

MARCH 17, 2022

Chair's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Board Chair Trina Boymook highlighted recent events:

- On February 23, Chair Boymook and Trustee Randy Footz attended the Vegreville and District Chamber of Commerce annual general meeting. The highlight: meeting Chris Leggett, the new Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Vegreville, and learning about the town's five-year strategic plan.
- On February 25, Chair Boymook and Superintendent Mark Liguori took part in a budget debrief with Adriana LaGrange, the Minister of Education. The meeting included school board chairs and superintendents from across the province and a high-level overview of the education budget for the 2022-23 school year.
- On March 3, Chair Boymook met with Nate Glubish, the Minister of Service Alberta and member of the legislative assembly of Alberta for Strathcona-Sherwood Park. The two discussed the Division's experience dealing with COVID-19, EIPS' recovery plan and the design phase for a new K-9 replacement school in Sherwood Park—replacing Sherwood Heights Junior High and École Campbelltown.
- On March 4, Chair Boymook brought greetings at the virtual Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Classified Staff Professional Learning Day event. She also enjoyed the keynote speaker, Candace Carnahan, who spoke about workplace safety.
- On March 11, Chair Boymook met with Jordan Walker, the member of the legislative assembly of Alberta for Sherwood Park. The two discussed the province's recent announcement to fund the design work for a K-9 replacement school in Sherwood Park.
- On March 14, Chair Boymook, Trustee Colleen Holowaychuk and Superintendent Mark Liguori attended a meeting with the Town of Mundare. Discussion topics included: EIPS' key focus areas, recent achievement results, community facility use, Division plans, and ways for EIPS and Mundare to continue to work together.
- On March 15, trustees took part in a budget working session. More are scheduled throughout March and April. EIPS will submit a spring budget to Alberta Education by May 31.
- On March 16, Chair Boymook took part in EIPS' Inspirational Math Week by reading virtually to students in grades 5 and 6. She read a book entitled, *Fractions in Disguise*, which both she and students enjoyed.
- On March 16, Chair Boymook and trustees Jim Seutter and Don Irwin attended the Sherwood Park and District Chamber of Commerce annual general meeting. The highlight: The keynote speaker, Strathcona County Mayor Rod Frank, who spoke about the county's economic- and social-recovery plan.
- March 14-19 is Substitute Appreciation Week. On behalf of the Board, Chair Boymook thanked all substitute employees working within EIPS. Their work is critical to operations and student learning, and is appreciated.

Superintendent's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Superintendent Mark Liguori highlighted a number of recent events:

- On February 25, Superintendent Liguori joined Chair Boymook at a budget debrief with Minister LaGrange. Overall, the information provided about the budget is hopeful. The Division will know more when the province releases the funding manual for school divisions.
- On March 6-8, Superintendent Liguori attended the Alberta Rural Education Symposium—a great opportunity to spend time with the Board in a learning environment.
- On March 10, Superintendent Liguori attended a meeting with the Mayor of Andrew, Barry Goertz, to discuss the village's new council, and its plans and concerns for the community and Andrew School.
- On March 14, Superintendent Liguori joined Chair Boymook for a meeting with the Town of Mundare, which focused on ways EIPS and the town can work together.



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- On March 16, Superintendent Liguori attended a signing event for Strathcona County’s new Violence, Trauma and Suicide Prevention: A Community Response Protocol. The protocol is the first of its kind in North America and demonstrates a shared community commitment to promote safety and well-being by preventing and responding to violence, trauma and suicide in the County.

CLASSIFIED STAFF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY

EIPS’ Classified Staff Professional Learning Day took place on March 4. Throughout the day, classified staff participated in various centrally co-ordinated professional learning sessions. The event also coincided with a professional learning day for certificated staff who also participated in learning sessions. Superintendent Liguori thanked Human Resources for organizing the event.

WEEK OF INSPIRATIONAL MATH

EIPS’ Inspirational Math Week takes place this week, March 14-19. Throughout the week, students and staff are celebrating numeracy through various Divisionwide activities—daily math exercises, games and hands-on learning assignments—all aimed at building students’ mathematical confidence. Superintendent Liguori thanked Supports for Students and EIPS consultants for their hard work making the week possible.

Comments From the Public

BEFORE-AND-AFTER SCHOOL: ANDREW

The Board heard a presentation from Andrew Mayor Barry Goertz, who discussed ways to increase Andrew School’s utilization rate and benefit Andrew families at the same time. He asked the Board to consider establishing a child care centre in the unused space at Andrew School—both a full-time and before-and-after school program. The Board thanked Mayor Goertz for taking the time to present his ideas to trustees.

