



# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

**MARCH 16, 2023**

## Chair's Report

### RECENT EVENTS

Board Chair Trina Boymook highlighted recent events:

- On February 28, trustees attended Alberta School Board Association's (ASBA) Zone 2/3 Coffee Conversation, which included discussions with other school board trustees about the upcoming election and related advocacy strategies.
- On March 1, Chair Boymook and Superintendent Mark Liguori took part in a budget debrief with Education Minister Adriana LaGrange. The meeting included school board chairs and superintendents from across the province and a high-level overview of the education budget for the 2023-24 school year.
- March 5-7, trustees attended the Alberta Rural Education Symposium, which offered a terrific program and impressive keynote speakers—all related to topic relevant to rural school boards.
- On March 13, Chair Boymook participated in an Alberta Education announcement about new student transportation funding. The Board is now reviewing the announcement details and will share the information with Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) families when it knows more.

### SUBSTITUTE APPRECIATION WEEK

March 13-18 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 much appreciated.

### TRUSTEES' SCHOOL TOURS

On March 16, after the Board meeting, trustees plan to visit Heritage Hills Elementary as part of its 2022-23 Trustees' School Tours. The Board extends thanks to all the staff and students at the school for hosting the tour. Everyone looks forward to learning more about Heritage Hills and the programs offered.

## Superintendent's Report

### RECENT EVENTS

Superintendent Mark Liguori highlighted recent events:

- On March 1, Superintendent Liguori joined Chair Boymook at a budget debrief with Minister LaGrange. Overall, the information provided about the budget is hopeful. Currently, the Division is reviewing all funding documents to develop the Division's 2023-24 spring budget.
- On March 5-7, Superintendent Liguori attended the Alberta Rural Education Symposium. The highlights: keynote speaker Michael Ungar, a Canada Research Chair and Professor in the Dalhousie University's Social Work, who spoke about building resilience in schools; and keynote speaker Clark Banack, the Director of the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities at University of Alberta's Augustana Campus, who spoke about what resilience looks like in rural Alberta.

## Association and Employee Group Reports

### ASBA ZONE 2/3 REPORT

Trustee Cathy Allen attended the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 meeting on February 24. The highlights:

- the launch of ASBA's new election kit to support trustees and their public education advocacy efforts;
- a review of the zone's governance bylaws and emergent position statements for the spring general meeting;
- a discussion of advocacy best practices; and
- details about the 2023 Canadian School Boards Association Congress, taking place in Banff this year.

## ATA LOCAL REPORT

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

- On March 3-4, Zielke attended an ATA political engagement session. The highlight: keynote speakers Graham Thomson, a journalist and political columnist, and Janet Brown, a pollster and a Principal at Janet Brown Opinion Research. Both speakers commented on the current political landscape being one they've not seen yet, all votes mattering and political parties needing everyone's support to win.
- Phase 3 of the ATA's [Stand for Education](#) is underway—focused on class sizes, modernized curriculum and supports for vulnerable students. The campaign includes television, radio, billboards, buses and residential signage ads encouraging people to vote for strong public education in the upcoming provincial election.
- Zielke wished everyone a restful spring break that allows them to recharge and prepare for the last portion of the school year.

## EMPLOYEE RELATIONS GROUP REPORT

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

- Classified Professional Learning Day takes place on May 5. Human Resources is working on finalizing the sessions to ensure an excellent day of learning. Arbuckle-Jarvin also thanked Salisbury Composite High for providing the space to host the learning sessions.
- Feedback from classified staff about the annual professional learning day is always positive, many of whom say it makes them feel acknowledged, worthy and appreciated.
- The ERG is now making the final revisions to its Terms of Reference. Once complete, it will post the updated document on the Division's intranet site.
- The ERG recently worked with Lisa Johnston, EIPS' Occupational Health and Safety Specialist, to develop a safety guideline manual for educational assistants working in Careers and Technology Studies labs.

## New Business

### AMENDMENTED BOARD OF TRUSTEE SCHEDULE

The Board approved the amended Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule for the 2022-23 school year (see pg. 10, "[Amended 2022-23 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule](#)").

### POLICY AMENDMENTS

The Board approved amendments to:

- [Board Policy 5: Role of the Board Chair](#); and
- [Board Policy 14: Hearing on Teacher Transfers](#).

Overall, the approved changes strengthen the policies' clarity, definitions, language and readability.

### ASBA EDWIN PARR AWARD: 2023

The Board approved administration's nomination for this year's EIPS Edwin Parr Teacher Award nominee, Rae-Lynn Billingsley. Annually, the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) hosts the award to honour and recognize first-year teachers and their pedagogical excellence. Billingsley, a first-year teacher at A.L. Horton Elementary, was selected for her outstanding commitment to education, dedication to capacity building and innate ability to encourage a love of learning in students.

### THREE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN: 2024-27

The Board approved EIPS' [2024-27 Three-Year Capital Plan](#). Annually, the Board reviews and updates the plan to prioritize its key capital projects. Last year, the top priority was obtaining construction funding to replace

Sherwood Heights Junior High and École Campbelltown, kindergarten to Grade 9. Now granted, the Divisions new top three capital priorities are:

*Priority 1:* A replacement school for Rudolph Hennig Junior High and Fort Saskatchewan High (grades 7-12).

