

Oct. 24, 2019



Board Members

Trina Boymook, Chair
Heather Wall, Vice-Chair
Randy Footz
William (Skip) Gordon
Colleen Holowaychuk
Annette Hubick
Don Irwin
Jim Seutter
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Chair's Report

Recent Events

Board Chair Trina Boymook highlighted a number of recent events:

- On October 2, Chair Boymook met with the Committee of School Councils (COSC) representatives at the annual Mix and Mingle event, which was followed by the first COSC meeting of the school year. She looks forward to working closely with the many school council groups over the coming year.
- On October 16, Boymook attended and brought greetings at Sherwood Heights Junior High's Fall Academic Awards.

EIPS Bereavements

On behalf of the Board, Chair Boymook extended condolences to the students, friends, families and colleagues of two Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) employees who recently passed away. Chris Frederickson was a beloved teacher, colleague, mentor and friend to many people in the Ardrossan community. He taught for 20 years at Ardrossan Elementary and was instrumental in nurturing and educating a generation of students from that area. He passed away on September 30. Lisa Sauder, who was to take on the role of principal of Ardrossan Elementary this year, passed away on October 6. During her time with EIPS, she was a teacher, an assistant principal and, most recently, the principal at École Campbelltown. She was devoted to her students and a passionate educator and colleague.

Association/Local Reports

ASBA Zone 2/3 Meeting

Trustee Harvey Stadnick attended the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 meeting held on September 28:

- Both the ASBA President, Lori Jess, and Vice-President, Trina Boymook, attended the meeting.
- The meeting focused on collaboration.
- The next meeting is on Oct. 25, 2019.

ATA Local Report

The Board received for information the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Local No. 28 report from President Deneen Zielke:

- Local members are saddened by the loss of two colleagues. Both Chris Frederickson and Lisa Sauder recently passed away and are deeply missed by students, parents, staff and friends.
- On October 17, Zielke attended Bev Facey Community High's Awards Night. At the event, she presented the ATA Local Scholarship to Anna Fraser, a former Bev Facey Composite High student who is completing a degree in education. She's a hard-working student and will make a great addition to the teaching profession.
- On October 18, the Local hosted its annual Induction Ceremony at the University of Alberta Facility Club. It was a lovely evening and an opportunity to develop collegial connections. Zielke thanked Vice-Chair Heather Wall for attending and bringing greetings.

New Business

2020-21 Modular Request

The Board directed EIPS administration to request funding from Alberta Education to relocate five modular classroom units for the 2020-21 school year. If approved, the Division will move all five modular units to SouthPointe School to accommodate its growing student population. A decision is expected from the province early in the new year.

Board Policies: Education Act

The Board directed administration to amend policies that reference the *School Act*. Now that the *Education Act* is in effect, administration will replace all *School Act* references with *Education Act*, including specific sections and corresponding regulations. The work excludes policy amendments required as a result of the *Education Act*, which will follow regular protocol.

Committee Reports

Policy Committee

The Board received for information the report from the Policy Committee meeting held on October 15. The committee approved its meeting schedule for the year, outlined the policies for review, discussed housekeeping requirements resulting from the introduction of the *Education Act*, and reviewed [Policy 4: Trustee Code of Conduct](#) and [Policy 13: Appeals and Hearings Regarding Student Matters](#). The Board is awaiting additional information before making a recommendation about either policy.

Reports for Information

The MacKinnon Report: Comments related to education

The Board received for information a summary of the MacKinnon Report, released in September 2019 (see pg. 30, "[MacKinnon Report: Comments related to education](#)"). The report is an 82-page document examining Alberta's spending and offers recommendations to reduce costs. In total, the panel offers 26 recommendations, two of which are directly related to education (K-12), and other recommendations have sector implications.

RECOMMENDATIONS: EDUCATION (K-12) SPECIFIC

Recommendation 5 – The panel recommends the government work with education stakeholders to decrease the percentage of government funding going to K-12 administration and governance cost, which it states is 24.6 per cent compared to British Columbia, where spending is at 17 per cent. After reviewing the numbers with Alberta Education, it's clear the comparison is unfounded as it doesn't compare the same criteria in each province. Additionally, school divisions are mandated by the province to keep all Board system and administration costs below 3.6 per cent—or 5.4 per cent depending on the size of the division—of total expenditures. EIPS meets this mandate year after year.

Recommendation 6 – The panel recommends the government completely review and revise its current K-12 education funding formula to ensure enrolment growth is addressed and provide incentives for sharing services and achieving better outcomes for students. The province has started work on the funding formula and assurance model. It's also reviewing the funding and accountability frameworks, and ways to enhance predictability, transparency, sustainability and accountability.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND THEMES: IMPLICATIONS FOR EDUCATION

Reduce Spending – The report's theme is on reducing spending and balancing the budget, which will likely result in cuts to education funding.

