

Nov. 21, 2019



Board Members

Trina Boymook, *Chair*

Heather Wall, *Vice-Chair*

Randy Footz

William (Skip) Gordon

Colleen Holowaychuk

Annette Hubick

Don Irwin

Jim Seutter

Harvey Stadnick

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Chair's Report

Recent Events

Board Chair Trina Boymook highlighted recent events:

- On October 27, Chair Boymook; Superintendent Mark Liguori; and Candace Cole, the Secretary-Treasurer, met with the Alberta School Boards Insurance Exchange. The focus: The recent insurance rate increase for the Division and challenges school boards are facing as a result of the hikes.
- On November 1, trustees attended a joint meeting with local members of the legislative assembly of Alberta. Topics included provincial budget impacts and urgent facility needs in Fort Saskatchewan.
- On November 11, Chair Boymook attended Strathcona County's Remembrance Day Service at Millennium Place, where she placed a wreath on behalf of Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS).
- On November 15, Chair Boymook attended Advocate! 2019, an annual advocacy conference in Calgary. The conference featured thoughtful keynote speakers and helpful advocacy strategies.
- On November 20, Chair Boymook attended Sherwood Park & District Chamber of Commerce Luncheon. The highlight was the keynote speaker, Finance Minister Travis Toews, who spoke about the economy and the province's financial situation.

Results Review: Central Services

On November 4-5, Trustees took part in the Results Reviews for the Division's Central Services departments. The reviews are an opportunity for departments to share with the Board their individual results, annual plans, budgets, successes and challenges.

ASBA Fall General Meeting

On November 17-19, the Board of Trustees attended the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Fall General Meeting, which included trustees from all 61 school boards. Members re-elected Chair Boymook as the ASBA Vice-President. Chair Boymook also met with government officials about a new assurance model for funding education.

Superintendent's Report

Recent Events

Superintendent Mark Liguori highlighted recent events:

- On November 1, Superintendent Liguori attended a joint meeting with local members of the legislative assembly of Alberta.

- On November 6-8, Superintendent Liguori attended the College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) Fall Conference and co-presented a session on First Nations, Métis and Inuit education.
- On November 18, Superintendent Liguori joined trustees at the ASBA Fall General Meeting.
- On November 19, Superintendent Liguori attended a Curriculum Advisory Panel meeting. Based on what was presented, he's confident the Division is well prepared for the implementation of the new draft curriculum—thanks to the work of Sandra Stoddard, the Associate Superintendent, and the Supports for Students team.
- On November 19, Superintendent Liguori attended a meeting with the Strathcona Christian Academy Society. Every year, they meet to review their signed agreement and ensure both sides are meeting the terms of the agreement.
- On November 20, Superintendent Liguori attended the Sherwood Park & District Chamber of Commerce Luncheon. He appreciated hearing about the province's economic forecast from Finance Minister Travis Toews.

Association Reports

ASBA Zone 2/3 Meeting

Trustee Annette Hubick presented highlights from the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 meeting held on October 25:

- The meeting was the Zone's Annual General Meeting and included elections for executive members, directors and committee representatives. EIPS trustee, Colleen Holowaychuk, was re-elected Chair of the Zone 2/3 Board.
- A trustee from another division requested information about the public engagement process EIPS used to develop its policy for personal-device use in schools. The Director of Communication Services provided the information following the meeting.

Partners in Education Foundation Meeting

Trustee Hubick presented highlights from the Partners in Education Foundation meeting held on October 21:

- Members elected its board of directors and executive—Trustee Hubick was re-elected as the Chair of the Partners in Education Foundation Committee.
- Members discussed steps to dissolve the foundation and direct the funds to EIPS.

ATA Local Report

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

- On October 29, the Local held a council meeting, which Jason Schilling, the President of the ATA, attended. Executives updated teachers about how the association plans to respond to recent government initiatives.
- On October 30, the Local organized a dinner with the Board to discuss current educational issues and strategies to address these.
- On November 6, Zielke attended an EIPS Committee of School Councils meeting that included a discussion around parents as partners. Zielke stressed the importance of families advocating for sustainable, adequate educational funding to maintain support for their children's learning.

