

## **Strathcona Christian Academy – Elementary School Council Meeting Trustee Report March 6, 2024**

### **THREE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY: FRENCH IMMERSION AND SENIOR HIGH ENROLMENT**

As part of EIPS' Three-Year Engagement Plan, the Division has put significant work into exploring how best to enhance its French Immersion program addressing enrolment pressures, boosting program retention and balancing enrolment. To develop a solution, EIPS undertook a year-long public engagement effort that included four phases of consultations with the school community—families, students, staff and community members.

The Board approved a solution to best address the anticipated enrolment pressures in Ardrossan, enhance French Immersion program retention and balance senior high enrolment in Sherwood Park:

- relocate EIPS' senior high French Immersion program, grades 10-12, to Salisbury Composite High effective when the new Sherwood Park replacement school opens, expected in the 2026-27 school year.
- adjust Strathcona County's senior high attendance boundaries for Lakeland Ridge to be redesignated to Bev Facey Community High effective when the new Sherwood Park replacement school opens, expected in the 2026-27 school year.
- adjust the French Immersion junior high attendance boundaries for Cambrian Crossing, to be redesignated to Sherwood Heights Junior High effective in the 2024-25 school year.

Now approved, EIPS will engage families and staff to develop an implementation plan to ensure a smooth transition for everyone when the changes take effect.

### **SCHOOL FEE PARAMETERS: 2024-25**

The Board approved the school fee parameters for the 2024-25 school year. Overall, the 2024-25 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 fees are over-charged by more than \$10 a student, schools must refund that amount to the student through credit. Additionally, if any fees exceed the listed parameters, the school must submit an explanation for EIPS' Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer to review. With the fee parameters now approved, schools can begin establishing their 2024-25 School Fees Schedule.

### **2024 ASCA SCHOOL COUNCIL CONFERENCE AND AGM: REGISTRATION SPONSORSHIP**

The Board approved sponsoring the registration fee for school council members to participate in the 2024 Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) School Council Conference and Annual General Meeting on April 26-28 for one member 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 8, 2024

### **LEVERAGING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FUND INITIATIVES**

The Board received for information the Leveraging Student Achievement (LSA) Fund Initiative Report. In total, the LSA fund balance is \$101,000 and will be used to support initiatives that focus on student learning needs and equity of student programming. For 2023-24, planned LSA initiatives all focus on junior high literacy and numeracy, areas where the Division still sees the highest level of learning loss since the pandemic. Specifically, the Division has hired two lead teachers, one for literacy and one for numeracy, to support EIPS' junior high schools, working directly with struggling students and with teachers to help plan, develop, deliver and assess lessons to address learning loss. The goal, of course, is to improve educational outcomes for students in literacy and numeracy; enhance professional learning; and improve supports for students, staff and families.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Section 58.1 of the current Education Act requires school boards to notify parents and caregivers when courses, programs of study, instructional materials, instruction or exercises contain subject matter that deals primarily with human sexuality. Included in this notice is always an opportunity for parents and caregivers to opt out of the instruction without any academic penalty to the student. It's a practice that's been in place since 2014, and one that EIPS has consistently followed.

Please contact me with questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,  
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