

DEC. 16, 2021

Chair's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Board Chair Trina Boymook highlighted some recent events:

- On November 26, Chair Boymook took part in the Alberta School Boards Association's (ASBA) Board Chair Orientation session. The highlights: a number of sessions about Board Chair responsibilities and another on the current political landscape.
- On December 1, Chair Boymook attended ASBA's third curriculum engagement session for Board Chairs and superintendents. Given the recent provincial announcement about changes to the draft curriculum, a fourth engagement session is planned in January.
- On December 6-7, trustees took part in a retreat to discuss the Board's direction, priorities and work plan for the 2021-22 school year.
- On December 8, the Board co-hosted a dinner with executives from the Local Alberta Teachers' Association, which was an opportunity to build the ongoing relationship between the two organizations.
- On December 13, Chair Boymook and other Board chairs from across the province met with Education Minister Adriana LaGrange to discuss recent changes to the draft kindergarten to Grade 6 curriculum and its implementation.

SYSTEM ASSURANCE REVIEWS

Throughout November, the Board took part in the System Assurance Reviews, a divisionwide forum for schools and departments to share with the Board their individual results, annual plans, budgets, successes and challenges. The sessions were held virtually and open to EIPS families and community members. Collectively, the System Assurance Reviews allow trustees to gain a holistic understanding of what's happening throughout the Division.

Superintendent's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Superintendent Mark Liguori highlighted a number of recent events:

- Throughout November, the Division conducted its annual System Assurance Reviews. He appreciates the work that goes into preparing for each review session. Collectively, it helps the Board and Division better understand how schools and departments are performing and develop plans to improve student learning moving forward.
- On December 1, Superintendent Liguori joined the Board at the ASBA curriculum engagement session.
- On December 6-7, Superintendent Liguori joined trustees at the Board retreat.

Association and Local Reports

ASBA ZONE 2/3 REPORT

Trustee Jacqueline Shotbolt attended the ASBA Zone 2/3 meeting on Dec. 3, 2021. Highlights include:

- professional development sessions focused on trends in education;
- an overview of Zone 2/3's financial statements;
- a discussion about the curriculum engagement session—the deadline to submit feedback is January 7; and
- a report from President Marilyn Dennis.

ATA LOCAL REPORT

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

- On December 8, the Local executive co-hosted a dinner with the EIPS Board of Trustees. At the dinner, the Local shared the experiences of teachers and students during the pandemic to help deepen understanding.
- The Local's pleased the province decided to change and delay the roll-out of the new draft kindergarten to Grade 6 curriculum. However, it still has concerns with curriculum content and implementation, including available resources, assessment documentation and appointments for the Advisory Committee—it's critical teachers have a seat at the table as they are curriculum experts.
- Zielke wished everyone a wonderful Christmas and hopes for a more peaceful new year.

New Business

BUSINESS ARISING FROM IN-CAMERA

The Board approved two motions:

- "that the Board of Trustees approve special matter 2021-001;" and
- "that the Board of Trustees reappoint Mark Liguori as Superintendent and CEO of Elk Island Public Schools and that the Board of Trustees direct the Board Chair to advise the Minister of Education in accordance with Section 222(2) of the *Education Act* ... and that Mark Liguori has been reappointed as Superintendent and CEO of Elk Island Public Schools."

Committee Report

STUDENT EXPULSION COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from two Student Expulsion Committee meetings held on December 1. The committee reviewed all relevant information and upheld the recommendations put forward.

Report for Information

BULLYING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK

The Board received for information a report regarding Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week 2021, which took place November 15-19. Staff and students throughout EIPS took part in a variety of activities focused on ways to promote kindness and healthy relationships. School activities included morning announcements, virtual presentations on bullying and healthy relationship building, lesson plans, deeds of kindness and more. In addition to Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week 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, inclusive, 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 2021

The Board received for information the Unaudited Financial Report for EIPS, prepared by Financial Services. As of Nov. 30, 2021, revenues exceeded expenses, resulting in an operating surplus of \$2.24 million. The operational revenue for the three months was \$47.2 million, which represents 25 per cent of the budget. Meanwhile, total expenses incurred was \$44.96 million, which represents 24 per cent of the budget. The primary reason for the surplus: costs associated with staffing, services and supplies incurred later in the school year (see pg. 27, "[Unaudited Financial Report for Sept. 1, 2021 to Nov. 1, 2021](#)").

Trustee Reports

RECENT EVENTS

Trustees shared information and highlighted recent events:

- **Vice-Chair Colleen Holowaychuk** attended her regular school council meetings, the System Assurance Reviews and the Board retreat—she thoroughly enjoyed all of these. She also wished everyone a safe Merry Christmas.
- **Trustee Cathy Allen** attended the System Assurance Reviews and Board retreat—both were valuable and informative for trustees. She thanked teachers and school staff throughout the Division for their work putting the virtual Christmas performances together for families and friends around the world. Trustee Allen also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a wonderful, restful break.
- **Trustee Randy Footz** took part in the System Assurance Reviews, attended A.L. Horton Elementary’s school council meeting and brought greetings on behalf of the Board and EIPS at A.L. Horton’s virtual Christmas concert. He thanked all staff, students and volunteers for their efforts in keeping schools safe and open throughout the pandemic. And, he wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year—one that looks a little more normal.
- **Trustee Don Irwin** attended two school council meetings, the System Assurance Reviews, the dinner with the Local ATA and the Board retreat. He also attended Salisbury Composite High’s in-person band concert, which was excellent. Trustee Irwin wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy, peaceful and normal, New Year.
- **Trustee Susan Miller** attended the Board retreat and Ardrossan Junior Senior High’s in-person Christmas concert, which was wonderful. She also wished everyone a Merry Christmas.
- **Trustee Jim Seutter** attended the dinner with the Local ATA, Board retreat and school council meetings at Lakeland Ridge, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High, Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary and Heritage Hills Elementary—all included meaningful conversations. He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas.
- **Trustee Ralph Sorochan** attended the dinner with the Local ATA, Board Caucus meeting, Board retreat, Rudolph Hennig Junior High school council meeting and System Assurance Reviews—trustees appreciate the work that goes into preparing these as it offers important insight on what’s happening in schools. He also thanked all students, staff and families for their efforts over the past year and wished everyone a joyous Christmas holiday season and Happy New Year.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Trustee Irwin notified the Board he plans to make the following motion at the next Board meeting in January:

“Whereas election campaigns are a very timely and effective opportunity to engage parents and our communities regarding all education issues and advocacy issues, including locally elected school board trustees, proposed curriculum changes, school entry regulations.

“Whereas in our EIPS Four-Year Education Plan, Priority 3 is to enhance public education through effective engagement.

“Whereas we want to take these opportunities to engage parents to the maximum extent, especially at election times.

“Whereas there are three trustees elected by all of Sherwood Park—approximately 71,332 residents, 28,041 households and 53,901 eligible voters from 2018 municipal census report.

“Be it resolved that we do an internal review or study of dividing the area of Sherwood Park, Ward 1, into three election zones or areas.”



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

HOLIDAY GREETING

On behalf of the Board, Chair Boymook extended warm wishes to all Division staff, students, families, education partners and community members. She hopes everyone has a Merry Christmas, happy holiday and the best in the new year.

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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