Recommendations 10 and 12 – Both focus on public sector labour. The recommendations may impact the number of public sector positions available and related compensation.

Recommendation 13 and 14 – The recommendations focus on the public capital stock and Capital Maintenance and Renewal spending. Both may result in fewer new infrastructure projects approved and less Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal funding for the Division.

Recommendation 17 and 18 – Both address procurement. In general, school divisions and the public sector are encouraged to work together to find efficiencies.

Recommendation 25 – The panel suggests the government establish a fixed budget date, which is good news for school divisions for planning purposes.

Unaudited Financial Report

The Board received for information the Unaudited Financial Report for the 12-month period ending Aug. 31, 2019. The Division ended the 2018-19 school year with a deficit of \$877,000. Both its operations revenue and operations expenses were lower than budgeted, resulting in a favourable variance of \$3.32 million. The full report is available at *eips.ca* (see page 65, "[Unaudited Financial Report for Sept. 1, 2018 to Aug. 31, 2019](#)").

Unaudited Accumulated Surplus

The Board received for information the Unaudited Accumulated Surplus Report as of Aug. 31, 2019. The Division's accumulated surplus totals \$19.75 million, which includes investment in Board funded tangible capital assets (\$6.27 million), unrestricted surplus, operating reserves (\$12.58 million) and capital reserves (\$890,000). As part of the operating reserves, EIPS maintains a Division Unallocated Reserve to cover emergent issues, price fluctuations and stabilize funding in the future. As of Aug. 31, 2019, the reserve balance is \$5.37 million. The full report is available at *eips.ca* (see page 81, "[Unaudited Accumulated Surplus at Aug. 31, 2019](#)").

2019-20 Enrolment

The Board received for information the Division's Enrolment Report for the 2019-20 school year. Enrolment numbers were collected from the PowerSchool database on Sept. 30, 2019. In total, 17,400 students are registered within Elk Island Public Schools, which is an increase of 230 students from the year previous.

Insurance Costs: 2019-20

The Board received for information a report about the Division's insurance costs for the 2019-20 school year. EIPS is insured through the Alberta School Boards Insurance Exchange. Recently, the organization notified the Division of a rate increase, which is the result of a higher volume of property losses among its subscribers and a hardening market. For the 2019-20 school year insurance rates are increasing by \$1.42 million:

- Property insurance is increasing by \$1.33 million.
- Liability insurance is increasing by \$43,334.
- Cyber insurance is a new insurance requirement costing the Division \$44,309.

The \$1.42 million rate hike is an unbudgeted increase. As such, the Division will adjust its fall budget accordingly, after the provincial budget is released on October 24. The full report is available at *eips.ca* (see page 93, "[Insurance Cost for 2019-20](#)").

Trustee Reports Roundtable

Trustees shared information and highlighted recent events:

- *Trustee Randy Footz* attended school council meetings at A.L. Horton Elementary and Vegreville Composite High. He also participated in Read In Week at Mundare Elementary, A.L. Horton Elementary and Fultonvale Elementary Junior High, where he had the pleasure of reading to his grandchildren.
- *Trustee Skip Gordon* attended the Ardrossan Junior Senior High Awards Night.
- *Trustee Annette Hubick* attended school council meetings at Brentwood Elementary, Clover Bar Junior High, Davidson Creek Elementary and Mills Haven Elementary. She also attended the awards evening at Clover Bar Junior High. At the event, the teacher for the PLACE program made a poignant speech about students moving on to their next school.
- *Trustee Don Irwin* attended the grand opening for the new constituency office for MLAs Jordan Walker and Nate Glubish in Sherwood

Park; school council meetings at Westboro Elementary, Glen Allan Elementary, Woodbridge Farms Elementary and F.R. Haythorne Junior High; and the COSC Mix and Mingle on October 2. At the December meeting, Trustee Irwin plans to put forward the following notice of motion, “that the Board of Trustees review the existing boundaries of the election wards or representation wards of the trustees—including the possible creation of sub wards—in consideration of the opening of new or relocated schools, the closing of schools, and the population and population changes within the EIPS area.”

- *Trustee Jim Seutter* attended the Bev Facey Community High awards evening and was impressed with the spirit of the event. He also attended a two-day meeting for the Negotiation Committee.
- *Trustee Harvey Stadnick* attended the ASBA Zone 2/3 meeting, the COSC Mix and Mingle event and the October COSC meeting.