholic School Grad Ceremony.

Our Lady of Mount Pleasant Grad Banquet.

Archbishop Jordan Catholic High School (ABJ) French Immersion Grad.

June 3 - 4

Alberta School Board Association Spring General Meeting.

June 6

Year-End Mass and Grad blessing with ABJ and Madonna Catholic schools.

June 7

Year-End and Grade 8 Farewell Mass with St. Luke Catholic School.

Holy Redeemer Catholic School Grade 8 Farewell Mass.

June 9

Ukrainian Bilingual Celebration for Grade 4, 8, and 12 students.

June 12

Meeting with Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville MLA Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk to discuss the Trades and Apprenticeship Promotion.

ABJ Colour Awards to recognize student achievement in CTS, fine arts, and athletics.

June 13

Our Lady of the Angels Grade 4 Farewell Mass.

St. John Paul II Grade 8 Farewell and Mass.

June 14

École Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School Grade

8 Farewell and Mass.

June 18

Holy Spirit Catholic School Grade 4 Farewell and Mass.

St. John XXIII Catholic School Farewell Mass.

June 19

EICS Board of Trustees public meeting.

June 20

St. Nicholas Catholic School Grade 4 Farewell Mass.

Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic School construction site tour.

June 21

St. Isidore Learning Centre Graduation.

June 22

EICS Board of Trustees Year-end Gathering.

June 24

Madonna Catholic School

Grade 4 Farewell.

June 25

Tenth anniversary celebration of the ordination of Fr. Kris Schmidt.

June 27

Catholic School Appreciation Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish.

St. Patrick Catholic School Year-End Mass.

JOIN US AT OUR NEXT PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, Sept. 18

1 p.m.

EICS CLS Office
310 Broadview Road
Sherwood Park, Alberta

Visit our website for meeting agendas and minutes.



**ELK ISLAND
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**
Seeing Christ in Everyone

Catholic-integrated education from Kindergarten to Grade 12 in the communities of Camrose, Fort Saskatchewan, Sherwood Park, Strathcona County, and Vegreville.

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