

OCT. 20, 2022

Chair's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Board Chair Trina Boymook highlighted several recent events:

- On September 20, Trustee Jaqueline Shotbolt, on behalf of the Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Board of trustees, attended a Division-hosted meeting with Andrew School families. The meeting focused on needed repairs to the school building—the fire suppression system and roof.
- On October 3-7, EIPS celebrated Read In Week, a divisionwide initiative that takes place annually to promote a lifelong love of reading in students. Chair Boymook thanked EIPS schools for inviting trustees to be part of the week. It's always special to read to students and celebrate the power of storytelling.
- On October 5, the Board and Division celebrated World Teachers' Day. Boymook thanked teachers for their commitment to students and the incredible professionalism shown throughout the pandemic.
- On October 5, trustees hosted a Meet-and-Greet with the Committee of School Councils (COSC), followed by the first COSC meeting of the school year. The Board was pleased with the turnout, and Chair Boymook thanked the executive for their work leading the group. The Board looks forward to another great year of discussions with COSC members.
- On October 6, trustees attended the Sherwood Heights Junior High's inaugural Student Wellness Conference, which was excellent in terms of project displays, resources and student turnout.
- On October 6, trustees attended EIPS Connect the Fort, a community event highlighting Fort Saskatchewan-based EIPS schools, programs, supports and services for students and family members. Chair Boymook thanked the schools for inviting the Board to the event.
- On October 14, Trustee Randy Footz represented the Board at the Alberta Teachers' Association Local No. 28 Induction Ceremony to welcome first-year teachers to the Division.

Board Evaluation

On September 19, trustees took part in a Board Self-Evaluation Report workshop. In November, the Board will reconvene to finalize the evaluation recommendations before approving it at the next Board meeting.

Public Engagement

The Board attended several public engagement sessions as part of its Three-Year Public Engagement Plan:

James Mowat Elementary – enrolment pressures engagement; September 22.

Northeast Sherwood Park – junior high attendance boundary engagement; October 3

Logos Christian Program – program enrolment concerns; October 6.

Chair Boymook thanked the school community for participating and for their feedback. Trustees will use the input gathered to help inform decision-making.

Superintendent's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Associate Superintendent Sandra Stoddard highlighted several recent events:

- On October 5, the Division celebrated World Teachers' Day. Associate Superintendent Stoddard thanked all staff for their commitment and the work they do to support students.
- On October 5, the Board hosted a Meet-and-Greet with COSC representatives. The first COSC meeting followed. At the meeting, the Division discussed new EIPS-developed resources being used to support the rollout of the new kindergarten to Grade 6 curriculum. Overall, members were pleased with the quality of resources and how they weave in the competencies.



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- On October 3-7, schools throughout EIPS participated in Read In Week, a divisionwide initiative that takes place annually to promote a lifelong love of reading in students and enhance literacy awareness among students, staff, families and community members. It's always rewarding to watch students as they engage in storytelling and witness where stories can take them.

Public Engagement

Associate Superintendent Stoddard highlighted recent public engagement events—all part of the Division's Three-Year Engagement Strategy.

James Mowat Elementary

On September 22, the Division held a public engagement session about James Mowat Elementary's enrolment pressures. The Division collected feedback about introducing a random selection process for new students, starting in the 2023-24 school year.

Northeast Sherwood Park

On October 3, the Division held a public engagement session about potential changes to the junior high attendance area in Sherwood Park—redesignating regular program junior high students living in Lakeland Village, Summerwood and Summerwood North to Clover Bar Junior High.

Logos Christian Program

On October 6, the Division held a public engagement session about EIPS' Logos Christian Program. The Division's exploring ways to ensure it continues providing high-quality educational experiences to students enrolled in the Logos program.

Association and Employee Relations Reports

ASBA ZONE 2/3 MEETING

Trustee Jacqueline Shotbolt presented highlights from the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 meeting held on September 23. Two key highlights:

- The generative discussions were both informative and productive.
- The fall general meeting takes place November 20-22.

