

# EICS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## *Monthly Highlights*



In preparation for Easter, students from École Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School carry a wooden cross as they journey through the Stations of the Cross, reflecting on Jesus' love, sacrifice, and the hope of His resurrection. See more Easter photos on [Page 7](#).

# Board Highlights

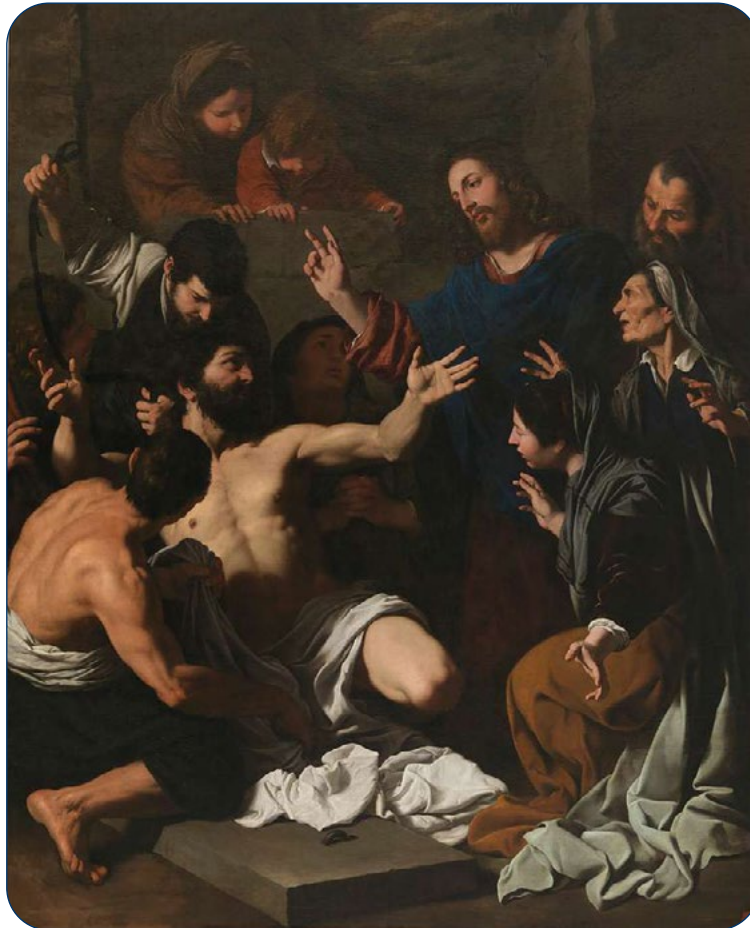
## Reflections on Lazarus and Compassionate Leadership

During April’s Elk Island Catholic Schools (EICS) Board of Trustees meeting, the Trustees were invited to reflect on the raising of Lazarus in John 11.

This moment in the Gospel reveals Jesus not only as the one who brings life, but as someone who fully enters into our humanity.

“Jesus wept. Not because He lacked hope, but because He loved,” explained Jody Seymour, who led this reflection during her final week serving as the director of Student and Staff Formation for EICS. “Grief is not a lack of faith. Tears are not weakness.”

In their role as leaders in the Catholic community, EICS Trustees may be expected to keep their emotions level. However, Seymour noted that this recounting of Lazarus’ resurrection is a reminder that some of our most Christ-like moments



**“The Raising of Lazarus” credited to 17th century artist Pietro Novelli.**

occur when compassion is offered to those who are experiencing pain and suffering.

In John’s Gospel, Jesus doesn’t rush to heal the suffering of Lazarus’ sisters Mary and Martha. He stops, weeps, and walks alongside the two siblings before ultimately returning their brother Lazarus to life.

The message of this story carries through today, Seymour said. “He doesn’t avoid death, He transforms it. And He still does that today for us, and through us.”

Trustees were encouraged to reflect on how this Gospel story speaks to their own leadership and their call to lead with compassion. They were also asked to reflect on how this story sets the stage for the rest of John’s Gospel — notably the coming passion, death, and resurrection of Christ.

