

MAY 25, 2022

Chair's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Board Chair Trina Boymook highlighted some recent events:

- On April 22, Chair Boymook attended the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 meeting—always informative with valuable networking opportunities. At the meeting, chairs expressed concerns about a new provincial rule requiring boards to seek further ministerial approval to access reserves. Members also discussed the Zone plans to submit an emergent resolution for the upcoming spring general meeting.
- On April 23, Chair Boymook and Vice-Chair Colleen Holowaychuk attended the Town of Burderheim Mayor's Gala. After a two-year hiatus because of the pandemic, it was great to return and connect with mayors, councillors and community leaders from around the region.
- On April 27, Chair Boymook attended Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary's production of *Disney Kids Lion King*, the first live student event she's been to in the last two years. The performance was phenomenal, and she thanked the school for the invitation.
- On May 3, the Board took part in the Division's Long Service and Retirement Event, an annual reception hosted by EIPS to celebrate retirees and employees who have worked with the organization for 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years.
- On May 11, Chair Boymook attended a ukulele performance at Heritage Hills Elementary, the school's first-ever live performance in front of family and friends. So, it was wonderful to be included, and the students were terrific.
- On May 14-15, Chair Boymook attended a Culture Camp, hosted by Woodbridge Farms Elementary. The camp was a weekend-long event designed for students who identify as First Nations, Métis or Inuit—held at Strathcona Wilderness Centre and included several elders from the region. It was a privilege to participate, and everyone who attended left with a deeper understanding of Indigenous culture, history and traditions.
- On May 17, Chair Boymook attended the Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Employee Relations Group meeting, where she met the executive and shared information about the Board and its role within EIPS.
- On May 18, Chair Boymook participated in the EIPS Bus Road-eeo as a judge for the 25 competing EIPS bus operators—always a great event.
- On May 18, Chair Boymook attended a Sherwood Park and District Chamber of Commerce luncheon. The highlight was keynote speaker Nate Glubish, the Minister of Service Alberta and member of the legislative assembly of Alberta for Strathcona-Sherwood Park. He spoke about the province's work on providing reliable and equitable access to the internet.

EIPS BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION

EIPS celebrated Driver Appreciation on May 2-4. Trustees attended various schools and transfer sites thanking the Division's bus operators for the vital role they play within the Division and for keeping the safety of students their first priority.

TRUSTEES' SCHOOL TOURS

On May 9, EIPS trustees visited Davidson Creek Elementary, Lakeland Ridge, Glen Allan Elementary, Bev Facey Community High and F.R. Haythorne Junior High as part of the 2021-22 Trustees' School Tours. The Board extended thanks to all staff and students at each school for hosting the Board and sharing information about the school and programs offered.

Superintendent's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Superintendent Mark Liguori shared two Division good-news stories with the Board:

- The Division received a letter from The Terry Fox Foundation thanking EIPS and its schools for their continued support. In fall 2021, schools and throughout EIPS raised more than \$57,000 for cancer research.
- Superintendent Liguori congratulated Michel Blades Bird, a teacher at Elk Island Youth Ranch learning Centre, who was recently presented with the 2021 Governor General's History Award for Excellence.

Association and Local Report

ASBA ZONE 2/3 REPORT

Trustee Jacqueline Shotbolt attended the Alberta School Boards Association Zone 2/3 meeting on April 22:

- Agenda topics included various executive and committee reports, Zone issues and generative governance.
- The professional learning focused on reconciliation.
- On May 27, the Zone's hosting its annual banquet, which includes the Friends in Education Award and Edwin Parr Teacher Award.
- The spring general meeting takes place in Red Deer, June 5-7.
- June 10 is the deadline to submit nominations for the Zone Appreciate Award—open to trustees, superintendents and secretary-treasurers who have demonstrated exemplary service.

