

# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

January 22, 2026

## 2026–2027 ECCS School Calendar Approved for Northern Schools

The Board of Trustees approved the ECCS 2026–2027 School Calendar for the Northern schools as presented. The Board also authorized the Superintendent of Schools to make any necessary minor, non-instructional calendar adjustments to ensure continued alignment with Buffalo Trail Public Schools and to support consistent family scheduling across all Northern ECCS schools.

The approved calendar applies to the following ECCS sites: STJ, BSS, SOH, STA, and BSO, and was developed collaboratively with Buffalo Trail Public Schools, which provides student transportation services. The calendar reflects a comprehensive internal review that considered Alberta Education and Child Care instructional requirements, contractual obligations, historical practice, leadership feedback, and the importance of predictable scheduling for families and staff. Balanced instructional time and scheduled breaks were prioritized to support student engagement, staff effectiveness, and overall well-being.

## Suspension of Policy 15: Retirement Incentive Plan

The Board approved the suspension of Policy 15 – Retirement Incentive Plan for the 2026–2027 school year, in accordance with the policy’s annual authorization requirements, based on current operational and financial considerations.

The Board further directed Senior Administration to continue monitoring workforce needs, enrolment trends, and financial conditions, and to bring forward future recommendations regarding the implementation of the Retirement Incentive Plan as appropriate. Policy 15 is reviewed annually, is not an automatic entitlement, and requires Board approval each year. Senior Administration’s recommendation followed a review of current staffing needs, financial forecasts, and long-term operational priorities.

## Strategic Plan Discussion

The Board of Trustees discussed its Board Strategic Plan, reaffirming its role as a steward of Catholic education within rural communities. The Strategic Plan is grounded in the Alberta Education Assurance Framework and aligned with the ECCS 2025–2029 Education Plan.

The plan is informed by local and provincial survey measures, performance data, and assurance review results, and reflects the Board’s commitment to meeting provincial expectations while responding to the diverse needs of students through the Division’s Catholic mission and values.

## May 2026 Board Meeting Rescheduled

That the Board of Trustees approve the rescheduling of the May 2026 Board Meeting from May 28, 2026, to May 21, 2026.

## Board Members

Derek Collins, *Chair* | Mardy Charlebois, *Vice-Chair* | Alan Rogan | Angelique Peeters |  
Noel Wirachowsky | Rebecca Scherger | Carolyn Fetaz | Ryan Bolin