

**Elk Island Public Schools
Trustee Report
Ray Welsh**

March 2010

1. Superintendent Search

Elk Island is currently in the process of short-listing and interviewing candidates for the position of Superintendent. Trustees are being assisted in this process by Mr. Terry Gunderson, an administrative consultant for the Alberta School Boards Association and former Superintendent for Elk Island. An announcement is expected in March.

2. Budget 2010

On Tuesday, Alberta Education announced the budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. The budget was better than we expected a few months ago as there were no massive cuts to funding. Once everything is considered we are facing some challenges with no increase in our funding except for transportation. There is no increase for inflation and the arbitrator ruled that the Alberta Average Weekly Earning Index for 2009-2010 is 5.99% versus the 4.82% we were funded. Also, the Average Weekly Earning is trending close to 3% for 2010-2011 so this is roughly a 4.17% increase to our salary costs, again without an increase to our funding. The Minister has indicated he will be approaching the Treasury Board to ask for funding to cover the arbitrator's ruling and we are hopefully that will take place in April but we have no guarantees. Alberta Education also changed the way the class size funding is allocated resulting in a loss of funding for EIPS.

4. COSC

The next meeting of COSC will be March 3 and will feature a presentation on Power School and how parents will be able to access their students' records online. The meeting will be teleconferenced to VCHS at 7:00 p.m.

5. Bussing

The Fuel Price Contingency Grant was not reinstated in the 2010 Budget and has resulted in an annual \$500,000 loss in revenue to Elk Island. Further Bus route consolidation is likely in the 2010-2011 school year, but Vegreville will not be affected as considerable route consolidation and elimination took place before the current school year and further cuts to bussing in the Vegreville area are not being planned.

6. Electrical Transmission Line

Elk Island Public Schools will make formal application to the Alberta Utilities Commission to register our concerns relative to the proposed electrical transmission line which is designated for the corridor between Edmonton and Sherwood Park. We are especially concerned about the impact this transmission line will have on Colchester School which is in close proximity to the proposed line. Our suggestion will be that the line be constructed underground.

7. District Professional Development Day

EIPS hosted a system-wide Professional Development Day on January 29. A number of EIPS staff and external contributors shared their expertise with the division through a variety of sessions based on the theme "Engaging Hearts, Minds & Hands". Thank you to Lillian Sabo, Lori Skitsko, and Faye McConnell for all their work in organizing the day.

8. Alexander Rutherford Scholarships

The board received for information a report on the 2008-2009 Rutherford Scholarship Recipients in EIPS. Vegreville Composite High School students received \$63,300 in scholarships which far surpasses the average amount received by other high schools in Elk Island on a per pupil basis. The students and staff of VCHS are to be congratulated for this accomplishment.