



JAN. 20, 2022

Chair's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Board Chair Trina Boymook highlighted some recent events:

- On January 13, trustees took part in another Board retreat to further discuss the Board's direction, priorities for the 2021-25 term, and work plan for the 2021-22 school year.
- On January 17, Chair Boymook attended a fourth curriculum engagement session, hosted by the Alberta School Boards Association. The focus: recent changes to the draft kindergarten to Grade 6 curriculum and its implementation. The association will submit a report to the province summarizing the feedback provided at all four engagement sessions.

K-6 CURRICULUM

On December 13, a school board chairs meeting was held with Education Minister Adriana LaGrange to receive added details of the revised kindergarten to Grade 6 curriculum implementation. The Board's pleased the province is only implementing three subjects instead of all subject areas at the same time. It's equally pleased the Minister's open to a staggered implementation of the three subjects moving forward and that continued work will take place within the three subject areas to ensure it's age and developmentally appropriate as the province moves toward finalizing the curriculum. Following the meeting, the Board sent a letter to the Minister noting its appreciation. It also restated what needs addressing before implementation and the preference for a phased-in approach for implementing language arts and mathematics.

EXTENDED CHRISTMAS BREAK

Multiple school board chairs meetings were held with the Minister of Education following the province's announcement to extend Christmas Break. The meetings were held on December 31, and January 5 and 6, which allowed school boards to better understand the supports provided by the province, express concerns and offer a picture of each Division's local context to best prepare for January 10. The EIPS Board appreciates having access to the Assistant Chief Medical Officer and the Assistant Deputy Minister of Health on January 5. Both individuals answered health-related questions about the provincially supplied medical-grade masks and changes to isolation protocols.

Superintendent's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Superintendent Mark Liguori highlighted a number of recent events:

- On December 13, Superintendent Liguori joined Chair Boymook at the meeting with LaGrange about the changes to the draft curriculum and its implementation.
- On December 13 and 31, Superintendent Liguori attended a meeting with Deputy Education Minister Andre Tremblay, hosted by the College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS). The focus: the recent provincial announcement about changes to the draft kindergarten to Grade 6 curriculum.
- On December 31, and January 5 and 6, Superintendent Liguori joined Chair Boymook at meetings with LaGrange and Tremblay about the extended Christmas break and the added measures to protect students and staff.
- On January 6, Superintendent Liguori met with Tremblay, hosted by CASS, about the extended Christmas break, distribution of medical-grade masks and rapid tests, and updated guidelines for school resumption.
- On January 13, Superintendent Liguori joined trustees at the Board retreat.
- On January 17, Superintendent Liguori attended Strathcona County's social framework leadership meeting. The focus: available wrap-around services and the reach members have with the larger community.

Association and Local Report

ATA LOCAL REPORT

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

- School boards provincewide are experiencing serious teacher shortages and student absences related to illness. While teachers are doing their best, time will tell the impact of the fifth wave of COVID-19 and Omicron variant.
- The Local's Diversity, Equity and Human Rights Committee, which promotes diversity, equity and human rights in schools, launched a new interactive inclusion training kit to support teachers in Indigenous and intercultural education, sexual orientation, and gender identity and equity.

Business Arising from Previous Meeting

NOTICE OF MOTION: ELECTORAL WARD 1

The Board defeated the following notice of motion: "... that the Board of Trustees undertake an internal review or study of dividing the area of Sherwood Park, Ward 1, into three election zones or areas."

New Business

POLICY AMENDMENTS

The Board approved the following Policy amendments:

- [Board Policy 4: Trustee Code of Conduct](#) – the changes strengthen the policy's clarity, language and readability. Edits were also made to the "[Trustee Code of Conduct Sanctions](#)," for the same reasons.
- [Board Policy 7: Board Operations](#) – the change relates to how many virtual Board meetings a trustee can attend annually—previously trustees could attend three meetings virtually. But, because of the pandemic and high transmissibility of the Omicron variant, that limit is suspended.
- [Board Policy 24: Personal Communication Devices](#) – the changes strengthen the policy's clarity, language and readability.

DIVISION CALENDAR: 2022-23

The Board approved the Division calendar for the 2022-23 school year. Highlights include:

- first day of school – Aug. 30, 2022
- November break – November 7-11
- Christmas break – December 21 to January 3
- second semester starts – January 31
- Teachers' Convention – February 9-10
- spring break – March 24-31
- last day of classes – June 27, 2023.

To see the full calendar visit eips.ca.

BUDGET REALLOCATION: 2021-22

The Board approved a budget reallocation because of an unanticipated surplus of \$1.5 million. The Division will use the funds for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year to:

- hire two family school liaison workers, a consultant for the Specialized System programs and two occupational therapists;
- assist with implementing the new curriculum;

- support French Immersion and French-language programming;
- support the development of senior high common exams;
- develop a Division communication platform for staff and families and related dashboards;
- purchase Enterprise Level Division Form Solution software;
- create a report card in PowerTeacher Pro; and
- replace more than 1,500 Chromebook reaching end of life.

For more information on how EIPS plans to use the funds see pg. 47, "[Budget Reallocation for 2021-22](#)."

