

## **Glen Allan School Council Meeting Thursday February 23, 2023**

### **NEW EIPS SUPERINTENDENT**

The Elk Island Public Schools Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of Sandra Stoddard as the Division's new Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer effective July 1, 2023.

### **STATUS REPORT: 2021-22**

The Board received for information the School Status Report for the 2021-22 school year. The report identifies enrolment numbers, school utilization rates and per-student costs within the Division. The data is presented by geographic sectors and on a four-year comparative basis to ensure analysis is based on long-term trends and not isolated incidences (this is on page 218 of 254, "[School Status Report for 2021-22](#)"). Highlights from the report:

- The average cost per EIPS student is \$7,141, which is up from the previous year by \$175.
- The Division currently has 20 schools operating above the \$7,141 average.
- EIPS' utilization rate for 2021-22 increased to 73 per cent—up by one per cent from the previous year.

### **SCHOOL FEE PARAMETERS: 2023-24**

The Board approved the school fee parameters for the 2023-24 school year. The parameters are based on the guidelines laid out within the *Education Act* and the Board's mandate for affordable school fees. Overall, the 2023-24 school fee parameters are similar to the previous year. Highlights include:

- Optional-courses fees* – five per cent allowable increase—up to seven per cent for food courses
- Noon-supervision fees* – five per cent allowable increase
- Activity fees* – five per cent allowable increase
- Extracurricular fees* – five per cent allowable increase
- Non-curricular travel fees* – five per cent allowable increase
- Non-curricular goods and services fees* – five per cent allowable increase

Schools must set all fees at a cost-recovery rate. If any fees exceed the listed parameters, the school must submit an explanation to the EIPS Secretary-Treasurer. Now approved, schools can begin establishing school fees for the 2023-24 year.

### **UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE PROGRAM**

The Board approved changes to the Ukrainian program at A.L. Horton Elementary. Traditionally, the school has offered a Ukrainian Bilingual program for students in kindergarten to Grade 6. However, low enrolment numbers, funding changes and language arts instructional requirements have made offering a fulsome program challenging. EIPS consulted with school families, and, based on their feedback, introduced a new Ukrainian Language and Culture pilot program in fall 2022. The program still offers robust Ukrainian instruction, but the provincial requirements are more flexible.

To date, the pilot has received overwhelming support from the school community. As such, the Board approved replacing A.L. Horton's Ukrainian Bilingual program with the Ukrainian Language and Culture program, starting in the 2023-24 school years. The program goal: To foster an appreciation for the Ukrainian language and culture. Additionally, the Division will look at ways to expand the Ukrainian language and culture programming at the junior high level.

## EIPS LANGUAGE AND CULTURE PROGRAMS: GERMAN AND UKRAINIAN

As part of the Board's commitment to second-language programming, the Board approved the recommendation to designate EIPS' two language and culture programs—German and Ukrainian—Division alternative programs. All alternative programs require Board approval before being established or closed.

## THREE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY: VEGREVILLE VALUE SCOPING SESSION

The Board received for information an update on one of the projects listed in the Division's Three-Year Engagement Plan. In May 2022, EIPS developed a Three-Year Engagement Strategy. The plan identifies areas where the Division can improve operations to best serve students. In total, there are four engagement projects listed within the plan. In terms of Project 4, the Division is exploring possible solutions to improve the school utilization rates in Vegreville.

Currently, EIPS has two schools in Vegreville that serve students living in the western portion of Minburn County and the Town of Vegreville—A.L. Horton Elementary and Vegreville Composite High. Over the last few years, both schools have experienced a significant drop in enrolment, affecting program delivery and facility operations. As such, EIPS included the region in its Three-Year Capital Plan—requesting provincial funding to conduct a value scoping session with community stakeholders in Vegreville and area. The value-scoping session took place in fall 2022. It was facilitated by START Architecture and included representatives from the Government of Alberta, EIPS Board of Trustees, EIPS administration, A.L. Horton Elementary, Vegreville Composite High, EIPS school councils, Town of Vegreville, County of Minburn and Village of Andrew.

Collectively, they discussed eight possible solutions to optimize learning environments for students and ensure high-quality educational program delivery. The best-performing solution: Option 2, modernizing and expanding Vegreville Composite High School to accommodate a kindergarten to Grade 12 program. The Board will use the report and feedback to develop a community-derived solution and include it in the 2024-27 Three-Year Capital Plan—planned for release in April 2023. Read the full report at [eips.ca](https://eips.ca).

## REALLOCATION OF FUNDS

The Board approved changes to the allocation of funds for the 2022-23 school year. The reallocation allows the Division to use any net surplus funds and ensures its reserves remain below the 3.15% provincially mandated reserve cap. Additionally, the Board approved requesting permission from Alberta's Education Minister to transfer \$765,000 to EIPS' capital reserves for new buses, in case they don't arrive before classes resume at the start of the 2023-24 school year.

Please contact me with questions or concerns,

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