

**DEC. 15, 2022**

## Chair's Report

### RECENT EVENTS

Board Chair Trina Boymook highlighted a few recent events:

- From November 20 to 22, trustees attended the Alberta School Boards Association's (ASBA) fall general meeting. Together 61 school boards debated the issue resolutions, discussed board successes and challenges, participated in professional learning and networked. Education Minister Adriana LaGrange spoke at the business meeting and shared that the province isn't considering the private-public partnership model for new school builds—welcome news for Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS). The event also included an MLA Breakfast—attended by several provincial elected officials, including Premier Danielle Smith, who addressed trustees, and Nate Glubish, the Minister of Technology and Innovation and member of legislature assembly for Strathcona County-Sherwood Park.
- On November 29-30, trustees took part in a retreat to discuss the Board's direction, priorities and work plan for the remaining 2022-23 school year.
- On December 13, the Board hosted a luncheon with EIPS' Employees Relations Group to meet and get to know the executive better.

### EIPS ASSURANCE REVIEWS

On December 5-8, the Board took part in the Assurance Reviews, a divisionwide forum for schools to share with the Board their individual results, annual plans, successes, challenges and growth opportunities. The sessions were held in the EIPS boardroom and open to school families. The Assurance Reviews allow trustees to gain a holistic understanding of what's happening throughout the Division. Collectively, these help inform future decision-making and Board advocacy efforts.

### SCHOOL PERFORMANCES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Throughout December, trustees are attending several school-based concerts, performances and activities happening within the Division to celebrate the holidays. Chair Boymook thanked all the schools for inviting trustees and said it's something they look forward to every year.

## Superintendent's Report

### RECENT EVENTS

Superintendent Mark Liguori highlighted a few recent events:

- Throughout November and December, the Division conducted its annual Assurance Reviews. Superintendent Liguori 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. He thanked school and department administrators for the work they put into preparing for the reviews, and all EIPS staff for the incredible work they do to enhance student learning every day.
- From November 21 to 22, Superintendent Liguori joined trustees at ASBA's fall general meeting. Overall, it was two days well spent that included thoughtful speakers and valuable information sharing.

### QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE MEDAL

Board Chair Boymook congratulated Superintendent Liguori on receiving a Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal, a new commemorative medal to mark the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada. The medal is handed out to select Albertans who have contributed significantly to the province over the last year. Superintendent Liguori was recognized for his work in helping navigate schools, staff and students through the pandemic.

## Association and Local Reports

### ASBA ZONE 2/3 REPORT

- Trustee Cathy Allen attended the ASBA Zone 2/3 meeting on Dec. 2, 2022. The meetings are always informative and include thoughtful conversation, perspective and professional learning.

### ATA LOCAL REPORT

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

- Phase 2 of the ATA's [Stand for Education](#) campaign is underway. Already, roundtable discussions have taken place in Calgary and Edmonton. The discussion focused on new ideas, approaches and solutions for public education. More roundtables are planned in southern and northern Alberta.
- The Local is hosting a similar roundtable discussion at Bev Facey Community High on January 18—sign-up information coming in the new year.
- Zielke is pleased to see the return of in-person holiday performances. The events help re-engage school families by bringing everyone together.
- Zielke wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and wonderful New Year.

### EMPLOYEE RELATIONS GROUP REPORT

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

- In January, the ERG plans to focus on updating its association brochure—including adding information and clarifying what the ERG does.
- The ERG also plans to work on updates and edits to the *Classified Handbook*.
- Jarvin thanked the Board for hosting a dinner with ERG executive members—it was much appreciated.
- Javin wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## New Business

### BUSINESS ARISING FROM IN CAMERA

The Board approved three motions arising from the in-camera session:

1. that the Board approve the bargaining objectives for the upcoming local negotiations with the Alberta Teachers' Association Local No. 28;
2. that the Board approve the appointment of Brent Billey and Simon Grinde as the bargaining committee spokesperson; and
3. that the Board approve Special Matter 004-2022.

### BOARD SELF-EVALUATION

The Board approved the Board Self-Evaluation Report, which was developed on Sept. 19, 2022. The Board also authorized the Board Chair to monitor the agreed priorities and suggestions and to bring items forward for the Board's consideration as deemed appropriate.

### RESERVE TRANSFER

The Board approved the transfer of \$1 million from its operating reserves to its capital reserves to support the Division's Salisbury Composite High stormwater project.



## Committee Report

### STUDENT EXPULSION COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from the Student Expulsion Committee meeting held on December 2. The committee reviewed all relevant information and upheld the recommendations put forward.

### POLICY COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from the Policy Committee meeting held on December 12. The committee reviewed four policies. The committee will bring all recommended amendments to the Board Caucus meeting in January.

## Report for Information

### THREE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY: EIPS LOGOS CHRISTIAN PROGRAM

The Board received for information an update on one of the projects listed in the Division's Three-Year Engagement Plan. In May 2022, EIPS developed a Three-Year Engagement Strategy. The plan identifies areas where the Division can improve operations to best serve students. In total, there are four engagement projects listed within the plan. Project 3 is a review of the EIPS Logos Christian Program to ensure it continues providing a high-quality educational experience for students.

Over the last few years, enrolment in Logos has declined significantly, making it challenging to offer fulsome Logos programming. To determine the best possible solution for addressing the enrolment decline, EIPS consulted the Logos school community, using a two-phased engagement approach, between June and October of 2022. Initially, EIPS planned to bring forward a recommendation for Project 3: Logos Christian Program Review in November 2022. However, the feedback from Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the public engagement effort indicated the Logos community wanted time to promote the program before the upcoming returning student registration process. As such, the Division has postponed a final decision about the Logos programming until after the returning student registration process takes place in February 2023.

If registrations increase significantly, EIPS will recommend the Board keep the elementary program unchanged at both Brentwood Elementary and Westboro Elementary. If registrations stay relatively flat, EIPS will recommend the Board consolidate the elementary program at Brentwood Elementary, starting in 2023-24.

Overall, the delay allows the Board to see the actual registration numbers for Logos in 2023-24, and it gives Logos the time to promote the program leading up to the returning student registration process. The Board will ensure the decision it makes is in the best educational interests of all students—expected mid-March. EIPS will also continue to review all elementary and junior high Logos program locations and their sustainability on an ongoing basis.

### LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSES

The Board received for information a report about the locally developed courses available to students in 2022-23. For the second semester, the Division is renewing three locally developed courses—musical theatre 15, 25, and 35. It also acquired two new locally developed courses—self-directed learning 15-3 and social skills 15-5 (see pg. 75, "[Locally Developed Courses: 2022-23](#)").

### BULLYING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK

The Board received for information a report regarding Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week 2022, which took place November 14-18. Staff and students throughout EIPS took part in a variety of activities focused on



# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

ways to promote kindness and healthy relationships. School activities included morning announcements, presentations on bullying and healthy relationship building, 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, caring, 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 2022**

The Board received for information the Unaudited Financial Report for EIPS, prepared by Financial Services. As of Nov. 30, 2022, revenues exceeded expenses, resulting in an operating surplus of \$1.65 million. The operational revenue for the three months was \$49.03 million, which represents 26 per cent of the budget. Meanwhile, total expenses incurred was \$47.38 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. 156, "[Unaudited Financial Report for Sept. 1, 2022 to Nov. 30, 2022](#)").

## **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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