RESERVE REQUESTS: 2021-22

The Board agreed to request approval from Alberta Education to access \$1.4 million in operating reserves.

Once approved, EIPS will use the reserves to:

- fund additional illnesses and Board-approved COVID-19 costs that arise between now and school year-end;
- complete facility condition assessments in all schools;
- install emergency strobe lighting in career and technology studies area to enhance safety;
- hire a support analyst; and
- replace the fire alarm panels at EIPS Central Services.

The Board also approved using capital reserves (\$292,385) to allow for office renovations and server upgrades.

SCHOOL FEE PARAMETERS: 2022-23

The Board approved the school fee parameters for the 2022-23 school year. The parameters are based on the guidelines laid out within the *Education Act* and the Board's mandate for affordable school fees. Highlights of the 2022-23 school fee parameters include:

Optional courses fees – can increase by five per cent, at a cost-recovery rate—and up to seven per cent for food courses.

Noon supervision fees – can increase by five per cent, at a cost-recovery rate.

Activity fees – can increase by five per cent or more, at a cost-recovery rate.

Extracurricular fees – can increase by five per cent or more, if at a cost-recovery rate.

Non-curricular travel fees – can increase by five per cent or more, at a cost-recovery rate.

Non-curricular goods and services fees – can increase up to five per cent, at a cost-recovery rate.

Committee Report

POLICY COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from the two Policy Committee meetings held on December 16 and January 11. The committee reviewed several policies, including four that will come forward for amendments at the Caucus meeting in February.

Report for Information

SCHOOL STATUS REPORT: 2020-21

The Board received for information the School Status Report for the 2020-21 school year. The report identifies enrolment numbers, school utilization rates and per-student costs within the Division. The data is presented by geographic sectors and on a four-year comparative basis to ensure analysis is based on long-term trends and not isolated incidences (see pg. 66, "[School Status Report for 2020-21](#)"). Highlights from the report:

- The average cost per EIPS student is \$6,966, which is up from the previous year by \$41.
- EIPS currently has 22 schools operating above the \$6,966 average.
- The Division's utilization rate for 2020-21 decreased to 72 per cent—down by three per cent from the previous year.



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

INTERIM SCHOOL FEE APPROVAL SUMMARY: 2021-22

The Board received for information a summary of fee changes for 2021-22. To date, the Division has received and approved 12 fee change requests (see pg. 98, "[2021-22 Interim School Fee Approval Summary](#)").

Trustee Reports

RECENT EVENTS

Trustees shared information and highlighted recent events:

- **Vice-Chair Colleen Holowaychuk** attended the January Committee of School Councils' (COSC) meeting, the Board retreat, and school council meetings for Bruderheim School and Lamont High—meetings for Andrew School, Mundare School and Lamont Elementary occur later this month. In December, she also helped with preparations for a school dinner at Lamont High—made possible through generous community donations.
- **Trustee Cathy Allen** attended the COSC meeting; the Board retreat; and school council meetings for F.R. Haythorne Junior High, Mills Haven Elementary, Pine Street Elementary and Strathcona Christian Academy (SCA) Secondary. She's attending the Glen Allan Elementary school council meeting tonight. Allen also thanked staff, families and students for their efforts in the return to school after the Christmas break. Hopefully, things look more normal by spring break.
- **Trustee Randy Footz** attended the January COSC meeting, the Board retreat and looks forward to several upcoming meetings throughout January and February.
- **Trustee Don Irwin** attended the COSC meeting, the Board retreat and École Campbelltown's school council meeting—meetings for his other schools take place later this month. He also thanked staff, students and families for their efforts to follow the Division's operation guidelines. It's a well-laid-out plan that aims to keep everyone within EIPS safer, healthier and better prepared for success throughout the pandemic.
- **Trustee Susan Miller** attended the Board retreat, the Policy Committee meeting and school council meetings for Uncas Elementary and Ardrossan Elementary. She looks forward to the Ardrossan Junior Senior High school council meeting next week.
- **Trustee Jacqueline Shotbolt** attended the January COSC meeting; the Board retreat; a Board book review session; and school council meetings for Fort Saskatchewan Christian, James Mowat Elementary, Win Ferguson Elementary and SouthPointe School. She also looks forward to the upcoming Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium stakeholder's meeting, which she'll report on at the February Board meeting.
- **Trustee Jim Seutter** attended the COSC and Board Caucus meetings, and school council meetings for Fultonvale Elementary Junior High, Lakeland Ridge and SCA Elementary. Next week he plans to attend the Heritage Hills Elementary school council meeting. Seutter also wished everyone the best in the new year.
- **Trustee Ralph Sorochan** attended the Board Caucus and COSC meetings, the Board retreat and his regular school council meetings. He expressed gratitude to staff, bus operators and custodians for their collective effort to make the return to school as seamless as possible. He thanked Superintendent Liguori and his team for facilitating an exceptional Board retreat. He also thanked families for their patience and interest in what's happening in the Division's schools. Lastly, he expressed his admiration to all staff and students for their perseverance to ensure quality educational experiences continue throughout the pandemic.

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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