

NOV. 25, 2021

Chair's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Board Chair Trina Boymook highlighted some recent events:

- On November 14, Chair Boymook attended an Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) engagement session for Board Chairs and superintendents. The focus: The new draft K-6 curriculum, implementation scenarios and requirements to support the implementation.
- On November 14-16, Chair Boymook and trustees attended ASBA's fall general meeting. The keynote speakers were the highlight. Jesse Wentz, a journalist and administrator, spoke about diversity, inclusion and equity through the lens of Indigenous Peoples. Meanwhile, Janet Brown, a political analyst, and Paul McLoughlin, the owner of Word of Mouth Communications, spoke about the current political landscape.

Superintendent's Report

RECENT EVENTS:

Superintendent Mark Liguori highlighted some recent events:

- On November 14-16, Superintendent Liguori and Secretary-Treasurer Candace Cole joined the Board at the ASBA fall general meeting, which included meaningful conversation about the draft K-6 curriculum.

Association and Local Reports

ASBA ZONE 2/3 MEETING

Trustee Cathy Allen presented highlights from the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 meeting held on November 14. The focus: The Zone 2/3 executive election. Trustee Allen congratulated Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Vice-Chair Colleen Holowaychuk, who was elected a director for the 2021-22 school year.

ATA LOCAL REPORT

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

- School communities across Alberta are pleased Canada approved the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine, for children 5-11 years. The hope: school operations will gradually return to normal.
- Recently, the Education Minister announced proposed changes to the *School Act*, which targets teacher discipline. The problem with the announcement is it includes errors related to protocols already in place, including provincial rules on releasing information about professional misconduct; previous requests by the ATA to streamline professional misconduct investigations; and mandatory criminal record checks, when most Divisions already require it. The ATA's concerned the messaging vilifies teachers and may make the public less inclined to support teachers when challenging the new draft K-6 curriculum.
- Regardless of the announcement, teachers report feeling substantial support from their school communities, who recognize the many struggles schools face.

New Business

UNAUDITED ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

The Board approved the transfer of \$6.59 million to the Division's internally restricted operating reserves from its unrestricted surplus to offset the net results in 2020-21.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: 2021

The Board approved the [Audited Financial Statements](#) for Aug. 31, 2021. MNP LLP, a national accounting firm, audited the statements and provided the opinion: The statements present the Division's financial position and results fairly. Briefly, the statements indicate a net financial asset position of \$15.63 million, which signifies adequate financial assets to cover liability balances. Non-financial assets include \$152.33 million in capital assets and \$1.54 million in prepaid expenses. Meanwhile, spent deferred capital contributions total \$145.13 million, which is comprised of provincial funding spent on capital assets. Overall, the Division ended the 2020-21 school year with an accumulated surplus of \$24.37 million and an operating surplus of \$6.11 million.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE LIST 2021-22

The Board approved the 2021-22 Board Committee Representative List. The Board assigns trustees to committees for liaison purposes. Trustee interests were taken into consideration for the committee placements (see pg. 58, "[Board Committee Representatives List: 2021-22](#)").

ACTING CHAIR SCHEDULE 2021-22

The Board approved the Acting Chair Schedule for the 2021-22 school year. The schedule assigns a trustee to serve in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair (see pg. 61, "[Acting Chair Schedule 2021-22](#)").

TRUSTEE SCHOOL LIAISON LIST 2021-22

The Board approved the Trustee School Liaison List for the 2021-22 school year. The list assigns a trustee to a school to represent and liaise with, which includes attending the school council meetings and participating in school-based events and initiatives (see pg. 63, "[2021-22 Trustee School Liaison List](#)").

ANNUAL EDUCATION RESULTS REPORT 2020-21

The Board approved EIPS' *Annual Education Results Report 2020-21*, 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. The *Annual Education Results Report 2020-21* 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 and the school community. The report is available at eips.ca.

EIPS 2021-22 FALL BUDGET

The Board approved the EIPS 2021-22 Fall Budget for the period of Sept. 1, 2021 to Aug. 31, 2022. The 2021-22 operating budget was originally approved by the Board on May 26, 2021. 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 2021-22 operating budget is \$198.26 million, which includes a \$5.38-million draw from operating reserves. Meanwhile, the Division's student enrolment is 17,124, the number of staff employed by the Division is 1,305.75 (full-time equivalent), and the accumulated surplus is projected to be \$18.99 million by Aug. 31, 2022. Additionally, the total system administration spending is \$4.16 million, or 2.1 per cent of total expenses, which is within the \$6.3-million grant provided by Alberta Education. EIPS will distribute the additional funds for other uses, as allowed in the *Funding Manual for School Authorities 2021-22 School Year*. Overall, the EIPS 2021-22 budget provides stability for schools and maintains essential services. The full report is available at eips.ca.



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Committee Reports

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 2020-21 audit results presentation, the Division's internal audit report, and the new asset retirement obligation standard.

STUDENT EXPULSION COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from two Student Expulsion Committee meetings held on November 23. The committee reviewed all relevant information and upheld the recommendations put forward.

Trustee Reports

Trustees shared information and highlighted recent events:

- **Vice-Chair Colleen Holowaychuk** attended the EIPS Assurance Reviews, the November Committee of School Council (COSC) meeting, her regular school council meetings and ASBA's fall general meeting. She also thanked Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Edmonton for its significant donation of winter clothing to Lamont County schools.
- **Trustee Cathy Allen** attended the EIPS Assurance Reviews, the COSC meeting, ASBA's fall general meeting, and five school council meetings—which she enjoyed and found informative.
- **Trustee Randy Footz** attended the EIPS Assurance Reviews, the COSC meeting, ASBA's fall general meeting, Vegreville Composite High's school council meeting, and the Remembrance Day Ceremonies for A.L. Horton Elementary and the Town of Vegreville —where he laid a wreath on the Division's behalf.
- **Trustee Don Irwin** attended the Board Caucus meeting, the COSC meeting, the Division's Assurance Reviews, ASBA's fall general meeting and three school council meetings. This year, he's representing new schools, so he also met with the administration at each school and toured the buildings, which he thoroughly enjoyed.
- **Trustee Susan Miller** attended ASBA's fall general meetings, her regular school council meetings, and toured both Ardrossan Elementary and Ardrossan Junior Senior High—meeting with administration from both schools. She's also looking forward to the upcoming EIPS Assurance Review sessions.
- **Trustee Jim Seutter** attended the school and department Assurance Reviews, the Board Caucus meeting and his regular school council meetings.
- **Trustee Ralph Sorochan** attended the Board Caucus meeting; Audit Committee meeting; ASBA's fall general meeting, orientation session and Zone 2/3 meeting; the COSC meeting; the Assurance Reviews; and Fort Saskatchewan's Remembrance Day Ceremony—where he represented EIPS. He also attended his regular school council meetings and thanked all the families who come to the meetings for their ongoing support and commitment to students.

Board Members

Trina Boymook, *Chair* | Colleen Holowaychuk, *Vice-Chair* | Cathy Allen | Randy Footz | Don Irwin | Susan Miller | Jim Seutter | Jacqueline Shotbolt | Ralph Sorochan

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