



**AUG. 22, 2024**

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## BOARD MEETING: Aug. 22, 2024

### Chair’s Report

#### RECENT EVENTS

Board Chair Cathy Allen highlighted recent trustee events:

- On June 24, trustees met with Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaidis. The focus: The Division’s No. 1 capital priority—a new collegiate-style junior-senior high replacement school in Fort Saskatchewan. Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, the Parliamentary Secretary for Settlement Services and Ukrainian Evacuees and a Member of Alberta’s Legislative Assembly for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville, was also in attendance and offered her support for the replacement school, as it will help meet the community’s needs.
- On July 18, trustees attended a Sherwood Park and District Chamber of Commerce Luncheon. The highlight: the provincial update by Premier Danielle Smith. A common theme: The shortage of skilled tradespeople within Alberta and Strathcona County, which further supports the Board’s request for a collegiate-style junior-senior high replacement school.
- On July 25, Chair Allen met with Nate Glubish, the Minister of Technology and Innovation and Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for Strathcona-Sherwood Park. Overall, it was a productive meeting that allowed the pair to discuss recent updates and shared advocacy priorities.

#### NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION

Chair Allen 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 20-23. Chair Allen 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 22, 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 staff for the work they do for the Division. Chair Allen thanked her fellow trustees; Carol Langford-Pickering, the Executive Assistant to the Board of Trustees; and Debbie Oloriz, the Education Executive Administrative Assistant, for helping organize the breakfast.

### Superintendent’s Report

#### STARTUP AND WELCOME

With the 2024-25 school year officially starting on August 29, Superintendent Sandra Stoddard offered a warm welcome to all staff, students and school families, who are either new or returning to the Division. She’s looking forward to the year ahead and is confident it will be another great year for everyone within EIPS.

Over the summer, staff at Central Services were busy planning and preparing for the new school year to ensure students have another successful academic experience. Part of that preparation work included the Off to a Good



# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Start conference, an annual orientation program hosted by Human Resources for new principals, assistant principals, teachers and classified staff. The conference took place August 20-23. Superintendent Stoddard said it was exciting to meet with everyone and feel the positive energy. She also thanked the Board for hosting its annual Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast—a tradition staff members look forward to year after year.

## RECENT EVENTS

Superintendent Sandra Stoddard also highlighted recent events:

- On July 18, she joined the Board at the Sherwood Park and District Chamber of Commerce Luncheon, featuring a provincial update by Premier Danielle Smith.
- On July 19, she attended a virtual Strathcona County Community Safety and Well-Being Stewardship Committee meeting. The focus: ways to collaborate and work toward achieving the goals outlined in the Community Safety and Well-Being Strategy.
- On August 12-14, senior administration participated in a planning retreat for the 2024-25 school year. The meeting focused on upcoming projects and developing a long-term vision for the Division to best serve students now, and well into the future.
- On August 20, the Division hosted its first Leadership meeting of the year—with principals, directors, assistant principals and assistant directors. Divisionwide, everyone's looking forward to welcoming students back to class on August 29.

## 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.

- On behalf of the ATA, Zielke extended condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Paul Froese, a former teacher and ATA District Representative, who passed away in July. Throughout the course of his career, he served the ATA, taking on various roles and responsibilities, and was seen as a mentor by many. He'll be remembered for his passion for public education and is missed by many.
- On August 12-16, the ATA hosted its Annual Summer Conference. Zielke attended various training and professional learning sessions. The highlight: a political engagement session focused on the upcoming school trustee elections, upcoming engagement campaigns and how members can support the ATA's advocacy efforts for adequate education funding.
- On August 21, Zielke attended EIPS' Off to a Good Start conference to meet with new teachers joining the Division. She thanked EIPS for the invitation to attend—it's something she looks forward to year after year.

### EMPLOYEE RELATIONS GROUP REPORT

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

- The ERG's first meeting for the 2024-25 school year takes place on September 17.
- On August 20, Miller attended EIPS' Off to a Good Start conference. It was great to meet the Division's newest classified staff. She thanked Human Resources for the initiation.
- ERG members are looking forward to school startup and the year ahead.

## New Business

### TRUSTEE SCHOOL LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE LIST

The Board approved the Trustee School Liaison Representative List for the 2024-25 school year (see pg. 11, "[2024-25 Trustee School Liaison Representative List](#)").



# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

## TRANSFER TO CAPITAL RESERVES

The Board approved transferring \$1 million to the Division capital reserve from the operating reserve to ensure EIPS' surplus remains under the province's mandated operating reserve limit. The Board also directed administration to provide a report detailing allocations for capital projects before trustees approve the 2024-25 fall budget.

## BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: 2024-25

### 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 acclaimed the Chair, and Trustee Susan Miller was acclaimed the Vice-Chair. Both individuals will lead the Board of Trustees throughout the 2024-25 school year.

### BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board approved the regular Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule for the 2024-25 school year (see, "[Board of Trustees: Meetings](#)").

### BOARD COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS

The Board reviewed the 2024-25 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. 19, 2024.

### ALLOCATION OF ONE-TIME FUNDING

The Board approved allocating an additional \$1.6 million to schools for the 2024-25 school year. Over the summer, EIPS received an added \$1.6 million in one-time funding from the province. Of that, \$50,000 will go to Next Step schools, \$66,130 will go to the Educational Assistant Capacity Building Project and the remainder will go to schools throughout the Division—based on a classroom complexity algorithm to ensure equitable access. If there are any other needed adjustments to the 2024-25 budget, including shortfalls, EIPS will fund these through its reserves.

### SUPERINTENDENT COMPENSATION

The Board approved adjustments to the Superintendent's compensation package.

## Board Members

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

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