

# **FORT SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

## **School Council Meeting Minutes**

**March 6, 2025**

### **Upcoming Dates:**

**P/T Interviews March 12/12, 2025**

**Spring Break March 21-28, 2025**

**School Auction Apr 25, 2025**

**Run for Stollery May 28, 2025**

**Attendance:** Kerry Churchill, Maureen Keith, Ralph Sorochoan, Matt Matheson, Angela Fairall, Nadine Lennox, Stephanie VanBoom, Amanda Darley, Cortney Phillips

**Regrets:** Katie Vanginhoven, Leanna Bechtel

### **1. Approval of January 9, 2024 School Council Meeting Minutes -**

- Mandie motions to approve, Stephanie seconds the motion.

### **2. Admin Report - Matt Matheson**

#### **Black History Month**

Lots of activities happening in class

Highlighting both past and present black figures and their contributions

Fort Black Society in to present

Also students did BHM highlights for our Announcements

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/17ncK86IHvnuxuBVq7HNkatpii4j-Jx11/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/17ncK86IHvnuxuBVq7HNkatpii4j-Jx11/view?usp=drive_link)

#### **Registration**

Registration is sitting at 428 (we are at 430 this year)

We have 39 students registered in Kindergarten

Awesome to see people who want to register because they've heard such great things about FSCS!!

#### **Surveys**

Thanks for filling out all the surveys (EIPS, AB Ed., Principal/AP surveys, etc.)

**JH Spiritual Emphasis Day - February 14**

Vanguard came in to run a variety of different sessions focused on the theme of spiritual disciplines. Students were challenged to grow flowers in their gardens by engaging in Remembrance, Confession, Prayer, Listening to God, Thanksgiving, and Bible Reading. The afternoon involved different flex type sessions that students could sign up for as a response to the content of the day.

### **Chapel - February 26.**

We had two chapels planned (K-4 - 9:30 am 5-9 - 8:35 am)

Focus was around Kindness (Pink Shirt Day is that day)

It was a wonderful opportunity for students and staff to worship together led by our Worship Arts team!! Always awesome to have our students singing God's praises in front of their classmates

In addition, Pastor Fred, shared a message about kindness with the students!

### **Chapels - April**

All invited to join us for the Easter chapel on April 1 at 1:20 pm

You are all invited to join us for the Mission's chapel April 17

K-4 - 10:40 am

5-9 - 11:34 am

### **School Auction**

Excited for this once again April 25th

Tickets will be going on sale March 12-13 (\$15) → school office

On sale at PTI's

Drop your donations off at the CHREDA office or bring them to Parent Teacher Interviews on March 12 or 13.

The auction is a significant undertaking with many opportunities to get involved. Our team of volunteers have a lot of fun together and we'd love for more people to join us.

Please take a look at this volunteer sign up form to see where you could help out.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScKuDen2xyW2RMG6GOtjvWzNkC0K\\_h6PUnPRTIGRBAgJ7vepw/viewform?usp=header](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScKuDen2xyW2RMG6GOtjvWzNkC0K_h6PUnPRTIGRBAgJ7vepw/viewform?usp=header)

### **Run for Stollery**

Excited to be doing this again this year (Wed - May 28, rainout Fri - May 30)

It will be a great way to honour the Charest's and little Maddy

Parent Council's role?

### **Parent Teacher Interviews (March 12, 13, 4-7:30)**

Childcare in the gym provided by Missions students

Thank you for agreeing to do supper on Wednesday night!

### **Spring Break**

March 21-30

### **Fees**

Fee Schedule

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iJtswQq9rKvbxghl1Zm5lWhCYa1SdBWF/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iJtswQq9rKvbxghl1Zm5lWhCYa1SdBWF/view?usp=drive_link)

Discussion on changes in fees → we have increased fees in some things by 2% to keep pace with inflation (Missions, some options)

A few field trip fees will be going up by 2% with costs increasing (student leadership conference, Div.2)

### **3. Trustee Report - Ralph Sorochan**

1) APPRECIATION – Thanks to everyone for engaging in your child's education!

2) STUDENT TRANSPORTATION ELIGIBILITY CHANGE – The Board received for information a report detailing recent amendments to the province's student transportation eligibility criteria, which take effect in the 2025-26 school year. Specifically, the changes relate to student transportation and rider eligibility. Currently, Alberta Education considers an elementary rider, kindergarten to Grade 6, eligible for provincial student transportation funding if they live one kilometre or more from the school they attend. For secondary students, grades 7-12, riders are eligible if they live two kilometres or more from the school they attend.

In 2025-26, Alberta Education will increase the elementary eligibility distance to 1.6 kilometres—the secondary rider eligibility will remain unchanged. The change in elementary eligibility has significant financial implications for both EIPS and school families. For instance, EIPS will see a substantial reduction in funding from the province. That, in turn, will result in an inability for EIPS Student Transportation to maintain its current service level, and lead to significantly higher student transportation fees for families. Short term, the province has committed to some transition funding for 2025-26. However, that won't be the case long term.

