

Dec. 19, 2019



Board Members

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

School Performances and Events

Throughout December, Chair Trina Boymook attended numerous school-based concerts, performances and activities to celebrate the holidays—at École Campbelltown, Fort Saskatchewan High, Pine Street Elementary, Sherwood Heights Junior High, Salisbury Composite High and Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary. She thanked all the schools for inviting her and said it's something she looks forward to every year.

Holiday Greeting

On behalf of the Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Board of Trustees, Chair Boymook extended warm wishes to all Division students, staff and families. She hopes everyone has a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and prosperous new year.

Superintendent's Report

Holiday Greeting

Superintendent Mark Liguori wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He also thanked all EIPS staff and families for the contributions they bring to the Division on an ongoing basis. That support is paramount to the success of all students and much appreciated. He's looking forward to seeing everyone back at school on Jan. 6, 2020.

Public Comment

Finland-Alberta Partnership

The Board heard two presentations about the Finland-Alberta partnership taking place within Elk Island Public Schools. The partnership, sponsored by the Alberta Teachers' Association, is an international education-research project that pairs schools in Finland and Alberta together. Within EIPS, two schools are taking part, Fort Saskatchewan High and Lamont High. Through the program, staff and students are forming valuable connections with schools in Finland and sharing of ideas and successes.

The first presentation was by Fort Saskatchewan High—Curtis Starko, the Principal, and students Nathan Harkin and Karissa Goulding. The second was by Lamont High, which included Amit Mali, the Principal, and students Nigel Kroeker and Emma March. Collectively, they shared their experiences through the partnership, lessons learned, and how the schools are benefiting as a result.

Association Reports

ASBA Zone 2/3 Meeting

Trustee Don Irwin presented highlights from the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 meeting held on April 26. Overall, the meeting was informative and included valuable discussions, which the Chair moderated. The next meeting takes place on Feb. 28, 2020.

ATA Local Report

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

- On November 29-30, Zielke attended the ATA's Professional Development Area Conference. Despite the current political landscape, teachers continue to aspire to improve their practice and do their best for those in their care.
- Zielke thanked Chair Boymook and administration for the news release sent by the Division, highlighting the work taking place across EIPS and how the recent budget cuts will impact students and staff. Engaging families in these vital conversations is both crucial and appreciated.
- Zielke wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year that's filled with family, friends, rest and rejuvenation.

New Business

Business Arising from Previous Meeting

The Board defeated the motion, "that the Board of Trustees of Elk Island Public Schools undertake a review of the existing wards and electoral subdivisions prior to Dec. 31, 2020."

Combined Education Plan and Annual Education Results 2018-19

The Board approved the *Combined Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report 2018-19*, an Alberta Education reporting requirement intended to provide school families and community members with easy-to-understand information about the Division and to help improve accountability and transparency with local stakeholders.

The *Combined Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report 2018-19* features detailed information about how EIPS is doing relative to Alberta Education's

performance measures; how the Division is supporting its students to achieve the best possible outcomes; and its successes, challenges and priority strategies moving forward.

On Dec. 20, 2019, the Division will email Alberta Education to let the department know the report is now available at eips.ca/about-us/planning-and-results.

Division Calendar: 2021-22

The Board approved the 2021-22 Division calendar and the recommendation to incorporate the Alternative Christian Calendar's professional learning days into the EIPS Division Calendar. Highlights include:

- First day of school – Sept. 1, 2021
- Fall break – November 8-12
- Christmas break – December 22 to January 4
- Second semester starts – February 1
- Teachers' Convention – February 10-11
- Spring break – March 28 to April 1
- Last day of classes – June 28, 2022.

The calendar is available at eips.ca.

Division Alternative Christian Calendar

The Board approved the recommendation to incorporate the Alternative Christian Calendar's professional learning days—previously accommodated through an alternative calendar—into the EIPS Division Calendar.

Policy Committee

The Board approved amendments to the following EIPS Board Policy:

- [Policy 15: Program Reduction and School Closure](#) – The changes made strengthen clarity within the policy and better align with the province's new *Education Act*.

Committee Reports

Transportation Committee

The Board received for information the report from the Transportation Committee meeting held on Nov. 25, 2019. Topics discussed: The fee schedule and [Policy 17: Student Transportation Services](#).

