



Cherishing and Challenging Every Child

Glen Allan School Council (GASC) Meeting Agenda Thursday, September 11, 2025, 6:00 – 6:35 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 6:03 p.m.

In attendance: Caitlin Burkholder (GASCFA Vice President), Erin Hamilton (GASC Chair), Alex Shortreed (Member-at-Large); Lana Lastiwka (Principal); Crystal Brownlee (Assistant Principal); Stacey Robinson (Teacher); Jess Jelles (Parent Members); Adrienne Suelzle (Parent Members); Rosa Bull (GASCFA Treasurer); Grant Glowinski (GASC & GASCFA Secretary)

1. Welcome and introductions; land acknowledgement

Erin Hamilton (Chair), All

2. Approval of May 22, 2025 meeting minutes

Erin Hamilton (Motion required from two council members)

- Motion to approve by Rosa Bull; seconded by Caitlin Burkholder

3. GASC update - *Erin Hamilton, Chair*

- Welcome and overview of GASC role
- Trustee unable to attend; update provided by email and read; new EIPS trustee will join us at next meeting
- Reminder of dates for 2025-26 meetings
- Upcoming GASC executive vacancies (2026-27 school year); Chair, Vice Chair; people leaving the position will be around next year to support transition
- Playground project completion and thank you
- GASC email communication
- Trustee Report:
 - Welcome back to a new school year! School Council meetings are an excellent way to stay connected to what's happening at your child's school, across Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS), and within the broader education system. These meetings provide valuable parent perspectives to both school administration and your Trustee liaison. I encourage you to attend as many as your schedule allows.
 - Technology Fee (Effective 2026–27): At the June 19 Board meeting, Trustees approved the introduction of a \$30 per student technology fee for all K–12 students, beginning in the 2026–27 school year. As the Division advances its digital strategy, this fee will:
 - Ensure predictable, sustainable funding for student and school-based technology needs.

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- Support the evergreening of student devices, while the Division budget continues to cover staff devices, hardware, software, equipment, and repair/maintenance costs of both student and staff devices.
- Provide standardized devices to improve IT support, security, and consistency in learning.
- Promote equitable access to technology—ensuring no student is left behind due to financial barriers.
- Strengthen long-term financial stability while reducing reliance on unpredictable government funding.
- Clarifying Government Funding and Accountability: We were disappointed by recent comments from the Premier suggesting school boards mismanage funds by allowing “dollars earmarked for classrooms to be burned in the halls of administration.” In reality, the Government of Alberta (GOA) caps the amount school boards may spend on system administration and prohibits redirecting classroom funds toward it. Each year:
 - By May 31, boards must submit their budgets to the GOA.
 - By November 30, boards must submit audited financial statements.

For the 2025–26 school year, EIPS was allocated \$6.76M for system administration. Of that, EIPS is using \$4.8M for system administration and redirecting the remaining \$1.9M directly into classrooms. Both our budget and audited financial statements are posted on the EIPS website for transparency.
- Classroom Complexity Funding: EIPS has received \$1.03M from the GOA to address classroom complexity. With over 18,000 students across 43 schools, this grant alone is insufficient. Last year, EIPS introduced a new allocation algorithm to better address varying classroom needs, and we will continue with this approach. Recognizing that classroom complexity involves many factors, we take a multi-pronged approach informed by research. This year, we are also introducing weekly early dismissals to provide dedicated collaborative time for teachers and educational assistants—one of the most effective strategies for supporting students.
- Upcoming Trustee Election: Trustee nominations close at noon on Monday, September 22, 2025. The new Board will be sworn in on October 30, and your new Trustee liaison will join you for your November School Council meeting.

4. Principal/Assistant Principal's report - *Lana Lastiwka and Crystal Brownlee*

- Meet the Staff/Playground Opening – thank you for an amazing event, it was very well attended, and we had lots of positive feedback about the playground and seeing where students will be prior to the first day of school.
- New Staff
 - Lisa Enarson - Secretary
 - Lindsey Arnason - Counsellor
 - Laura Donsbach - EA supporting grade 1
 - Tamid Mirza - Noon Supervisor
 - Asma - Mental Health Capacity Builder
- Staff and classes:

Class	Teacher	Count
KA1	Mrs. Delainey	17
KA2	Mrs. Shannon	18
1-1	Mrs. Balog	21
1-2	Mrs. Ganemtore	22
2-1	Mrs. Curran	26
3-1	Mrs. Foley	27
3-2	Mrs. Miles da Silva	9
4-1	Mrs. Miles da Silva	14
4-2	Ms. Halcrow	27
5-1	Mrs. Westergaard / Mrs. Robinson	24
5-2	Ms. Nent / Ms. Barry	22
6-1	Ms. Budney	32
TOTAL		259

Down 34 students from the end of 2025

- Noon supervision – 2024-25 fees paid at 80%. Currently we have administration, office staff and teachers assigned to noon supervision, fees do not cover the costs. We will need to look at this moving forward as this model is not sustainable. It is also a difficult position to fill as it is 1 hour in the middle of the day.
- Fees being charged upfront – new to Glen Allan this year.
- Trustee elections – nomination process closes September 22. Visit the Alberta School Boards Association website at www.asba.ca for more information.
- Communication – BUZZ is emailed to families every week with a direct link; this has important information, dates for your reference.
- Summer work at Glen Allan:
 - New gym roof
 - New flooring in both kindergarten rooms
 - New gym floor
 - Cubby and door painting
 - Tarmac painting
 - As always, Mr. Mital does an incredible job of keeping our school in tip top condition!
- Proposed funding requests
 - Classroom fund \$10/student - currently $259 \times 10 = \$2590.00$
 - Teacher feedback regarding GASC covering the cost of one field trip bus per grade was so positive, if this is a possibility again it would be very appreciated. We will provide the bus costs at our next meeting.
 - New benches for the gym as we cannot use our current ones with our new

- floor, they will damage it. Estimates to be provided at our next meeting.
- A sound system for our gym. We can start fundraising; this may be a multi-year project.
- Next meeting scheduled for October 23 intentionally to coincide with parent-teacher interviews.

5. Teacher report - *Stacey Robinson*

- Start-up has been great with a lot of engagement and excitement about the new playground.
- Classes have been meeting with their grade buddies to do activities and get to know each other.
- Students have been creating dot day art for Sept 15th Dot Day where they will be encouraged to wear something with dots.
- The 15th will also be Bus Evacuation Drills.
- On the 18th Fred Fox will be at the school to host an assembly about Terry Fox.
- The 22nd the grade 1s will go on a forest walk.
- The 25th is our Terry Fox run.
- The 29th we will observe Orange Shirt Day at Glen Allan, and teachers will be doing activities to lead up to the day. The next day is The National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.
- October 2nd is picture day!

6. Parent feedback/suggestions

7. Invitation to next meeting, Thursday October 23.

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.