

# EICS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## *Monthly Highlights*



**Bishop David Motiuk of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton leads a commemoration service at Archbishop Jordan Catholic High School in honour of Holodomor Memorial Day. See Page 8 for more pictures of our other schools also recognizing Holodomor.**



# Board Highlights

## Brief highlights from November's Trustees meeting

### FAITH FORMATION

Jody Seymour, the EICS Director of Student & Staff Formation, called Trustees to "put into the deep" — to intentionally seek moments of reflection, prayer, and communal worship.

"Despite being made for God and longing for Him, we sometimes get stuck," she said. "At times, we are content with surface level, superficial interactions, relationships, television, social media, and social graces. Even though we long for depth, we muddle through our days just skimming the surface and being ok with it.

"We are made for God. Our hearts are made to rest in Him. Our restlessness caused by the surface level things we do on a day-to-day basis is a longing for Him and it requires us to, at the advice of our Lord, put out into the deep."

She added: "If we are willing to go into the deep,

we will, like Jesus said, want to be a fisher of people. We will want to share our love of Him with the world."

### IT PRESENTATION

Technology Manager Geoff Pratt highlighted recent upgrades to the division's

tech services, which includes: increased internet bandwidth, and cyber security and phone upgrades.

EICS also switched to SchoolEngage for parent and guardian communication at the start of the year, and his team is working with

SchoolEngage's developer to add new features.

He also spoke to the technology used on EICS devices to help safeguard students when they're online.

### POLICY REVIEW

Trustees held first readings to address some revisions to the following policies:

- **Policy 2: Role of the Board**
- **Policy 3: Role of the Trustee**
- **Policy 10: Policy Making**

Each month, the EICS Board of Trustees' Policy Committee reviews specific policies and either recommends revising them or leaving them as they are.

Some revisions were proposed for each of these three policies, so they will be brought back for consideration at a future meeting.



## 2023-2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Le-Ann Ewaskiw**  
Board Chair

Strathcona County  
& Sherwood Park

[Email](#)



**Ted Paszek**  
Vice-Chair

Strathcona County  
& Sherwood Park

[Email](#)



**Jean Boisvert**  
Member

Strathcona County  
& Sherwood Park

[Email](#)



**Shelley Charchun**  
Member

Camrose

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**Teresa Makowecki**  
Member

Vegreville

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**Dean Sarnecki**  
Member

Strathcona County  
& Sherwood Park

[Email](#)



**Al Stewart**  
Member

Fort  
Saskatchewan

[Email](#)

# Board Highlights

## 2022-2023 audited financial statements approved

Audit firm MNP gave our division’s audited financial statements for the 2022-2023 school year a clean bill of health at the November 2023 EICS Board of Trustees meeting.