Therefore, the Division needs to develop a plan to address the new criteria and communicate the change to school families promptly.

#### **Key Concerns:**

- **Impact on Families:** Over 686 students within EIPS will be affected by the 1.0-kilometre distance criteria change effective the 2026-27 school year.
- **Financial Implications:** The amendment is projected to result in a funding shortfall exceeding \$415,000 for EIPS. This deficit may lead to reductions in transportation services or increased fees for families. Even a substantial increase in fees will not recoup the loss of funding.
- **Service Disruptions:** If we choose to no longer provide transportation service to students who do not meet the distance eligibility criteria, this will pose significant challenges for families who rely on transportation services for access to education.
- **Trust and Policy Consistency:** The initial reduction to 1.0 kilometres was a commitment to improving accessibility. The revision to 1.6 kilometres undermines this trust and raises concerns about the government's commitment to its policy objectives.

- Update today: We did receive information, yesterday, that there will be a slight increase in transportation dollars for 2025-26 and that a regulation alignment is expected to occur. While this will mitigate some of the funding challenges, it will not eradicate them.

We will know more, once the EIPS funding envelope is received from Alberta Education.

3) ASCA CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP - The Board approved sponsoring the registration fee for school councils to participate in the virtual 2025 Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA)

School Council Conference and Annual General Meeting on April 26-27—per school council up to a maximum of \$5,000. To qualify, members must be part of a school council with an active ASCA membership and apply before the registration deadline, April 7.

4) OHS COR AUDIT - The Board received for information a report on the Division's 2024 Occupational Health and Safety Certificate of Recognition (COR) Audit Report. Annually, EIPS undergoes the voluntary COR audit to certify its commitment to occupational health and safety.

Overall, the Division scored an impressive COR score of 91 per cent, exceeding the mandatory 60 per cent requirement. The Division's noted areas of strength include:

- use of policies, procedures and online resources;
- integration of health and safety in the workplace;
- emergency plans, first aid and security measures in place; and
- positive role modelling.

The audit also offered areas for the Division to work on in preparation for the recertification.

These include awareness campaigns related to incident reporting, emergency drills, job hazard assessments, and general communication to enhance health and safety efforts.

5) SCHOOL STATUS REPORT: 2023-24 - The Board received for information the School Status Report for the 2023-24 school year. The report identifies enrolment numbers, school utilization rates and per-student costs within the Division. Data is presented by geographic sectors and on a fouryear comparative basis to ensure the analysis is based on long-term trends and not isolated incidences (p.36 "Board Package: School Status Report for 2024-25").

6) BOARD RETREAT – The Board of Trustees participated in a 3-day retreat February 10-13, in Fort Saskatchewan. Some of the important topics of discussion included budget priorities for the 2025-26 school year, rural education sustainability, capital planning, and student transportation.

7) REMINDER: ANNUAL EDUCATION RESULTS REPORT 2023-24 - The Board approved EIPS' Annual Education Results Report 2023-24, an Alberta Education reporting requirement that provides school families and community members easy-to-understand detailed information about how EIPS is doing relative to Alberta Education's performance measures; how the Division supports students to achieve the best possible outcomes; and its successes, challenges and priorities moving forward. To read the full report visit, [eips.ca](http://eips.ca).

8) REMINDER: UPCOMING TRUSTEE ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER 2025 – The next municipal election is on October 20, 2025. If you or anyone you know is interested in running for public office, checkout the details for candidates on [www.eips.ca](http://www.eips.ca). Two trustees will be elected from Electoral Subdivision No. 1, comprised of lands within the corporate limits of the City of Fort Saskatchewan.

9) CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS; EIPS AUDIT COMMITTEE – EIPS is seeking two volunteer community members to serve on its Audit Committee. The Audit Committee reports to the Board of Trustees and is comprised of three elected trustees and two volunteers external to EIPS. This opportunity will provide valuable experience in the financial oversight of one of Alberta's largest school divisions, serving 17,950 students at 42 schools with an operating budget of approximately \$210 million. See [www.eips.ca](http://www.eips.ca) for details. Deadline is March 7.

10) CAREGIVER SERIES: March Sessions - Recovery Alberta offers free online programming for parents and caregivers of children and youth. Sessions are offered through Zoom. The list of March 2025 sessions is now available.

11) NEXT BOARD MEETING – The next regular Board meeting takes place on March 20, 2025, at 10 AM. Board meetings are held in the Elk Island Public School boardroom. EIPS also livestreams public Board meetings on its YouTube channel.

12) INQUIRIES? - If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at [ralph.sorochan@eips.ca](mailto:ralph.sorochan@eips.ca) or 780 417 8107.

13) Have a wonderful rest of your month and a well-deserved spring break!

#### **4. Parent Council Business - Kerry Churchill**

- **Parent Teacher Interview Meal -**

Parent Council will provide a meal for teachers for the March 12 evening interviews.

- **Teacher Appreciation Week May 5-9**

Theme/details can be discussed further via WhatsApp/seperate planning meeting

#### **5. Adjournment - 7:05 pm**

**6. Next meeting - May 8, 2025 5:30pm**