*Priority 2:* A replacement school for James Mowat Elementary (grades K-6).

*Priority 3:* A modernization and expansion of Vegreville Composite High to accommodate K-12 programming.

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

## LOGOS CHRISTIAN PROGRAM

The Board approved the recommendation to amalgamate EIPS’ elementary Logos Christian program at Brentwood Elementary, effective in the 2023-24 school year. Amalgamating the elementary allows for a more viable program, with sustainable student numbers and available student capacity, to hopefully, once again, grow the program in future years.

As background, the elementary Logos program has experienced a significant drop in enrolment over the last decade—making fulsome programming challenging. To address the issue, EIPS consulted the Logos school community, between June and October of 2022. Through the engagement efforts, the Logos community asked EIPS to postpone a decision to allow it time to promote the program. The Division listened and delayed a decision until after the 2023-24 returning student registration process to see the actual anticipated registration numbers for Logos in the upcoming year. During the consultations, the Division shared, if enrolment increased significantly, EIPS would recommend the elementary Logos program remain unchanged at both Brentwood Elementary and Westboro Elementary. And, if enrolment remained low, it would recommend the Board consolidate the elementary Logos program at Brentwood Elementary, effective for the 2023-24 school year.

After reviewing all the registration information for 2023-24, enrolment in the elementary Logos program did not increase significantly. Instead, it decreased by five students, from the current year. Amalgamating at Brentwood Elementary will offers students a more robust program and space to grow, if required.

Now approved, EIPS will re-open the returning student registration to affected families so they can confirm or change the school and program they want their child to attend in 2023-24. Students requiring busing are subject to EIPS Student Transportation eligibility rules and fees.

## ADJUSTED ATTENDANCE BOUNDARY: CAMBRIAN CROSSING

The Board approved the adjusted regular program attendance boundary for the Cambrian Crossing area structure plan, made up of two new neighbourhoods in Strathcona County—Cambrian and Hearthstone. The table below details the adjusted attendance boundaries for regular programming, effective immediately:

NEIGHBOURHOOD	ELEMENTARY	JUNIOR HIGH	SENIOR HIGH
CAMBRIAN	Westboro Elementary	Clover Bar Junior High	Salisbury Composite High
HEARTHSTONE	Glen Allan Elementary	F.R. Haythorne Junior High	Bev Facey Community High

## EIPS FOUR-YEAR EDUCATION PLAN: 2022-26

The Board reaffirmed its [EIPS Four-Year Education Plan](#), which details the Division’s mission, belief statements, 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 Division will use the reaffirmed EIPS Four-Year Education Plan to develop its 2023-24 spring budget and determine the performance measures and strategies the Division will use to meet each priority, goal and outcome in the 2023-24 school year.



# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

## Committee Report

### STUDENT EXPULSION COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from the Student Expulsion Committee meetings held on February 17, February 28 and March 14. The committee reviewed all relevant information and upheld the recommendations put forward by school administration.

### POLICY COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from the Policy Committee meeting held on March 14. The committee reviewed five policies—all will come forward to the Board at the next public meeting in April.

## Reports for Information

### FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS: 2022-23

The Board received for information a report regarding the Division's financial projection for the 2022-23 school year. Overall, there are no areas of concern, deficits or excessive surpluses. Briefly, EIPS projects its accumulated surplus to drop by \$15.8 million from its audited balance on Aug. 31, 2022. The decrease is primarily the result of its asset retirement obligation restatement (\$9.3 million), a new accounting standard requirement for EIPS' building abatement costs when the Division retires a building—typically covered by the province the year the building is retired. Other factors include operating reserves decreasing by \$2.9 million, capital reserves falling by \$800,000 and tangible capital assets increasing by \$8.3 million. Overall, the budget variance is \$7.3 million. That's mostly the result of changes in the estimated asset retirement obligation balance and other unbudgeted projected surpluses at schools and departments. As well, the projected Division Unallocated Reserve remains close to budget with a slight \$100,000 variance, which, when combined with other operating reserves, is within the province's operating reserve limit (see pg. 87, "[Financial Projections 2022-23](#)").

### UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2022 TO FEBRUARY 2023

The Board received for information the EIPS Unaudited Financial Report for the six-month period ending Feb. 28, 2023. Overall, revenues exceeded expenses resulting in an operating surplus of \$207,000. Revenue for the six months is \$97.5 million, which represents 51 per cent of the year-to-date budget—an expected percentage for the fiscal year midpoint. Meanwhile, total expenses are \$97.7 million, representing 49 per cent of the year-to-date budget—slightly below what the Division anticipated (see pg. 99, "[Unaudited Financial Report for Sept. 1, 2022 to Feb. 28, 2023](#)").

### TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND INFORMATION REQUESTS

On behalf of the Board, Trustee Footz expressed his sincere condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of the two Edmonton police officers who were killed in the line of duty earlier on March 16.

## 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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