### FUNDING

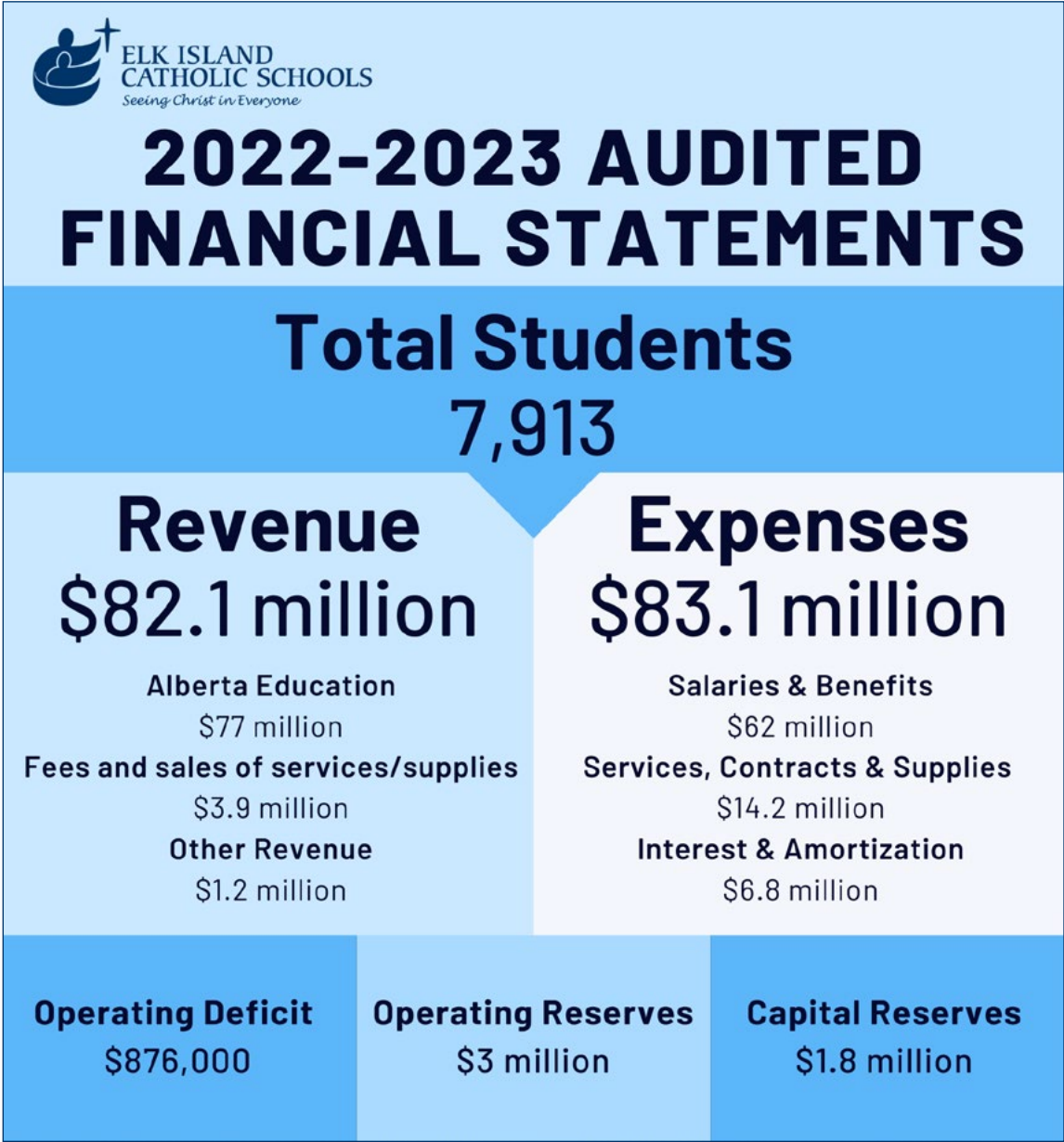
EICS received \$82.1 million in funding, more than \$100,000 compared to the previous fiscal year, but experienced a deficit of \$867,000 due to increased salary and benefits costs.

The majority of the funding for the 2022-2023 school year came from Alberta Education (\$77 million), while the other \$5.1 million was generated from school fees, donations, and other sources.

### EXPENSES

Salaries and benefits for instructional staff increased by \$500,000 to \$54 million for the 2022-2023 school year, while salaries and benefits for non-instructional staff increased by \$700,000 to \$16.2 million. These increases are due to rising benefit premiums as well as newly negotiated salaries.

Expenses related to services, contractors, and supplies were down \$2.3 million from the previous year to \$14.2 million. Some of that cost savings is due to not renewing a \$700,000



contract for student transportation services in Fort Saskatchewan. Elk Island Public Schools now provides this service for EICS, and receives this funding directly from Alberta Education.

### RESERVES

Operating reserves

were sitting at \$3 million at the end of the fiscal year, with most of the money earmarked for instruction (\$2.4 million).

### STUDENT ENROLMENT

Overall, there were 7,913 students enrolled in an EICS school or a home education program supported by our

division for the 2022-2023 school year. While this represents a decrease of 322 students from the previous school year, the lower attendance is attributed to fewer home education students. In-person classes, however, saw an increase of 45 students compared to the previous school year.

## Board Highlights

### Superintendent's Report: November 2023

#### GRANT FUNDING

Our division received \$35,000 from Alberta Education to fund targeted intervention for Grade 1 to 5 students who experienced learning disruption from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The dollar amounts are based on student standardized test scores, and the grant received by EICS speaks to the amazing work our staff have done to mitigate the challenges of the pandemic.

#### CLASS SIZE

As of November, the average class size among our in-person and online schools is 24 students.

The full report can be viewed on the [EICS website](#).

#### FACE TO FACE MINISTRIES

Many of our schools welcomed the organization Face to Face Ministries for retreats during the month of November.

These retreats are funded



**Face to Face Ministries performs at École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School in November.**

through the ongoing support from the REAL Foundation.

See Page 9 for more

information about the other ways the REAL Foundation supports EICS.

### Trustees recognized for their dedication to Catholic Education

Trustees Ted Paszek and Jean Boisvert were recognized at the November Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (ACSTA) annual general meeting for their commitment to Catholic Education.

Both have served as EICS trustees since the 1980s (with the exception of one three-year term for each), and continue to be active in their parish community.

Currently Vice-Chair of the EICS Board of Trustees, Trustee Paszek has established himself as a respected resource on constitutional rights for Catholic Education in Canada.

Trustee Boisvert is driven by his belief that children are a gift from God and should have safe and caring learning environments and educational opportunities.