To be rooted in Christ, Seymour said, is to be rooted in resurrected life, in mercy, and, ultimately, in hope.

### ELK ISLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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Strathcona County & Sherwood Park  
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# Board Highlights

## Preparing for 2025–2026: finances and planning

### PROJECTED FUNDING FOR 2025-2026

Our division is projected to receive \$77 million in total funding from Alberta Education for the upcoming school year, an increase of \$2.8 million compared to the current school year due to increased student enrolment.

Of that funding, \$75.8 million is anticipated to go to operational costs, while \$1.1 million will be dedicated to Capital Maintenance Renewal.

A final budget will be presented to the EICS Board of Trustees for approval at the May public Board meeting.

### 2025-2026 FEES SET

The division fees and the maximum fees that could be charged by schools were reviewed and updated for next school year by the Trustees at the April Board meeting.

Student Transportation fees for buses operated by EICS will be reduced for students next school year. This includes all students in the Eligible and Ineligible fee categories who ride EICS-operated buses. The supplemental fee for students to access an additional EICS-operated bus to/from an alternate address remains unchanged, however.

Other changes were made to align fees charged for identical programs at different schools or to cover the cost of necessary materials.

Revisions were also made to the Unfunded Kindergarten programs, now called Early Childhood Services (ECS) Supplemental Programs.

The full list of division and school fees for the upcoming school year is available online on our [School Fees web page](#).

### NUTRITION FUNDING

EICS has received \$255,288 in funding for the 2025–2026 school year to support student nutrition. This funding will support long-standing programs at five specific schools while providing additional funds across all other schools to promote universal access to healthy food. The funding may be used for snack programs, healthy food sampling, wellness initiatives, and to support families in need throughout the year.

### VTRA AGREEMENT WITH BATTLE RIVER SCHOOL DIVISION

An updated Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol was signed by our division alongside partners from Battle River School Division, Alberta Health Services, and the RCMP.

This reaffirmed agreement strengthens the collaborative approach to early intervention and supports the ongoing commitment to student safety,



**Members of EICS, Battle River School Division, Alberta Health Services, and the RCMP recently signed an updated Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol.**

well-being, and coordinated community response.

Catholic leadership formation opportunity for teachers.

### CAMROSE SCHOOL BUS UPDATE

Following the April announcement that the current Camrose student transportation provider will discontinue its services at the conclusion of the current school year, our Student Transportation department has been hard at work developing a plan to offer student busing in Camrose for the 2025-2026 school year.

### EXCEL PARTNERSHIP

Our division will once again partner with four Catholic school divisions and Newman Theological College in the ExCEL program, a

### ONGOING EDUCATION ASSURANCE PLANNING FOR 2025-2026

By the end of April, all schools and division departments will have presented their Assurance plan findings and strategies to EICS Senior Administration.

These presentations review results from the 2024–2025 EICS Education Assurance Survey and discuss strategies for the upcoming school year.

The finalized 2025–2026 EICS Education Assurance Plan is expected to be presented for ratification at the May public Board meeting.

**See BOARD on Page 4**

# Board Highlights

## EICS Staff celebrated for their contributions to Catholic Education

### BOARD from Page 3

More information about this year's survey results can be found on our [Assurance Dashboard](#).

### BUSINESS SERVICES

#### PRESENTATION

Heather Whyte, the Director of our Business Services, updated the Board on initiatives her department has undertaken this school year to enhance services for division staff and families while reducing costs.

Since the division switched to utilizing Amazon Business Prime, the division has realized cost savings and more efficient processes.

She also highlighted increased efforts to raise awareness of the division's fee-waiver program and to visit school offices to share best practices while verifying internal controls.

Recapping the department's assurance results, she noted that it scored 98% and higher in each of the four questions that pertain to Business Services.

Looking to next school year, Business Services plans to upgrade payment systems, build on its collaboration with schools, and create new onboarding guides for staff.

