

TRUSTEE SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT – NOVEMBER 2015

BOARD RETREAT RECAP OCTOBER 8-9, 2015

The Board discussed several topics including generative governance, advocacy, board priorities, Policy 19, and the Board's work plan. The discussions were both informative and constructive and will guide future decisions the board makes in the coming year.

2015–2016 ENROLMENT

The Board received for information the current enrolment report for the 2015–2016 school year. As of Sept. 30, 2015, the division's enrolment is 16,866 students—an increase of 178 students from the 2014–2015 school year.

NOVEMBER EVENTS:

November 4 COSC Meeting
November 4 Take Our Kids to Work Day
November 9–13 Fall Break
November 10 Day-in-Lieu of Interviews
November 15–21 Bullying Awareness Week
November 17 Your Future: It's a Matter of Choice
November 20 National Child Day

NATIONAL BULLYING AWARENESS WEEK NOVEMBER 15-21, 2015

Staff and students throughout Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) are planning a variety of activities to promote healthy relationships during this year's National Bullying Awareness Week (NBAW), which takes place November 15-21.

Launched in 2002, NBAW is an annual event celebrated around the world to boost awareness among students, staff, parents, and community members about bullying and ways to reduce and prevent incidents of it in their schools. Within EIPS, students and staff will spend the week discussing ways to foster healthy relationships, discourage intolerances, and encourage the inclusion of everyone.

2016 EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

The Excellence in Teaching Awards program has been put on hold for the time being. The Government of Alberta is currently redesigning the program with a renewed focus on recognition for educators. Potential timelines and information about the new program will be communicated once determined.

GREAT KIDS AWARDS (COSC)

Nominations are now open for the 2016 Great Kids Awards. Launched in 1999, the program is a Government of Alberta initiative to celebrate children and youth who impact their communities in a positive way. The award is open to young people—between the ages of five and 18—who demonstrate determination, generosity, compassion, courage, and strong spirit. The deadline for nominations is November 27. More information about the awards program, and details on how to nominate someone, is available by visiting www.greatkids.alberta.ca.

MODULAR REQUEST 2016–2017

The Board directed Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) administration to request five new modular units and 10 replacement modular units from Alberta Education for the 2016–2017 school year. The modular will be used to accommodate the division's growing student population and replace older units in need of repair.

PARENT SURVEY (COSC)

2015 Parent Survey is now open and is designed to offer all EIPS parents/guardians an opportunity to provide their feedback about the Division and their school. Parents are encouraged to take a few minutes to complete the online survey - takes about three minutes and will help to supplement the Division's Accountability Pillar Survey data.

Visit the link at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/eipsparent15>. The survey is open until November 24, 2015.

RESULTS REVIEW PROCESS (COSC)

The schedule for this year's Results Review Process is now available. Please review the schedule. The Results Review is a forum for schools and departments to share their individual school/department results, education plans, successes and challenges with trustees and school communities. All sessions will be held between November 6 and November 27th.

PROVINCIAL BUDGET 2015 – ALBERTA EDUCATION

KEY MESSAGES FROM THE EIPS BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

- We are pleased with the Education budget announced by the provincial government.
- The budget follows through on the commitments made by the provincial government this past May, and the budget announcement is what we were expecting.
- Our spring budget is based on projected enrolment, funding, and various initiatives. In the fall, the annual budget is updated to reflect actual September 30 enrolment, actual surplus/deficit carry-forward amounts, and any changes in funding.
- Our budgets are based on three key budget principles: equitable distribution of funds and programs, transparent and understandable allocations, and alignment with the EIPS Three-Year Education Plan priorities.
- The 2015-2016 EIPS Fall Budget will be approved by the Board at the November 26 Board Meeting.
- We are very happy the government is funding enrolment growth. We have 178 new students in EIPS this year, and it's important that we've received funding for them in order to assist us in providing all these new students will quality public education.
- The education budget also includes funding for the multitude of school capital projects that are underway.
 - This is significant for EIPS as we have a number of capital projects taking place all across our division.
 - The modernizations, replacement schools, and new schools are critical for EIPS and the growth we are seeing throughout our school division.
 - We're looking forward to the ongoing work for all of these projects.