

NOV. 26, 2020

## Chair's Report

### RESULTS REVIEW

Throughout November, the Board of Trustees took part in the Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Results Review, a divisionwide forum for schools and departments to share with the Board their individual results, annual plans, budgets, successes and challenges. The Results Review sessions were all held virtually and also open to EIPS families and community members. Collectively, the Results Review sessions allow trustees to gain a holistic understanding of what's happening throughout the Division.

### ABSA FALL GENERAL MEETING

On November 16-17, the Board attended the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Fall General Meeting—held virtually. The meeting included trustees from all 61 school boards within the province. Highlights: the approval of five position statements and three professional learning sessions. Peter Mansbridge, the former news anchor of CBC's *The National*, spoke about leadership and the importance of all levels of government during the pandemic. John Dinner, a leading consultant on board governance, discussed board culture. And, Andy Hargreaves, a speaker, consultant, policy adviser and leading authority on educational administration, spoke about school divisions' response to COVID-19—during and post-pandemic.

### PROVICEWIDE MANDATORY RESTRICTIONS

On November 24, Board Chair Trina Boymook and Superintendent Mark Liguori met virtually with Education Minister Adriana LaGrange to discuss in detail the mandatory restrictions, announced on November 24.

## Association and Local Reports

### ASBA ZONE 2/3 REPORT

Trustee Heather Wall attended the ASBA Zone 2/3 meeting on Oct. 23, 2020. The meeting was held virtually through Zoom. Highlights include:

- The meeting served as the annual general meeting.
- The budget and bylaws were approved as presented.
- Position elections were held, which included several new people in those positions.
- Members also received the field report.

### ATA LOCAL REPORT

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

- Over the last few months, teachers have adjusted to the new COVID-19 protocol. However, more is needed to improve lesson delivery for both teachers and students.
- In general, teachers are exhausted. Every day they come to work anxious and worried for their students, colleagues, families and themselves. Despite that, they push their fears aside to ensure students feel supported and continue receiving high-quality educational experiences.

## New Business

### UNAUDITED ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

The Board approved a transfer from the Division's internally restricted operating reserves (\$548,814) to its unrestricted surplus to offset the 2019-20 net results.

## AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Board approved the Audited Financial Statements for Aug. 31, 2020. MNP LLP, a national accounting firm, audited the statements and issued an unqualified opinion. Briefly, the statements indicate a net financial asset position of \$10.43 million, which signifies adequate financial assets to cover liability balances. Non-financial assets include \$150.06 million in capital assets, \$1.36 million in prepaid expenses and \$250,000 in inventory. Overall, the Division ended the 2019-20 school year with an accumulated surplus of \$18.26 million and an operating deficit of \$1.48 million.

## FALL BUDGET REPORT: 2020-21

The Board approved the EIPS 2020-21 fall budget for the period of Sept. 1, 2020 to Aug. 31, 2021. The 2020-21 operating budget was originally approved by the Board on May 28, 2020. Annually, in the fall, the budget is updated to account for current information regarding enrolment numbers, revenue changes, actual carry-forward amounts, expenses and planned reserve spending. In total, the Division's 2020-21 operating budget is \$201.53 million, which includes a \$4.72-million draw from its operating reserves. Additionally, the Division's accumulated surplus is projected at \$13.55 million by Aug. 31, 2021, student enrolment is just under 17,000, and the number of staff employed by the Division is 1,322 (full-time equivalent). Additionally, the total system administration spending is \$4.48 million, or 2.2 per cent of total expenses, which is within the \$6.21-million grant provided by Alberta Education. EIPS will distribute the additional funds for other uses, as allowed in the *2020-21 Funding Manual*. Overall, the EIPS 2020-21 budget provides stability for schools and maintains essential services. The full report is available at [eips.ca](http://eips.ca) (see, "[2020-21 Fall Budget Report](#)").