ATA LOCAL REPORT

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

- On May 3, the Local held its annual general meeting. Several executive members were re-elected: Dave McKinnon, Vice-President of Political Engagement; Maxine Holm, Communications Officer; John Murphy, Treasurer; and Daniel Radersma, Secretary.
- Zielke voiced ATA's concerns with the newly introduced Bill 15: Education Amendment Act, which the ATA feels punishes the association and teachers, and will change the ATA's identity and culture.
- On May 21-23, the ATA hosted the 2022 Annual Representative Assembly. Members brought forward several resolutions, including:
 - To reaffirm the importance that school leaders remain active ATA members.
 - To urge school authorities to protect students from unwanted disclosure of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.
 - To initiate a broad program of research exploring the academic, social and emotional challenges students face, post-pandemic.
 - To explore the ATA's capacity to enhance workplace representation for members through working with other unions and non-union education staff.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS GROUP REPORT

The Board received for information the Employee Relations Group (ERG) report from Dulcie Jarvin, the committee's Chair:

- Jarvin thanked the Board for including the ERG group in the public Board meetings going forward.
- The ERG's mission: To work on behalf of all EIPS classified employees and, divisionwide, promote a culture of mutual respect and open communication.
- The ERG consists of nine volunteer, classified employees—representing Minburn County, Lamont County, Fort Saskatchewan, Strathcona County, Sherwood Park and EIPS Central Services Office—who meet monthly to discuss issues impacting staff and strategies to help ensure open and supportive working environments.

- The ERG's role and responsibilities include:
 - representing classified employees;
 - providing a voice on issues and policies directly impacting classified staff;
 - examining staff issues;
 - presenting recommendation requests;
 - asking for clarifications from leadership; and
 - encouraging all classified staff to maintain a high standard of professionalism while serving students.
- Classified employees can contact the ERG if they have questions or concerns related to the workplace.

New Business

EIPS FOUR-YEAR EDUCATION PLAN: 2022-26

The Board approved the new [EIPS Four-Year Education Plan: 2022-26](#), which details the Division's priorities, goals and outcomes over the next four years. The Division's three key priorities:

- Priority 1: To promote the growth and success of all students.
- Priority 2: To enhance high-quality learning and working environments.
- Priority 3: To enhance public education through effective engagement.

The plan also outlines the performance measures and strategies the Division will use to meet each priority, goal and outcome in the 2022-23 school year.

2022-23 BUDGET REPORT

The Board approved the 2022-23 budget based on decisions and discussions put forward by administration and the Board during the [detailed budget presentation](#) on May 19, 2022. The Board approved an operating budget of \$202.42 million for the period of Sept. 1, 2022, to Aug. 31, 2023. Of that, \$193.51 million will come from the Division's annual revenue and \$8.91 million from operating reserves. EIPS will use the operating reserves to cover costs to support schools and departments, deliver the Focus on Unfinished Learning initiative, new curriculum work, consultant support, new mental health strategic plan, technology upgrades, public-health best practices, and various one-time projects.

Briefly, the accumulated surplus remains positive, meaning the Division's reserves are adequate to cover the budgeted operating deficit. Specifically, EIPS's projected accumulated surplus is \$12.53 million, excluding the asset retirement obligation, as of Aug. 31, 2023. The surplus includes operating reserves (\$4.82 million), capital reserves (\$1.44 million) and investment in tangible capital assets (\$6.27 million). Instructional costs comprise 79.6% of the total budget, equating to \$9,751 per student. System administration spending equates to 2.2% (\$4.42 million) of total expenses, which is below the \$6.3-million grant provided by Alberta Education. All unused funds will go toward for other Divisional uses—as per guidelines listed within the *Funding Manual for School Authorities: 2022-23 School Year*. Lastly, the Division's Unallocated Reserve is \$3.92 million, which when combined with other operating reserves is within the provinces operating reserve limit.

Overall, the spring EIPS 2022-23 budget supports the mission, values and priorities of EIPS, and allows it to target resources to ensure student success—not only in their educational experience, but also in their after-school lives by investing in health and wellness initiatives, technology, and infrastructure. Now approved, schools and departments will use EIPS' spring budget to begin planning for the upcoming school year. The complete [EIPS 2021-22 Budget Report](#) is available at [eips.ca](#).

BUDGET REPORT: ALBERTA EDUCATION

The Board also approved the Alberta Education Budget Report for the year ending Aug. 31, 2023 (see pg. 110, "[Alberta Education Supplemental Reports: 2022-23](#)").