Teacher Board Consultation Committee

The Board received for information the report from the Teacher Board Consultation Committee meeting held on Nov. 27, 2019. Overall, it was a good discussion that was helpful for all participating parties.

Policy Committee

The Board received for information the report from the Policy Committee meeting held on Dec. 10, 2019. Topics discussed: Policies 7, 14, 15, 17 and 23. Members revised [Policy 15: Program Reduction and School Closure](#), deferred revisions to [Policy 17: Student Transportation Services](#) until the province announces the new funding framework, and plan to amend [Policy 7: Board Operations](#) and [Policy 23: School Fees](#) at a future Board meeting.

Reports for Information

National Bullying Awareness Week Activities

The Board received for information a report regarding National Bullying Awareness Week (NBAW) 2019, which took place November 18-22. Staff and students throughout EIPS took part in a variety of activities focused on ways to promote kindness and healthy relationships. School activities included assemblies, morning announcements, presentations on bullying, performances themed around healthy relationship building, lesson plans, deeds of kindness and more.

In addition to NBAW activities, all EIPS schools have ongoing projects and initiatives in place focused on building healthy relationships such as the Seven Sacred Teachings, Random Acts of Kindness, Bucket Fillers, Leader in Me and various community-service programs. Overall, promoting welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments for students and staff is a key priority for the Division and is an ongoing commitment it has made to ensure everyone feels welcomed, respected and safe. Trustees thanked schools for the work they do year-round to promote healthy relationships.

Unaudited Financial Report: September to November

The Board received for information the Unaudited Financial Report for EIPS, prepared by Financial Services. As of Nov. 30, 2019, expenses exceeded revenues, resulting in an operating deficit of \$336,000. Operational revenues are \$559,000 lower than the year-to-date budget primarily because of Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal projects not following a uniform spending pattern over the year—typically projects have significant costs incurred when schools are closed to students. Similarly, expenses are \$3.01 million below the year-to-date budget because of costs associated with staffing, services and supplies being incurred later in the school year (see pg. 110, "[Unaudited Financial Report for Sept. 1, 2019 to Nov. 30, 2019](#)").

Trustee Reports Roundtable

Trustees shared information and highlighted recent events:

- *Vice-Chair Heather Wall* attended Next Step Fort Saskatchewan's Christmas luncheon and a SYNC Christmas event hosted by SouthPointe School and Wye Elementary—both were a privilege to attend. She also wishes everyone a Merry Christmas.

- *Trustee Randy Footz* attended school council meetings at A.L. Horton Elementary and Vegreville Composite High, and various school-based holiday celebrations, including Next Step Vegreville's Holiday Luncheon, two Christmas concerts for A.L. Horton Elementary, Vegreville Composite's band concert and the Division I Christmas concert at Fultonvale Elementary Junior High. He also extended warm holiday wishes to all EIPS students, staff and families.
- *Trustee Skip Gordon* wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
- *Trustee Colleen Holowaychuk* attended Christmas concerts at Andrew School, Lamont Elementary and Mundare School. She also wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.
- *Trustee Annette Hubick* attended holiday concerts and events at Lakeland Ridge, Mills Haven Elementary, Davidson Creek Elementary and Salisbury Composite High. Overall, the productions were exceptional, and she's grateful to the many staff and

volunteers who give their time organizing these wonderful events. It's activities such as these that create magical memories for students and their families, and help build a sense of community in EIPS schools. Trustee Hubick also wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

- *Trustee Don Irwin* attended the December ASBA Zone 2/3 meeting, Your Future: Post-Secondary and Career Fair, and a pancake breakfast at Westboro Elementary. He also took part in various holiday concerts and events at Strathcona Christian Academy Secondary, Westboro Elementary and Wes Hosford Elementary, which were all excellent. And, he wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and happy, healthy New Year.
- *Trustee Jim Seutter* attended Christmas concerts for Fultonvale Elementary Junior High, Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary and Wye Elementary, which he thoroughly enjoyed. He also congratulated Strathcona Christian Academy Secondary's boys volleyball team for winning the 3A Provincials Championships and wished everyone a blessed Christmas season.