



SEPT. 16, 2021

Chair's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Board Chair Trina Boymook highlighted recent, and upcoming, events:

- On August 30, Chair Boymook attended a roundtable discussion hosted by the Fort Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. The roundtable included four-area experts: Education Minister Adriana LaGrange, Infrastructure Minister Prasad Panda, Tanya Fir, the Associate Minister of Red Tape Reduction, and Dale Nally, the Associate Minister of Natural Gas and Electricity. Chair Boymook spent most of the roundtable with the group facilitated by LaGrange discussing the new draft K-6 curriculum and sharing concerns.
- On September 14, Chair Boymook attended an Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Board Chairs meeting. The focus: upcoming engagement sessions on the new draft K-6 curriculum; a report from the Superintendent Evaluation Contractual Obligation Ad Hoc Committee, a new campaign to promote the upcoming municipal election; and a discussion on school operation successes and challenges in 2021-22.
- On September 17, Chair Boymook will bring greetings at Elk Island Public School's (EIPS) grand-opening ceremony to celebrate the launch of several new land-based learning spaces—Indigenous outdoor spaces for staff, students and community to use and learn from the land.

Superintendent's Report

STARTUP UPDATE

Superintendent Mark Liguori thanked all EIPS staff, students and families for the strong school startup. Classes resumed on September 1. To date, operations have gone extremely well despite the challenges COVID-19 presents. Even with the recently announced public-health emergency, the Division's operations plan is appropriate and ensures schools run smoothly for students and staff.

Association and Local Reports

ATA LOCAL REPORT

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

- Teachers and students are excited about being back in the classroom and the new school year.
- The recent rise in COVID-19 cases has many teachers concerned—in terms of possible school outbreaks and related learning challenges.
- The Local initiated several campaigns related to the upcoming municipal election. Focus areas include: the role of the Board of Trustees, the job of a trustee, and how Board decisions affect students and staff.
- She wished all trustees seeking re-election luck. And, she thanked the trustees not seeking re-election for their work serving the community.

New Business

READ IN WEEK: 2021

Chair Boymook shared with the Division's plans for this year's Read In Week, taking place October 4-8. Read In Week is a divisionwide initiative held annually to encourage a lifelong love of reading and to enhance literacy awareness among students, staff, families and community members. This year's theme: "To Each Their Own Story." Through various activities, students will spend the week learning ways to tell their own stories and how stories have the power to teach lessons, broaden perspectives and foster empathy. Some of the activities planned include book giveaways, book-club readings and talking about stories.



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Chair Boymook read and signed a resolution committing EIPS' support for Read In Week 2021. She encourages everyone to participate by reading to a child, grandchild, student or someone in the community.

TRUSTEE REMUNERATION: 2020-21

The Board approved the trustee remuneration for the 2021-22 school year. Rates remain unchanged from the previous year.

Reports for Information

FACILITY SERVICES: 2020-21 SUMMER PROJECTS UPDATE

The Board received for information an update on Facility Services' summer projects in 2021. Throughout the summer months, Facility Services oversaw a total of 161 Infrastructure, Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) projects across the Division and 450 additional tasks—91 per cent of the IMR projects and 90 per cent of the additional tasks are now complete. The projects ranged in nature and included improvements to electrical systems, roofing, interiors, exteriors, mechanical equipment and flooring at various EIPS schools. Other projects included: project managing the closeout of the Heritage Hills Elementary replacement school, the abatement and demolition closeout of the former Wye Elementary building, and the relocation of six modular classroom units—four to SouthPointe School and two to Ardrossan Junior Senior High (see pg. 16, "[Facility Services: 2020-21 Summer Projects Update](#)").

Trustee Reports Roundtable

Trustees shared information and highlighted recent events:

- **Vice-Chair Colleen Holowaychuk** attended two school council meetings. At both meetings, teachers and families said how happy they are for students to be back at school and everyone's excited for the new school year.
- **Trustee Randy Footz** communicated with administration from both A.L. Horton Elementary and Vegreville Composite High—school startup was a success for both schools. He's also looking forward to a few upcoming events, including a grand-opening ceremony for EIPS land-based learning spaces and two school council meetings.
- **Trustee Annette Hubick** attended a school council meeting at Davidson Creek Elementary. Attendance was high, and one of the main discussion topics was the new draft K-6 curriculum.
- **Trustee Don Irwin** attended an Elk Island Logos Society Board meeting and a school council meeting for F.R. Haythorne Junior High. He looks forward to attending two more upcoming school council meetings.
- **Trustee Jim Seutter** attended a school council meeting at Fultonvale Elementary Junior High—families are pleased with the Division's work to assess learning gaps caused by the pandemic.
- **Trustee Heather Wall** shared with the Board she's not seeking re-election. As such, she took the time to thank the many people who've influenced and inspired her throughout her time with EIPS. First, she thanked the Board and EIPS senior administration for their guidance, leadership and support over her eight-year tenure. She then thanked the community she serves for the outstanding relationship built and the amazing schools and Division within it. She thanked EIPS students and wished them much success in their future endeavours. She also thanked all teachers and staff within EIPS for their commitment to students and their learning. She wished them all the best and a wonderful year ahead. Lastly, she offered guidance to the current EIPS trustee candidates, explaining the work of a trustee is an enormous obligation with a significant workload



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

that requires both passion and commitment. She also advised, the next few years are incredibly important from an education perspective.

Special Board Meeting: September 2

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

The Board approved the recommendation to amend the 2021-22 Division calendar to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a federal holiday. The day lands on September 30. Going forward, the Division will mark the day as a school-closure day.

COVID-19 MEASURES

The Board approved the following motion: “that the Board of Trustees temporarily suspend Motion 116/2021, Option 2 and require mandatory face masking of all students and staff kindergarten through Grade 12 commencing Sept. 3, 2021.” It also approved a motion to make masking mandatory for all visitors entering an EIPS building. As such, all EIPS staff, students and visitors must wear a mask when inside an EIPS-operated facility or on an EIPS-operated bus.

Special Board Meeting: September 20

BUDGET UPDATE AND UNALLOCATED RESERVE REQUEST

The Board approved increasing its reserve use from the Division Unallocated Reserve. The Division will use the additional funds, up to \$325,000, to maintain its Student Transportation services for EIPS riders. The primary reason is lower than expected ridership, which resulted in a drop in transportation-fee revenue. Administration will now send a request to the Minister of Education to increase its use of Division Unallocated Reserves. EIPS will incorporate the increase into the EIPS 2021-22 Fall Budget.

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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