## BOARD POLICY AMENDMENTS

The Board approved amendments to the following policies:

- [Policy 2: Role of the Board](#) – The changes strengthen and clarify the language within the policy.
- [Policy 3: Role of the Trustee](#) – The change improves the readability of regular meetings trustees attend.

## ANNUAL EDUCATION REPORT: 2019-20

The Board approved the *Annual Education Results Report 2019-20*, an Alberta Education reporting requirement that provides school families and community members with easy-to-understand information about the Division. It also serves as a mechanism to improve accountability and transparency with local stakeholders. EIPS' *Annual Education Results Report 2019-20* features detailed information about how EIPS is doing relative to Alberta Education's performance measures; how the Division's supporting students to achieve the best possible outcomes; and highlights its successes, challenges and priorities moving forward. Now approved, the Division will submit the report to Alberta Education, post it online and share it with the Committee of School Councils. The report is available at [eips.ca](http://eips.ca). See, [Annual Education Results Report 2019-20](#).

## APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICERS

The Board of Trustees appointed Karen Baranec to serve as the Returning Officer and Laura McNabb to serve as the Substitute Returning Officer for the EIPS trustee election in 2021.

## 2021-22 DIVISION CALENDAR

The Board approved the revised 2021-22 Division calendar. A minor change was made to the date of a professional learning day—moving to October 18 from October 8. Other 2021-22 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](http://eips.ca) (see, "[EIPS Division Calendar 2021-22](#)").



# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

## SHERWOOD PARK VALUE SCOPING SESSION

The Board accepted the recommendation from the Sherwood Park Value Scoping Session report, produced by Edmonton-based START Architecture. In September 2020, the Division conducted a value scoping session to explore alternative solutions to address the infrastructure needs at Sherwood Heights Junior High and surrounding schools. The session included EIPS trustees, senior administration, Central Services staff, principals, Strathcona County council and administration and multiple school council chairs who discussed possible alternatives. Based on the discussion, START prepared a report with three recommended solutions (see pg. 207, "[2020-21 Sherwood Park – Value Scoping Session](#)").

After reviewing each solution, the Board approved the third solution—combining Sherwood Heights Junior and École Campbelltown into a new kindergarten to Grade 9 school; a minor modernization of Pine Street Elementary, and reducing the footprint of Salisbury Composite High. Overall, the approved solution addresses issues identified during the value scoping session. As such, the Board directed administration to amend Priority 1B in the [2021-24 Three-Year Capital Plan](#), to reflect the Board-approved solution.

## Committee Report

### ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The Board received for information the report from the Advocacy Committee meeting held on October 22. The committee set its priorities, goals and strategies for the 2020-21 school year.

### AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Board received for information the report from the Audit Committee meeting held on November 3. The committee reviewed the audited financial statements, a 2019-20 audit results presentation and the Division's internal audit report.

## Trustee Reports Roundtable

Trustees shared information and highlighted recent events:

- **Vice-Chair Colleen Holowaychuk** attended ASBA's Fall General Meeting, the Committee of School Councils' meeting, school council meetings and various Results Review sessions. She also took part in a meeting with the Andrew School Committee and the school council group—both are in talks about working together.
- **Trustee Randy Footz** attended ASBA's Fall General Meeting, school council meetings and the Results Review sessions for schools and departments.
- **Trustee Annette Hubick** attended the ASBA's Fall General Meeting, the Committee of School Councils' meeting, school council meetings and the Results Review sessions for schools and departments.
- **Trustee Don Irwin** attended ASBA's Fall General Meeting, school council meetings and the Results Review sessions.
- **Trustee Harvey Stadnick** attended four school council meeting, held virtually. He also took part in ASBA's Fall General Meeting and all Results Review sessions for schools and departments.

## Board Members

Trina Boymook, *Chair* | Colleen Holowaychuk, *Vice-Chair* | Randy Footz | William (Skip) Gordon | Annette Hubick | Don Irwin | Jim Seutter | Harvey Stadnick | Heather Wall

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