



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

AUG. 24, 2023

Chair's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Board Chair Trina Boymook highlighted recent trustee events:

- On July 3-5, Chair Boymook, Vice-Chair Colleen Holowaychuk and trustees Jacqueline Shotbolt and Cathy Allen attended the Canadian School Boards Association's 2023 National Gathering and Congress in Banff, Alta. The Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) was this year's host, which organized an impressive lineup of speakers; First Nations, Métis and Inuit traditions; and valuable networking opportunities for school board trustees from across the country.
- On August 21, to kick-start the school year, Chair Boymook attended and spoke at the Elk Island Public Schools Leadership meeting with principals, directors, assistant principals and assistant directors. As always, it was exciting to be there, to meet with everyone and feed off all the positive energy. Divisionwide, everyone's looking forward to welcoming students back to class on August 31.
- On August 23, trustees participated in a professional learning session, which focused on building a first-team mindset.

NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION

Chair Boymook was honoured to meet the Division's newest employees at the annual Off to a Good Start conference, an orientation program for new EIPS staff and administrators. The orientation ran from August 22-23. Chair Boymook brought greetings at the event on behalf of the Board. She's thrilled to have the new staff joining the EIPS team and wishes them the best in the upcoming school year.

WELCOME BACK PANCAKE BREAKFAST

On August 24, the Board hosted a Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast for staff at EIPS Central Services. The breakfast is an annual event trustees put on to kick-start the school year and thank EIPS staff for the work they do for the Division. Chair Boymook thanked her fellow trustees and Carol Langford-Pickering, the Executive Assistant to the Board of Trustees, for helping organize the breakfast.

BOARD EVALUATION

On August 24, after the Board meeting, trustees participate in a Board Self-Evaluation Report workshop, which the Board uses to map its work and functions for the upcoming year.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Ralph Sorochan thanked all EIPS schools and departments for their work preparing for the school startup. Trustees are all looking forward to the 2023-24 school year.

Superintendent's Report

STARTUP AND WELCOME

With the 2023-24 school year officially starting on August 31, Superintendent Sandra Stoddard offered a warm welcome to all staff, students and their families who are either new or returning to the Division for the 2023-24 school year. Given the Division's unwavering commitment to student success, she is confident the upcoming year will be a great one for everyone within EIPS.

Superintendent Stoddard also introduced three new members of the EIPS Executive Team:

- Ragan Johnson, the Associate Superintendent of Human Resources;
- Ryan Marshall, the Associate Superintendent of Support for Students; and
- Weylin Gilewich, the Director of Information Technologies.

As well, throughout the summer, EIPS staff were busy planning and preparing for the new school year to ensure students have another successful academic experience. Most recently, the Division held its first Leadership meeting of the year, which included all principals, directors, assistant principals and assistant directors. The energy was palpable, and everyone's looking forward to welcoming students on August 31. Human Resources also hosted its annual Off to a Good Start conference, an orientation program for new principals, assistant principals, teachers and classified staff.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

On August 17, Superintendent Stoddard took part in the Walk Alongside Alberta meeting, hosted by the Alberta School Councils' Association. Walk Alongside Alberta is a new initiative to build systemic parent engagement in public education. The key presenter was Debbie Pushor, a professor at the University of Saskatchewan and renowned parent engagement expert, who spoke about her research on the benefits of parent engagement within the education system. EIPS is the first Alberta school division to join the Walk Alongside Alberta initiative.

Association and Employee Relation Reports

ATA LOCAL REPORT

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

- Zielke hopes everyone had a relaxing and rejuvenating summer break.
- On August 14-18, the ATA hosted its Annual Summer Conference. Zielke attended various training and professional learning sessions. The highlight: keynote speaker Tareq Hadhad, a Syrian refugee and founder of Peace by Chocolate, based in Nova Scotia. Hadhad shared a motivational story about his journey to Canada, risk-taking, entrepreneurship, giving back and the power of community. The Local looks forward to bringing some of the ideas he discussed to fruition this year.
- Zielke thanked EIPS Human Resources for inviting her to speak to new teachers at the Off to a Good Start conference.
- Zielke looks forward to the year ahead with hope and a focus on positive change.

New Business

BUSINESS ARISING FROM IN CAMERA

The Board moved the following motion:

- "that the Board of Trustees approve housekeeping amendments to the Strathcona Christian Academy Society Agreement."

TRUSTEE SCHOOL LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE LIST

The Board approved the Trustee School Liaison Representative List for the 2023-24 school year (see pg. 9, ["2023-24 Trustee School Liaison Representative List."](#))



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: 2023-24

NOMINATION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

The Board held its annual organizational meeting, which included nominations and elections for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions. Trustee Cathy Allen was elected the Chair, and Trustee Susan Miller was elected the Vice-Chair. Both individuals will lead the Board of Trustees throughout the 2023-24 school year.

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board approved the regular Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule for the 2023-24 school year (see [Board of Trustees: Meetings](#)”).

BOARD COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS

The Board reviewed the 2023-24 Board Committees and Representative Appointments list. Individual trustees were asked to indicate to the Chair the committees they want to serve on. The Board will approve the finalized list during the Board meeting on Sept. 21, 2023.

Board Members

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cathy Allen, *Board Chair* | P 780 417 8109

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

www.eips.ca | Twitter: [@eips](#) | Facebook: [elkislandpublicschools](#)