WORKING TOGETHER

The Board heard a presentation from Tammy Ann Pickett, a Councillor with the Village of Andrew. She discussed ways EIPS and the Village of Andrew can work together to help build the community. She asked the Board to consider new strategies to promote Andrew School and improve busing services to encourage higher enrolment at Andrew school. She also asked the Board to continue to work with the village’s council to help it achieve its long-term vision for the area—using the slogan, “Go far, Go slow, Go together.” The Board thanked Pickett for taking the time to present feedback to trustees.

Association and Local Report

ASBA ZONE 2/3 REPORT

Trustee Cathy Allen attended the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 meeting on February 25. Highlights include:

- the Zone’s looking for a new location to host its in-person meetings;
- members discussed the budget assumptions, position statement and themes for the spring general meeting;
- the Zone distributed a questionnaire about charter schools. The EIPS Board will complete the survey and submit its feedback;
- Reports included: the President Report, CEO Report, Edwin Parr Award Report, Zone Language Report and Advocacy Committee Report.

ATA LOCAL REPORT

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

- On February 26, the province announced its Budget 2022. Many teachers are concerned:
 - redirecting funding to charter schools and homeschooling initiatives, will undermine the public education system.
 - with such a significant amount of funding directed to charter schools and homeschooling initiatives, it negatively impacts supports and services available in the public education system.
- On March 11-12, ATA hosted a political engagement session. The highlights:
 - Former Calgary mayor, Naheed Nenshi, spoke to an upcoming protest opportunity for those opposed to the new K-6 curriculum—on April 2, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., at the Alberta Legislature Building.
 - Todd Hirsh, the Vice-President and Chief Economist at ATB Financial, spoke about the current Russia and Ukraine conflict.
 - Janet Brown, a reporter and pollster, discussed political trends and offered election insight.
- Zielke wishes everyone an enjoyable and relaxing spring break.

New Business

POLICY AMENDMENTS

The Board approved the following policy amendments:

- [Board Policy 2: Role of the Board](#)
- [Board Policy 20: Assessment and Reporting of Student Learning](#)
- [Board Policy 21: Expense Transparency](#)

Several amendments were made to the policies—all to strengthen clarity, language and readability.

ASBA EDWIN PARR AWARD: 2022

The Board and administration finalized this year's EIPS Edwin Parr Teacher Award nominee, Kristen Davies. Annually, the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) hosts the award to honour and recognize first-year teachers and their pedagogical excellence. Davies was selected because of her outstanding commitment to education, capacity building, and innate ability to encourage a love of learning in students.

FRIENDS OF EDUCATION: 2021

The Board approved nominating Shell Canada for the 2022 Friends of Education Award, an annual event hosted by ASBA. The award's purpose: To recognize and thank the many Alberta-based organizations that contribute to education in their community. For the last five years, Shell Canada has made significant financial contributions to EIPS, including \$185,000 to help develop land-based learning spaces at nine schools—eight in Fort Saskatchewan and one in Bruderheim. And, more are planned in Sherwood Park and Strathcona County. The purpose of the spaces is two-fold. First, they are places for students, staff and community members to come and learn from the land. And, two, they are ethical spaces for Indigenous students that represent the land acknowledgment and treaty obligations. Additionally, on an ongoing basis, Shell Canada generously provides volunteer employees to enhance learning within EIPS classrooms—such as the Fuelling Kindness campaign, READ IN Week, Week of Inspirational Math and various other EIPS initiatives. Collectively, Shell's ongoing support offers students a huge advantage, enhances student learning, and makes a lasting difference in Division schools.

THREE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN: 2023-26

The Board approved EIPS' 2023-26 Three-Year Capital Plan. Annually, the Board reviews and updates the plan to prioritize its key capital projects. The top three capital priorities for the Division are:

Priority 1: Construction funding to replace Sherwood Heights Junior High and École Campbelltown (grades K-9).

Priority 2: A replacement school for Rudolph Hennig Junior High and Fort Saskatchewan High (grades 7-12).

Priority 3: A replacement school for James Mowat Elementary (grades K-6).

Now approved, the Division will submit the Three-Year Capital Plan to the province for funding consideration.

BUDGET REALLOCATION: 2021-22

The Board approved a budget reallocation of unanticipated surplus. The Division will use the funds to:

- Relocate a modular classroom unit to James Mowat Elementary from Fultonvale Elementary Junior High (\$263,000). Earlier this year, the Division requested funding for the modular unit from Alberta Education—funding is still uncertain. If the province denies the request, EIPS will proceed using the reallocated dollars.
- Community consultations regarding programming, enrolment and attendance boundaries (\$115,000).