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

POLICY AMENDMENTS

The Board approved the following amendments:

- [Board Policy 13: Appeals and Hearings Regarding Student Matters](#)
- [Board Policy 18: Alternative Programs](#)
- [Board Policy 19: Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning and Working Environments](#)

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

Committee Report

POLICY COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from the Policy Committee meeting held on May 10. The committee reviewed five policies. Three policies remain unchanged, and two will come forward for amendments at the Board Caucus meeting in June.

STUDENT EXPULSION COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from three Student Expulsion Committee meetings held on May 2, May 10 and May 24. The committee reviewed all the submitted information and upheld the recommendations put forward by school administration.

Reports for Information

SUMMER PROJECTS:2021-22

The Board received for information a report from Facility Services highlighting the planned projects for summer 2022. In total, 367 projects are planned, including 121 Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal projects (\$3.9 million), three Capital Maintenance Renewal projects (\$1.5 million), and 243 Operational and Maintenance projects. Highlights include:

INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE AND RENEWAL

- Installing two CCTV surveillance camera systems.
- Upgrading the art room at Ardrossan Junior Senior High.
- Repairing the asphalt at Uncas Elementary.
- Completing Phase 3 of the Division's installation of carbon-dioxide sensors.
- Replacing the roof at F.R. Haythorne Junior High.
- Replacing a lift at Pine Street Elementary.
- Renovating the main office at Rudolph Hennig Junior High.

CAPITAL MAINTENANCE AND RENEWAL

- Upgrading the boiler pumps and accessories at Salisbury Composite High.
- Replacing the gymnasium roof at Lamont High.
- Replacing the roof of Ardrossan Junior Senior High.

OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE

The projects range in nature and include improvements to electrical systems, roofing, interiors, exteriors, mechanical equipment and flooring at various EIPS schools.

In addition, Facility Services will relocate one modular classroom from Fultonvale Elementary Junior High School to James Mowat Elementary School (see pg. 142, "[2021-22 Summer Projects Plan](#)," for the full list of projects planned in summer 2022).

IMR AND CMR PROJECTS: 2022-23

The Board received for information the list of projects planned under the Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) and the Capital Maintenance and Renewal (CMR) programs during the 2022-23 school year. Annually, Alberta Education provides school divisions with IMR and CMR funding to ensure school facilities meet the necessary regulations and requirements, offer quality learning environments, improve energy conservation and efficiencies, and remain safe and healthy for students and staff.

For the 2022-23 school year, EIPS' approved IMR grant is \$2.26 million, and CRM grant is \$1.56 million, for a total amount of \$3.83 million—\$897,000 less than the Division's total IMR and CRM funding last year. Multiple projects are identified for the 2022-23 school year—determined through consultations with Facility Services and EIPS schools, the Facility Condition Index, maintenance input and Alberta Infrastructure's audit information. Projects planned include various repairs and upgrades to educational areas and facilities, replacing technology equipment, changing several air-handling units and multiple deferred-maintenance projects (see pg. 161, "[2022-23 Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal—IMR and CMR—Project Plans](#)").

EIPS THREE YEAR ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Board approved the EIPS Three-Year Education Strategy, which details the Division's engagement efforts over the next three years. The plan entitled, EIPS Three-Year Engagement Strategy, identifies areas the Division can improve operations to best serve students—such as programming and school capacity considerations. In total, there are four public engagement projects included in the plan:

PROJECT 1: THREE-YEAR STRATHCONA COUNTY ENGAGEMENT

Over the next three years, EIPS will engage the public about school capacities and boundaries in the Strathcona Country area, system programming transitions, and ways to enhance the junior high and senior high French Immersion programming.

PROJECT 2: ENROLMENT PRESSURE AT JAMES MOWAT ELEMENTARY

Enrolment projections for James Mowat Elementary indicate it will reach capacity in 2022-23 despite the addition of one modular classroom. James Mowat Elementary is the designated receiving school for the West Park neighbourhood in Fort Saskatchewan. The Division anticipates the high enrolment to continue at the school as West Park develops and new families move in. As such, EIPS will engage the school community about possible solutions to manage the growth and address student capacity issues.