**EICS Board of Trustees Vice-Chair Paszek (above, left) and Trustee Boisvert (above, right) stand with EICS Board Chair Le-Ann Ewaskiw after being recognized for their service to Catholic Education at the annual ACSTA meeting in November.**



## *Board News in Pictures*

### Provincial and school board advocacy meetings



The Board of Trustees and Senior Administration hosted Alberta's NDP Education Critic and MLA Rakhi Pancholi (third from left) and Sherwood Park MLA Kyle Kasawski (third from right) on November 15 to discuss our division's concerns about education funding and the importance of publicly funded Catholic Education.

Members of our Board of Trustees and Superintendent Paul Corrigan had a productive time attending the Alberta School Boards Association's Fall General Meeting (below), where Alberta Premier Danielle Smith was a guest speaker (right).





## Division News

### ATA Local 21 and EICS welcome new teachers

Representatives from EICS joined in celebration with the Alberta Teachers' Association Local 21 to welcome new teachers at an induction ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 23.

The following new teachers were welcomed to the division at six different schools for the 2023-2024 school year, including:

**ARCHBISHOP JORDAN  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

Courtney Thain  
Brianna Strickland

**ÉCOLE PÈRE KENNETH  
KEARNS CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Gabriella Roberge

**OUR LADY OF MOUNT  
PLEASANT CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Curtis Skip

**ST. ANDRÉ BESSETTE  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Ashley Handreka  
Kiera Fernandes

**ST. JOHN XXIII  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Emmalee Kruse  
Amanda McAra

**ST. LUKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Andria Diduck



Members of the Alberta Teachers' Association Local 21 and Elk Island Catholic Schools gathered on Thursday, Nov. 23 to welcome a new group of teachers to the division.



# School Events in Pictures

## Remembrance Day ceremonies connect past and present



Remembrance Day ceremonies held across our division provided opportunities to connect our students with not just Canada's national history, but also the local history of those who sacrificed their lives to protect our country.

St. Luke students in South Cooking Lake visited a nearby cemetery to honour deceased veterans, while other schools welcomed members of the Canadian armed forces.





## School Events in Pictures

### Schools honour Ukrainian Holodomor Memorial Day

Our Ukrainian Bilingual schools held ceremonies and prayer services in late November to recognize Holodomor, the Great Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933 that resulted in the deaths of an estimated 4 million Ukrainians. A special thank you to Bishop David Motiuk (right) and clergy from the Edmonton Eparchy for leading the commemoration service at Archbishop Jordan Catholic High School.





## Community Supporters

### EICS faith formation gets boost from REAL Foundation

A \$30,000 donation from the REAL Foundation shows that support for Catholic Education is alive and well.

Most of the donation was fund-raised by an annual golf tournament that the foundation hosts each spring.

Through this donation, our division provides a variety of initiatives that encourage faith formation for staff and students, including the gifting of Bibles to Grade 4 students, school visits by Face to Face Ministries, and sessions for new teachers and current staff to deepen their faith.

Outside of this donation, the REAL Foundation, whose acronym stands for Religious Education Activities for Life, also provides \$1,000 scholarships to high school students who exemplify Catholic Christian leadership.

"I just think that we have a wonderful gift in Catholic Education," said Dave Kornder, chair of the foundation. "I can't think of a more worthy goal for us to engage in."

More information about the REAL Foundation is [available on its website](#).



**Dave Kornder, Chair of the REAL Foundation, presents EICS Faith and Wellness Consultant Andrea Haston with the foundation's donation to our division.**

## Upcoming Trustee Event Calendar

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Dec. 5:</b><br/>St. Joseph's College<br/>Alumni Gathering</li> <li><b>Dec. 7:</b><br/>14th Annual Bishop<br/>David Motiuk's Gala</li> <li><b>Dec. 12:</b><br/>Sherwood Park &amp;</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>District Chamber<br/>Christmas Open<br/>House</li> <li><b>Dec. 12:</b><br/>Hon. Nate Glubish<br/>Open House</li> <li><b>Dec. 20:</b><br/>Public EICS Board of</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trustees meeting</li> <li><b>January TBD:</b><br/>Meeting with City of<br/>Fort Saskatchewan</li> <li><b>January TBD:</b><br/>Advocacy meeting<br/>with representative<br/>UCP MLAs</li> </ul> |
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### JOIN US AT OUR NEXT PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

**Wednesday, Dec. 20**  
1 p.m.

EICS CLS Office  
310 Broadview Road  
Sherwood Park, Alberta

**Visit our website for  
meeting agendas and  
minutes.**



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

### CONTACT US

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### FOLLOW US

Follow EICSCatholic to stay  
up-to-date on what's happening  
at our division!