### PASSING OF POPE FRANCIS

During the April Administration meeting,

school and division leadership paused to reflect on the life and legacy of Pope Francis following his death on Easter Monday, April 21.

Superintendent Paul Corrigan encouraged principals to be mindful of the diverse ways staff and students may be affected by this loss, offering support and prayerful reflection during this time of mourning.

### STAFF RECOGNITION

The Board honoured 10 EICS staff members for their outstanding dedication to our students.

### ASBA Edwin Parr Award

Awarded by the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA), the Edwin Parr Award recognizes first-year teachers who have shown excellence in the Teaching Quality

Standard.

Kristin Seiferman from Holy Spirit Catholic School was selected to represent our division for this year's award.

Also nominated for consideration to represent EICS for the Edwin Parr Award were Andrea Dumec from St. Theresa Catholic School, and Megan Yockey from St. John XXIII Catholic School.

### CCSSA Excellence in Catholic Education

Kim Frey, a Pre-Kindergarten Teacher at St. John XXIII Catholic School and Early Learning Consultant with EICS Inclusive Learning Services, will be our division representative for the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta's (CCSSA) Excellence in Catholic Education Award.

Also nominated for

consideration to represent EICS for this award were École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School Principal Alyre Morin, St. Nicholas Catholic School Teacher Joclyn Beliveau, and Holy Redeemer Catholic School Teacher Tess Cossey.

### EICS Excellence in Catholic Education for Support Staff

EICS school bus driver Marlene Engel is the recipient of our division's own Excellence in Catholic Education for Support Staff Award.

Other nominees include Our Lady of the Angels Catholic School's Jessica Woitas, and St. Isidore Learning Centre's Laura Taylor.

More photos from our reception to celebrate all nominees are on [Page 5](#).



**Kristin Seiferman (left)**  
ASBA Edwin Parr Award  
representative for EICS



**Kim Frey (right)**  
CCSSA Excellence in  
Catholic Education Award  
representative for EICS



**Marlene Engel**  
EICS Excellence in Catholic  
Education Award Recipient



# Division News in Pictures



**Joclyn Beliveau (centre)**  
CCSSA Excellence in Catholic Education nominee



**Alyre Morin (right)**  
CCSSA Excellence in Catholic Education nominee



**Tess Cossey (right)**  
CCSSA Excellence in Catholic Education nominee



**Jessica Waitas (second from right)**  
EICS Excellence in Catholic Education for Support Staff nominee

Several EICS staff were nominated by peers for awards and recognized at an April 23 reception hosted by the EICS Board of Trustees. See more information on [Page 4](#).



**Laura Taylor (left)**  
EICS Excellence in Catholic Education for Support Staff nominee



**Andrea Dumec (left)**  
ASBA Edwin Parr Award nominee



**Megan Yockey (right)**  
ASBA Edwin Parr Award nominee



## *Division News in Pictures*



On April 15, members of the EICS Board of Trustees attended the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association MLA Reception in Edmonton. The event brought together elected and faith leaders to highlight the ongoing importance of publicly-funded Catholic education in Alberta.

**Top:** Archbishop Richard Smith joined Trustees for a moment of spiritual connection and shared mission. **Middle:** Trustees spoke with Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaidis about the value of Catholic education and the work taking place in EICS schools. **Bottom:** Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville MLA Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk met with Trustees during the reception.



