



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

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Board Budget 2019-2020

Elk Island Catholic Schools (EICS) has a total budget of \$81.3 million and provides Catholic education services to the citizens of Strathcona County, Fort Saskatchewan, Camrose and Vegreville.

The Division serves over 7,755 funded students and 235 community students from Early Childhood (ECS) to Grade Twelve (7,654 Full Time Equivalent as ECS are considered half) within seventeen schools and one learning centre. Overall, the Division is projected to have a deficit of \$251 thousand at the end of the 2019/20 school year.

EICS Board of Trustees voted to accept the 2019-2020 budget and thanked Secretary Treasurer Cindy Wang and her team for their excellent work.

Educational Excellence Presentation

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Excellence Thérèse deChamplain-Good provided a report to the Board of Trustees of the summary jurisdiction results for EICS. Essentially, this report gives extensive reporting and analysis on both the surveys received throughout the school year and all forms of student achievement (including Diploma Exams, completion rates, Provincial Achievement tests and scholarship data).

Highlights include:

Provincial Achievement Tests:

Overall students exceeded the provincial average at the acceptable standard in 10 out of 20 exams with exceptional results in:

- Science 6 (+6.8)
 - English Language Arts 9 (+7.5)
- Science 9 (+10.3)

Diploma Exams:

Overall students exceeded the provincial average at the acceptable standard in 7 out of 11 exams with exceptional results in:

- ELA 3-1, 30-2, Math 30-2, Science 30, Social Studies 30-1
- Overall students met or exceeded the provincial average at the standard of excellence in 3 out of 11 exams with exceptional results in:
- ELA 30-2, Math 30-2, Social Studies 30-2

NEXT MEETING

December 18
CLS Learning
Services 2:30 pm

EICS Insurance Increase

The Division has received its 2019/20 school year final insurance invoices from our provider the Alberta School Boards' Reciprocal Insurance Exchange (ASBIE). The total invoiced insurance premium is \$1,139,007; this is an increase of \$748,121 over the 2018/19 school year. Some school boards have experienced increases of over \$1.0 million for their insurance premium.

This increase is mainly due to "excess property insurance" and "property insurance funding increase" required by the insurance companies, as a result of a "hard market" due to excessive claim history on school buildings in the past five years.

Options for the Division's insurance program:

- Status quo with ASBIE (the hard market is projected to continue for another 18 to 24 months)
- Seek commercial insurance as an individual school board (lack of purchase power)
- Join Urban School Insurance Consortium (USIC requires new subscribers to pay upfront funds for the existing equity of the insurance pool)
- Unsubscribe from ASBIE and form new insurance reciprocal with other school boards

Modernization Update

Superintendent Haggarty shared with the Board of Trustees very positive news regarding the Ecole Pere Kenneth Kearns School Modernization project. The Government of Alberta has approved additional funding of close to \$2.5 million to support additional costs with the project.

The majority of these funds will be used to deal with the significant work that the replacement of the roof. This brings the total cost of the modernization to the \$14.3 million dollars.

Testing for Lead in EICS Schools

Recent news reports regarding the finding of lead in drinking water in various municipalities across the province prompted EICS Facility Services to reach out to Alberta Health Services (Alberta Health Services) for support and advice with respect to our schools.

The guide is very detailed about the sampling methodology, based upon the guide EICS will require an estimated six weeks to complete the sampling. The first step is to inventory the faucets and drinking fountains throughout the schools, put them in a spreadsheet and map for AHS. The remaining 2 weeks will be to systematically collect the samples and courier them to AHS for testing. Once the results are received we will review the results and create a remediation plan should it be required.

Update on the Valleyview School Site in the City of Camrose

Administration had productive meetings with both the Senior Planning Officer at the City of Camrose (the City Planner) and the Development Manager at Camgill Development Corporation (the Developer) in October and November 2019. Camgill Development Corporation is the developer of the Valleyview area.

The purposes of the meetings are twofold:

1. To develop a positive working relationship and
2. To ensure the Valleyview site are properly developed for school construction.

Recommendation: The board continue to work in partnership with Alberta Education to seek approval for a new high school in the City of Camrose, as the Our Lady of Mount Pleasant school continues to reach its capacity even with newly constructed modular classrooms.

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