PROJECT 3: EIPS LOGOS CHRISTIAN PROGRAM REVIEW

Over the last few years, enrolment in the EIPS Logos Christian Program, at the elementary level, has declined. Low enrolment means it's challenging to offer fulsome Logos programming at the two elementary schools—where it's currently offered. As such, EIPS will enter conversations with school families about consolidating the elementary Logos programs at one school and discuss the low subscription of the Logos junior high program.

PROJECT 4: VALUE SCOPING SESSION FOR A.L. HORTON ELEMENTARY AND VEGREVILLE COMPOSITE HIGH

There are currently two EIPS schools in Vegreville, providing kindergarten to Grade 12 education to students living in the town and surrounding areas. Currently, neither school is near capacity, and the combined maintenance costs are significant. As such, the Division, in collaboration with Alberta Education, will host a value scoping session with community stakeholders to develop possible options that meet the community's needs.

Before making any decisions on the four projects, the Division will engage school families and the community to ensure the best possible solution.



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Trustee Reports

Trustees shared information and highlighted recent events:

- **Vice-Chair Colleen Holowaychuk** attended the Bus Driver Appreciation activities, the EIPS Long Service and Retirement celebration, the May Committee of School Councils (COSC) meeting, her regular school council meetings and the Town of Burderheim Mayor's Gala, which was a wonderful evening. Tonight, she's looking forward to going to Lamont High and watching its Evening of One Acts.
- **Trustee Cathy Allen** attended her regular school council meetings, the May COSC meeting, the Bus Driver Appreciation activities and Trustees' School Tours. She also thoroughly enjoyed the EIPS Long Service and Retirement celebration and watching two in-person live school performances—Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary's production of *Disney Kids Lion King* and Salisbury Composite High's production of *Legally Blonde*. Lastly, she spoke about the recent school shooting in Texas, which weighs heavy on her heart. It's incredibly sad and alarming, and her thoughts are with the impacted students, teachers and families.
- **Trustee Randy Footz** attended school council meetings for A.L. Horton Elementary and Vegreville Composite High, the May COSC meeting, EIPS Long Service and Retirement celebration, and thanked Associate Superintendent Brent Billey and the Human Resources department for organizing such an enjoyable evening. He also took part in the Trustees' School Tours and A.L. Horton's spring concert—*Vesna*, featuring members of the Ukrainian Bilingual Program.
- **Trustee Don Irwin** attended ABSA's professional learning session, his regular school council meetings, the May COSC meeting, the Bus Driver Appreciation activities, EIPS Long Service and Retirement celebration, and various Board and committee meetings. He also thoroughly enjoyed the Trustees' School Tours and Woodbridge Farm Elementary's Culture Camp—which was well done, and he hopes to return next year.
- **Trustee Susan Miller** attended school council meetings for Ardrossan Elementary and Ardrossan Junior Senior High. She also enjoyed the Trustees' School Tours and thanked Bev Facey Community High for the delicious lunch made by the culinary students at the school.
- **Trustee Jacqueline Shotbolt** attended ASBA Zone 2/3 meeting, EIPS Long Service and Retire celebration, the May COSC meeting and her regular school council meetings. She also took part in the Bus Driver Appreciation activities in Fort Saskatchewan and the Trustees' School Tours, which were excellent. She particularly enjoyed touring each facility and listening to students express their love for their school.
- **Trustee Ralph Sorochnan** attended meetings for COSC, Board Caucus, the Board and a number of school council meetings. He enjoyed taking part in the Bus Driver Appreciation activities and having the chance to thank those individuals in person. Similarly, he enjoyed the Trustees' School Tours, which he describes as amazing as it allowed the Board to see the fantastic work taking place in EIPS schools and the student engagement. With the school year nearing its end, Trustee Sorochnan's grateful for the excellent work taking place divisionwide. The quantity and standard of work is inspiring, and he feels fortunate to be part of the Division. Lastly, he spoke about the ongoing war in Ukraine and the recent school shooting in Texas—his thoughts and prayers go out to all those facing these events and the aftermath.

Board Members

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

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