# School News in Pictures

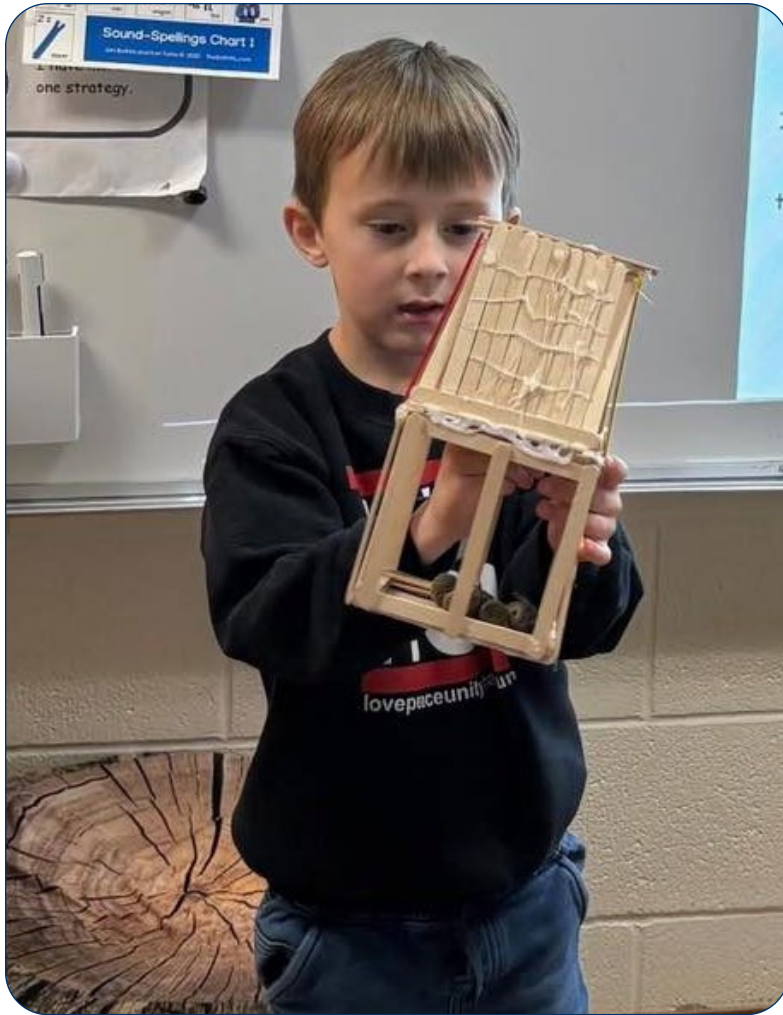
Students across our schools marked the Easter season through faith-filled celebrations and meaningful acts of service. Whether attending Mass, preparing Birthday Bags for the Strathcona Food Bank, or painting pysanky in honour of Ukrainian tradition, each moment reflected the hope and joy we find in the resurrection.





# School News in Pictures

Schools celebrated Earth Day on April 22 by caring for creation in their communities and exploring how materials can be reused. Inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical letter *Laudato Si'*, they are learning to be faithful stewards of God's gift of the Earth.





# School News in Pictures



Superintendent Paul Corrigan and Student and Staff Formation Consultant Aime Gartner (second from right) met with St. Isidore Learning Centre students Sophie and Livia to hear their thoughts on faith, learning, and student life as part of the Student Superintendent Advisory Committee. This spring Superintendent Corrigan will meet with students from all EICS high schools.

## Trustee Event Calendar for April

**April 4**

City of Fort Saskatchewan State of the City Address.

Meeting with New Horizons.

Trade Fair and Sale.

**April 26**

St. Joseph's College breakfast fundraiser.

**April 8**

Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan Employee Premium Presentation.

Linking Generations Spring Tea at École Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School.

**April 15**

ACSTA MLA Reception.

**April 16**

Strathcona County State of the County Address.

**JOIN US AT OUR NEXT PUBLIC BOARD MEETING**

**Wednesday, May 28**

1 p.m.

Central Learning Services  
310 Broadview Rd.  
Sherwood Park, Alberta

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

**April 9 - 28**

School and Department EICS Assurance Presentations.

Theology on Tap in Sherwood Park.

**April 23**

EICS Board of Trustees public meeting.

Excellence in Catholic Education and Edwin Parr nominee recognition reception.

**April 10**

Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (ACSTA) advocacy meeting.

**April 11**

ASBA Zone 2/3 General Meeting.

**April 11 - 13**

Sherwood Park and District Chamber of Commerce Great Canadian



**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.*

**CONTACT US**

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