

SEPT. 19, 2024

Chair's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Board Chair Cathy Allen highlighted recent trustee events:

- On September 11, trustees attended a provincial funding announcement at Bev Facey Community High. At the event, the province celebrated the opening of nine new CASA Mental Health classrooms across Alberta, including one at Bev Facey. Another 60 CASA classrooms are expected to open throughout the province over the next three years. Each CASA classroom provides tailored mental health supports and services for students experiencing persistent mental health symptoms.
- On September 12, the Board hosted a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the start of construction on the Sherwood Park replacement school, a new kindergarten to Grade 9 school replacing École Campbelltown and Sherwood Heights Junior High. Chair Allen thanked Communication Services for organizing the event and Trustee Trina Boymook for the extensive work that went into securing funding for the new build.
- On September 17, the province announced new capital funding to address the province's enrolment pressures within schools. The province will use the added money to construct more new schools, modular classroom units and modernizations—over a three-year period.
- On September 18, trustees attended a town hall related to the provincial capital funding announcement—facilitated by Premier Danielle Smith and Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaidis. The meeting gave Alberta-based trustees, school administrators and educators the chance to ask questions and learn more about the new funding.
- On September 18, trustees attended a luncheon and general meeting hosted by the Sherwood Park and District Chamber of Commerce.

Superintendent's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Superintendent Sandra Stoddard highlighted several recent events:

- On September 11, Superintendent Stoddard joined trustees at Bev Facey for the CASA classroom provincial funding announcement. Currently, EIPS has two CASA classrooms—one in Sherwood Park and another in Fort Saskatchewan. The hope: To soon add other CASA classrooms in the Division's rural areas.
- On September 12, Superintendent Stoddard joined the Board to celebrate the official groundbreaking ceremony for the new Sherwood Park replacement school. Staff are looking forward to moving into the new building and teaching in a state-of-the-art facility.
- On September 13, Superintendent Stoddard and senior administration attended the College of Alberta School Superintendents Zone 2/3 meeting. The highlights: a presentation by Kindy Joseph, the Assistant Deputy Minister for Alberta Education, who discussed several new Alberta Education initiatives, and a collaborative discussion with attendees about common issues, challenges and potential solutions.
- On September 16, Chair Allen and Superintendent Stoddard recorded two videos in preparation for EIPS' Professional Learning Day on October 4. Chair Allen filmed the Land and Peoples Acknowledgment. Superintendent Stoddard filmed a teaser to get staff excited about the day.
- On September 17, Premier Danielle Smith announced added school construction funding to address recent enrolment growth. Currently, Alberta Education is collecting a list of school divisions with site-ready capital projects. As such, the Board sent a letter to the Education Minister letting him know the Division's capital request for a junior-senior high replacement school in Fort Saskatchewan—the No. 1 priority listed in EIPS' *Three-Year Capital Plan*—is site-ready.

Association and Employee Relation Reports

ATA LOCAL REPORT

The Board received for information the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Local No. 28 report from Maxine Holm, the Local's Communication Officer.

- Recently, the Local completed its executive strategic planning and looks forward to several new initiatives.
- The Local executive for 2024-25 includes:
 - Deneen Zielke, President
 - Dave McKinnon, Vice-President and Local Political Engagement Officer
 - Vanessa Benoit, Treasurer
 - Maxine Holm, Local Communications Officer
 - Naomi Halcrow, Secretary
 - Kim Zapesocki, Women in Leadership Chair
 - Sandy Johnson, Professional Development Chair
 - Jennifer Fredeen, Teacher Welfare Committee Chair
 - Danielle Morin, Teacher-Board Advisory Committee Chair
 - Danielle Booker, Diversity, Equity and Human Rights Chair
- On September 24, the Local held its first council meeting. The focus for 2024-25: adequate public education funding. Various advocacy campaigns are planned to build public and provincial support.
- On November 8, the ATA will host its annual Induction Ceremony, an annual celebration to welcome new teachers to the profession. Holm is looking forward to the event and having the Board there.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS GROUP REPORT

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

- On September 10, the ERG committee held its first meeting for the 2024-25 school year. Members shared their experiences with school startup—always a hectic time but a success overall.
- Throughout the 2023-24 school year, classified staff completed the Job Information Questionnaire. Human Resources is now analyzing the survey data. The ERG looks forward to related updates once the data review is complete.
- The 2024-25 school year is off to a good start, and ERG members look forward to the year ahead.

