

## FSE Trustee Report – September 16, 2025

Trustee Ralph SoroChan

- 1) **APPRECIATION** - Thank you, for being here today, and welcome to a brand-new school year! Kudos to Tami, Sarah and all the FSE team for getting the school ready to welcome our students. It's a big job and was certainly a lot of work! Well done!
- 2) **BUDGET** - The Board approved EIPS' 2025-26 spring budget, prepared by Financial Services. Every spring, the Division prepares a budget for the upcoming school year—based on provincial funding, Alberta Education's *Funding Manual for School Authorities: 2025-26 School Year*, projected student-enrolment numbers, corresponding staffing estimates, Board-approved budget assumptions and allocations, and stakeholder feedback. The complete report is available at [eips.ca](http://eips.ca). EIPS' operating budget is \$213.4 million from Sept. 1, 2025, to Aug. 31, 2026. Of that, \$211.62 million will come from the Division's annual revenues. The remaining \$1.82 million will come from the Division's accumulated surplus. Key Board budget priorities include literacy and numeracy; the collegiate school and career pathways; classroom complexity; curriculum and resource development; staff retention and equity; early learning; educational technology, digital tools and artificial intelligence; and equity for rural schools to address unique needs.

EIPS projects an accumulated surplus of \$7.24 million by Aug. 31, 2026. The accumulated surplus comprises investment in tangible capital assets (\$8.3 million), asset-retirement obligation (-\$10.97 million), operating reserves (\$9.12 million) and capital reserves (\$792,000).

As well, EIPS' operating reserve limit is \$12.79 million, 6% of its estimated 2024-25 expenditures and applies to all operating reserves except School Generated Reserve funds. The Division will not exceed the maximum—currently projecting at \$5.37 million below the limit.

School Board budgets are highly restricted and monitored. Each year, the budget goes through a financial audit that must be completed by a reputable accounting firm. In addition, the province keeps close tabs on spending and allocations within the division. EIPS is committed to directing as many dollars as possible to student instruction. For example, a grant of 6.76 million is provided for system administration of which only 4.83 million was used. All the remaining dollars go towards student instruction.

- 3) **SUMMER PROJECTS** – The Board received for information a report from Facility Services highlighting the planned projects for summer 2025. In total 327 projects were planned that included: 33 Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal projects (2.24 million) six Capital Maintenance Renewal projects (2.84 million) and 286 operational and maintenance projects.
- 4) **SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION** – The Board completed and approved the Superintendent's Evaluation and Report which documents the performance of the Division's Superintendent from July 01, 2024, to May 21, 2025. As per policy, evaluation of the superintendent is a critical component to the success and growth of students within the division.
- 5) **EIPS FOUR-YEAR EDUCATION PLAN: 2022-26** - The Board approved the *EIPS Four-Year Education Plan: 2022-26 (Year 4)*, which details the Division's priorities, goals and outcomes over a four-year period. The Division's three key priorities: *Priority 1*: To promote the growth and success of all students. *Priority 2*: To enhance high-quality learning and working environments. *Priority 3*: To enhance public education through effective engagement. The plan also outlines the performance measures, key insights and strategies the Division will use to meet each priority, goal and outcome in the 2025-26 school year.
- 6) **COMMITTEE OF SCHOOL COUNCILS (COSC)** - is a parent group comprised of school council representatives, EIPS' trustees and administrators. The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month between October and May to discuss educational issues and trends, specifically relating to EIPS. Next meeting is scheduled for:

**Date:** Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** in person, Central Services boardroom, or join the meeting virtually

- 7) **NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION AND ORANGE SHIRT DAY (SCHOOLS AND CENTRAL SERVICES CLOSED)** - Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation take place on September 30. As this is a Division closure day, schools may be celebrating early or later. Truth and Reconciliation Week is September 22-26. [Orange Shirt Day](#) is an Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day intended to raise awareness of the individual, family and community inter-generational impacts of residential schools, and to promote the concept of “Every Child Matters”. The orange shirt is a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations.
- 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, check out 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) **CAREGIVER SERIES: September 2025 Sessions** - Recovery Alberta offers free online programming for parents and caregivers of children and youth. Sessions are offered through Zoom. The list of [September 2025 sessions](#) is now available.
- 10) **NEXT PUBLIC BOARD MEETING** – The next public Board meeting takes place on September 18, 2025, at 10 AM. Board meetings are held in the Elk Island Public School boardroom. EIPS livestreams public Board meetings on its YouTube channel.
- 11) **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.