ATA LOCAL REPORT

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

- On October 4, the Local held its second in-person council meeting of the year. In attendance was Jason Shilling, the ATA President, who spoke about the Stand for Education and the upcoming rally—all are encouraged to attend.
- On October 14, the Local hosted its annual Induction Ceremony to welcome first-year teachers to the association. She thanked Trustee Footz for attending and welcoming new teachers to the Division.
- Currently, the Local is busy working on plans for the Stand for Education Rally, taking place on October 22. Throughout the last month, the Local connected with members, teachers, classified staff, retirees and community members to invite them to attend the rally. The local also secured four buses to transport individuals to and from the rally—all are full. Zielke is looking forward to a strong showing to ensure education is a top priority in the next election.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS GROUP REPORT

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

- This year's EIPS Classified Professional Learning Day Conference takes place on May 5.



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- The theme: “With Diversity Comes Opportunity.”
- The keynote speaker: Tina Varughese, a nationally renowned motivational speaker and leading expert on cultural diversity and inclusion.
- Jarvin also thanked Steve Schaar, the Director of Human Resources, and Kaurie Landry, the Human Resource Assistant, for their work in rolling out the Division’s new professional learning web page.

New Business

BOARD POLICY AMENDMENTS: POLICY 8

The Board approved an amendment to [Board Policy 8: Board Committees](#). The change allows community members on the Audit Committee to apply to serve additional two-year terms—removing a maximum of serving two consecutive terms.

MODULAR CLASSROOM REQUEST: 2022-23

The Board directed EIPS administration to request funding from Alberta Education to address needed changes to several modular classroom units in the 2023-24 school year. If approved, the Division will:

- relocate two modular classrooms to SouthPointe School from École Campbelltown;
- add two new modular classrooms to SouthPointe School; and
- demolish three ageing modular classrooms at Uncas Elementary—followed by a site reclamation.

The Board also directed administration to explore the viability of adding new modular classrooms at James Mowat Elementary. EIPS hopes a decision from the province comes before the end of the 2022-23 school year.

DIVISION CALENDAR

The Board approved the Division calendars for the next two upcoming school years (see pg. 43, “[2023-24 and 2024-25 Calendars](#)”). Highlights include:

2023-24	2024-25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • first day of school – Aug. 31, 2023 • November break – November 6-10 • Christmas break – December 25 to January 5 • second semester starts – February 1 • Teachers’ Convention – February 8-9 • spring break – March 25-29 • last day of classes – June 26, 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • first day of school – Aug. 29, 2024 • November break – November 11-15 • Christmas break – December 23 to January 3 • second semester starts – January 30 • Teachers’ Convention – February 6-7 • spring break – March 24-28 • last day of classes – June 25, 2025

Committee Reports

POLICY COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from the Policy Committee meeting held on October 6. The committee reviewed Policy 8. The recommended amendments were approved by the Board during this meeting in the New Business section.

STUDENT EXPULSION COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from the Student Expulsion Committee meeting held on October 18. The committee reviewed all submitted information and upheld school administration’s recommendations.

Reports for Information

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board received for information the Unaudited Financial Report for the 2021-22 school year—September 1 to August 31. The Division ended the 2021-22 school year with an overall operating deficit of \$1.76 million, which was less than budgeted by \$4.58 million. The primary reasons the deficit was lower than budgeted: cautious budgeted COVID-19 costs, changes to grant funding, and school and department surpluses. The planned deficit was offset by operating reserves to cover costs to support schools and departments, post-pandemic recovery efforts and the new curriculum work (see page 49, [“Unaudited Financial Report”](#)).

UNAUDITED ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

The Board received for information the Unaudited Accumulated Surplus Report as of Aug. 31, 2022. The Division’s accumulated surplus totals \$22.69 million, which includes investment in Board funded tangible capital assets (\$5.97 million); unrestricted surplus, operating reserves (\$15.01 million); and capital reserves (\$1.71 million). Included in the operating reserves is the Division Unallocated Reserve, which EIPS maintains to cover emergent issues, price fluctuations and stabilize funding in the future. The Division Unallocated Reserve is at \$10.11 million. (see page 65, [“Unaudited Accumulated Surplus at Aug. 31, 2022”](#)).

EIPS ENROLMENT: 2022-23

The Board received for information the Division’s Enrolment Report for the 2022-23 school year. Enrolment numbers were collected from the PowerSchool database on Sept. 29, 2022. In total, 17,460 students are registered within EIPS—an increase of 336 students from fall 2021.

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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