New Business

ACTING CHAIR SCHEDULE

The Board approved the Acting Chair Schedule for 2024-25. The schedule assigns a trustee to serve in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair (see pg. 13, "[Acting Chair Schedule 2024-25](#)").

GOVERNANCE AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

The Board approved piloting a new committee for the 2024-25 school year—the Governance and Evaluation Committee. Throughout the year, the committee will review the *Board Handbook*, develop the Board retreat agenda, work on the Superintendent evaluation, Board self-evaluation and Board work plan, and prepare for the upcoming trustee election and related onboarding. After the year, trustees will determine whether or not to make Governance and Evaluation a standing committee going forward.

TRUSTEE REMUNERATION

The Board approved the trustee remuneration for the 2024-25 school year—unchanged from the previous year.



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

BOARD POLICY 24

The Board approved rescinding Policy 24: Personal Communication Devices. The guidelines for personal communication device usage in schools are now outlined in an [administrative procedure](#).

COLLABORATION AND PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

The Board reviewed extensive research on the impact collaboration and professional learning have on student achievement. The research clearly demonstrates teacher collaboration enhances collective efficacy, pedagogical practices and student outcomes. Given a key EIPS priority is “enhancing growth and success for all students,” the Board wants to explore alternative Division calendars that embed formal collaboration time.

As such, the Board directed administration to:

1. Develop alternate Division calendar options, 2025-26 and 2026-27, for the Board’s consideration—with collaborative teacher-learning opportunities and a November break embedded within each option.
2. Survey EIPS stakeholders to collect feedback about the possible calendar options.
3. If an alternative calendar is approved, create a new draft administrative procedure, entitled Collaboration and Professional Time, outlining expectations related to professional collaborative learning time.

Reports for Information

PROGRAM UPDATE: READ AND LEVERAGING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The Board received for information an update on two literacy and numeracy intervention pilot projects: the Reading Enrichment and Development (READ) pilot project and a junior high pilot project funded through Leveraging Student Achievement. In 2023, EIPS launched the READ pilot project, a program aimed at improving student reading achievement through targeted intervention based on the science of reading. Seven schools took part in the program—five in Fort Saskatchewan and two rural schools. Each school received two rounds of intervention for a seven-week period, which included pre- and post-intervention assessments. In total, 50 students took part in READ, receiving intervention in four small-group sessions a week, with each session lasting 40 minutes. Post-intervention testing showed significant improvements for learners—specifically in the areas of letter identification, sounds and phoneme manipulation.

EIPS also used Board-allocated Leveraging Student Achievement funding to address learning gaps seen at the junior high level. In 2023-24, four schools were selected for literacy intervention and four schools for numeracy intervention—based on Star Reading, Star Math and Provincial Achievement Test scores. Schools received six weeks of intervention programming, totalling 12 hours of targeted instruction per student. In total, 55 students received literacy support, and 57 received numeracy support. Similar to the READ program, post-intervention testing demonstrated improved outcomes for students.

Thanks to the success of the READ pilot project, the Division has expanded the program to include all elementary schools across the Division. It’s also reviewing next steps for the junior high pilot.

FACILITY SERVICES: 2023-24 SUMMER PROJECTS UPDATE

The Board received for information an update on Facility Services’ summer projects in 2024. Throughout the summer months, Facility Services oversaw a total of 387 projects, including 36 capital projects and 351 maintenance projects—now 92 percent and 95 percent complete, respectively. Collectively, the projects ranged in nature and included improvements to electrical, roofing, interiors, exteriors, mechanical equipment and flooring at various EIPS schools. Project highlights include:



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

GENERAL SUMMER PROJECTS

- Phase 1 of a landscape refurbishment at SouthPointe School.
- Gym floor refinishing at Bev Facey Community High.
- Keying all school entrances and installing fobs at all EIPS schools.
- Modular classroom unit installation at Ardrossan Elementary.
- Vermiculite abatement at eight EIPS schools.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Phase 2 of the Salisbury Composite High Stormwater System Replacement Project.
- Replacement of the exterior doors and windows at Brentwood Elementary and Glen Allan Elementary.
- Replacement of the main electrical distribution system at Clover Bar Junior High.
- Replacement of the air handling unit at École Parc Élémentaire.
- Replacement of the hallway ceiling and LED lighting at Woodbridge Farms Elementary.

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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