



# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

## TRUSTEES

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## Elk Island Catholic Schools 2020/21 Division Calendar

### **Background:**

Elk Island Catholic School Board (EICS) is tasked each year with approving a school calendar. The goal is to develop a calendar that meets the necessary hours of instruction, supports a quality learning environment and supports teacher and staff professional development. When creating the calendars, we consult with our neighbouring school divisions (Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) and Battle River School Division (BRSD) in order to facilitate transportation schedules. During these consultations we create three calendars each year to support the differences between the EIPS and Battle River calendars and also the unique requirements for Our Lady of Mount Pleasant Catholic School's 4-day week.

### **Process:**

During the December 18th EICS Board of Trustees meeting, the Sherwood Park, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville calendar was presented and debated by the Board of Trustees. Next steps included seeking Board 'Approval In-Principal' of the calendar; they then will then be circulated to EICS Schools and School Councils for feedback during the month of January. The calendar will come back to the Board for 'Final Approval' during the February Board Meeting. The Camrose calendar will be presented at a later date.

### **Highlights**

- The fall break has been maintained.
- The proposed calendar does not have any added transportation costs.
- In developing the Divisional calendar, EICS Administration strives to create a calendar that meets required hours of instruction as well as supporting structuralized professional development and collaboration time for staff.

### **Dates of interest:**

First Day for Staff: August 27, 2020  
First Day for Students: September 1, 2020 - prior to the Labour Day Weekend.  
Fall Break: November 9-13, 2020  
Christmas Break: December 23 - until January 5, 2021  
Spring Break: March 29 - April 2, 2021

### **EICS Board of Trustees Motion:**

That the Board approve the recommended 2020 – 2021 Calendar 'In-Principle'. Consultation with the staff, school councils and the ATA will occur in the next month. The School Year Calendar will be brought back to the Board for 'Final Approval' in February.

## Advent and Christmas Celebrations Across the Division

Advent and the Christmas activities throughout December are amazing times for Trustees and senior Administration to attend school celebrations and concerts. The EICS Board of Trustees would like to thank EICS staff and families for everything they do to support Catholic education in the division. The EICS Board of Trustees wish all staff, students, families and community partners a blessed Christmas Season and best wishes for 2020.

## NEXT MEETING

**January 22, 2020**  
**CLS Learning Services**

## APPLE Schools Tour of St. Luke Catholic School



On Friday, December 13th, members of the APPLE Foundation provided Honourable Nate Glubish and Jordan Walker, MLA with a tour of the APPLE Schools program at St. Luke Catholic School. Board Chair Ted Paszek and Superintendent Haggarty were there with our guests as they were toured around the school by students and staff to showcase the successful program that highlights active living and healthy nutrition



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### School Division Insurance Update

The Division has received its 2019/20 school year final insurance invoices from our insurance provider 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.

#### **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

EICS is currently negotiating with a number of other school divisions across Alberta with similar positive claims histories to look at other insurance options. This list may continue to grow as school boards with good claim history consider join their effort to obtain market quote.

#### **EICS Board of Trustees Motion(s):**

That the EICS Board of Trustees directs administration to explore alternative market options for its insurance coverage.

That the EICS Board of Trustees serve notice to the Alberta School Board's Insurance Exchange (ASBIE) to terminate the Divisions participation in ASBIE in accordance with the subscriber agreement for the next school year.

### Upcoming Events

**January 22, 2020**

**January 25, 2020**

**January 29, 2020**

**February 2020**

**February 21, 2020**

**February 26, 2020**

EICS Board of Trustees Public and Committee Meetings

Transportation Driver Appreciation, OLPH Parish 5:00 pm

Advocacy Dinner Meeting with Local MLA's 5:30 pm at CLS

Dinner Meeting with Archbishop Smith

Religious Education Congress, Anaheim

Ash Wednesday Masses