New Business

Business Arising from In Camera

The Board approved the motion: "... that, pursuant to section 79 of the *Education Act*, the corporate name 'The Board of Trustees of Elk Island School Division' be changed to 'The Board of Trustees of Elk Island Public Schools,' if approved by the Minister of Education."

Superintendent's Evaluation

The Board approved the Superintendent's Evaluation Report, which documents the performance of the Superintendent over the period of Nov. 1, 2018 to Oct. 31, 2019. The Board also authorized the Chair to make any required technical edits and to sign the report on its behalf.

Unaudited Accumulated Surplus

The Board approved a transfer from the Division's internally restricted operating reserves (\$356,895) to its unrestricted surplus to offset the 2018-19 net results.

2019 Audited Financial Statements

The Board approved the Aug. 31, 2019 Audited Financial Statements. MNP LLP, a national accounting firm, completed its audit of the Division's financial statements and issued an unqualified opinion. Overall, the Division ended the 2018-19 school year with an accumulated surplus of \$19.7 million, an operating deficit of \$877,000 and a net debt position of \$124.4 million—primarily because of a \$136.3-million liability for capital funding.

Board Policy: Amendments

The Board approved amendments to [Board Policy 3: Role of the Trustee](#) and [Board Policy 13: Appeals and Hearings Regarding Student Matters](#). The changes strengthen the language within the policies.

Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee

The Board received for information the report from the Advocacy Committee meeting held on Oct. 24, 2019. Members reviewed the advocacy plan, which focuses on education funding, student mental health and autonomous school boards; strategies to increase awareness about EIPS; current affairs; and challenges the Division is facing.

Teacher Board Consultation Committee

The Board received for information the report from the Teacher Board Consultation Committee meeting held on Oct. 28, 2019. The teacher representatives all commented positively about messaging issued by the Superintendent following the release of the provincial budget and the Board's new [Policy 24: Personal Communication Devices](#).

Audit Committee

The Board received for information the report from the Audit Committee meeting held on Nov. 5, 2019. Topics discussed: The draft audit statements and the Local Authorities Pension Plan compliance agreement. The Board also extended congratulations to the department of Financial Services for their exceptional work this year.

Trustee Reports Roundtable

Trustees shared information and highlighted recent events:

- *Trustee Randy Footz* attended a school council meeting at A.L. Horton Elementary, Vegreville Composite High's Academic Awards, the ASBA Fall General Meeting, and Remembrance Day ceremonies for A.L. Horton and the Town of Vegreville, where he laid a wreath on behalf of EIPS.
- *Trustee Colleen Holowaychuk* attended the results review for Supports for Students, Lamont's Remembrance Day Ceremony and a recent dinner with the ATA Local. She also took part in the ASBA Fall General Meeting and congratulated Chair Boymook on her re-election as Vice-President.
- *Trustee Annette Hubick* attended the Central Services Results Reviews, the ATA Local dinner, a Remembrance Day Ceremony at Lakeland Ridge, the ASBA Fall General Meeting and four school council meetings. At the school council meetings, parents expressed appreciation for EIPS' response to the provincial budget and concerns about funding in 2020-21. She also spoke to a new website, [Knick Knack Shack](#), set up by Davidson Creek Elementary's school council. The site allows teachers to post needed supplies, which families can then voluntarily provide.
- *Trustee Don Irwin* attended school council meetings at Westboro Elementary, Woodbridge Farms Elementary and Glen Allan Elementary. He also attended the ASBA Fall General Meeting, which he thought was exceptionally well organized.
- *Trustee Jim Seutter* attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony at Fultonvale Elementary Junior High, which was sombre and moving.
- *Trustee Harvey Stadnick* attended the ATA Local dinner, three Results Review sessions, the ASBA Fall General Meeting, and Remembrance Day ceremonies for Rudolph Hennig Junior High and the City of Fort Saskatchewan. He also attended the Fort Saskatchewan council meeting, which included the rezoning of a parcel of land for a future EIPS school site.