RESERVE REQUESTS: 2021-22

The Board approved accessing \$1.4 million in operating reserves to:

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

Committee Report

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from the Advocacy Committee meeting held on February 17. Topics discussed: advocacy focus areas, the strategic advocacy plan and work to promote the value of public education.

STUDENT EXPULSION COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from the Student Expulsion Committee meeting held on March 1. The committee reviewed all the information and upheld the recommendation put forward by the school.

POLICY COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from the Policy Committee meeting held on March 1. The committee reviewed four policies—three required changes, which the Board approved at today's meeting.

Report For Information

FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS: 2021-22

The Board received for information a report regarding the Division's financial projection for the 2021-22 year-end. Overall, there are no areas of concern with respect to deficits. EIPS projects its accumulated surplus to drop by \$2.9 million from its audited balance on Aug. 31, 2021. As well, operating reserves will decrease by \$2.9 million, capital reserves will increase by \$300,000 and tangible capital assets will decrease by \$300,000. The budget variance is \$4.2 million—primarily the result of unanticipated increases to the Division Unallocated Operating Reserve and unbudgeted projected surpluses at schools and departments. Finally, the projected Division Unallocated Reserve remains above the recommended 2 per cent of operating expenses (see pg. 121, "[Financial Projections 2021-22](#)").

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2021 TO FEBRUARY 2022

The Board received for information the EIPS Unaudited Financial Report for the six-month period ending Feb. 28, 2022. Overall, revenues exceeded expenses resulting in an operating surplus of \$1.34 million. Revenue for the six months is \$93.51 million, which represents 50 per cent of the year-to-date budget—an expected percentage for the fiscal year midpoint. Meanwhile, total expenses are \$92.17 million, representing 48 per cent of the year-to-date budget—slightly below what the Division anticipated. (see pg. 135, "[Unaudited Financial Report for Sept. 1, 2021 to Feb. 28, 2022](#)").

Trustee Reports

Trustees shared information and highlighted recent events:

- **Trustee Cathy Allen** attended the March Committee of School Councils' (COSC) meeting, ASBA's Zone 2/3 meeting and her regular school council meetings—some were virtual, and some were in-person. She also attended the Alberta Rural Education Symposium, which she looks forward to attending again next year.
- **Trustee Randy Footz** attended the March COSC meeting, Alberta Rural Education Symposium, and school council meetings for A.L. Horton Elementary and Vegreville Composite High. The meeting at Vegreville Composite was in-person, which was particularly nice as people were face-to-face again. He also attended the Vegreville and District Chamber of Commerce's annual general meeting—it was informative, and the strategic plan's encouraging.
- **Trustee Don Irwin** attended a Board budget-working session; the Alberta Rural Education Symposium; and meetings for the Advocacy Committee, Student Expulsion Committee, COSC and two school councils. He also thanked all EIPS substitute employees and encouraged everyone to join the Board in celebrating the Division's substitute teachers, education assistants and school supports during this year's Substitute Appreciation Week.
- **Trustee Susan Miller** attended the Alberta Rural Education Symposium; the March COSC meeting; and school council meetings for Uncas Elementary, Ardrossan Elementary and Ardrossan Junior Senior High—which was in-person. She also wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day.
- **Trustee Jacqueline Shotbolt** attended the Alberta Rural Education Symposium, the March COSC meeting and her regular school council meetings—half were in-person. She also attended the first budget-working session, which she found extremely informative. As well, Trustee Shotbolt's looking forward to the upcoming ASBA Edwin Parr Teacher Award interviews, taking place next month.
- **Trustee Jim Seutter** attended the March COSC meeting and four school council meetings—half were in-person, and half were virtual. He also attended the Sherwood Park and District Chamber of Commerce annual general meeting. The highlight: learning about Strathcona County's economic plan for the upcoming year.
- **Trustee Ralph Sorochoan** attended the March COSC meeting, Board Caucus, Alberta Rural Education Symposium, and his regular school council meetings—he thanked Curtis Starko, the Principal of Fort Saskatchewan High, and staff for the guided school. Trustee Sorochoan also mentioned Substitute Appreciation Week, taking place this week. He thanked all substitute staff working at EIPS for their outstanding work supporting schools and the Division—particularly over the last two years. With spring break just around the corner, he also wished all staff, students and families a wonderful and well-deserved break. Lastly, he asked all EIPS school communities to keep in mind the many students, staff and families in Ukraine dealing with the conflict and destruction of cities, homes and schools.

Board Members

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Trina Boymook, *Board Chair* | P 780 417 8101

Laura McNabb, *Director, Communication Services* | P 780 417 8204

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