

Aug. 29, 2019

Your Future in MIND

Board Members

Trina Boymook, Chair
Heather Wall, Vice-Chair
Randy Footz
William (Skip) Gordon
Colleen Holowaychuk
Annette Hubick
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Chair's Report

Welcome to Another School Year

Board Chair Trina Boymook welcomed everyone to the start of another school year—always an exciting time for Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS). Students return to class on September 3. Trustees are looking forward to the 2019-20 school year.

New Classified Orientation

Chair Boymook had the honour of meeting the Division's newest classified employees at the annual Off To A Good Start conference, an orientation program for new EIPS staff. The orientation ran from August 22-28. 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 29, the Board hosted a Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast for staff at Central Services. The breakfast is an annual event the Board puts on to kick-start the school year and to 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 and flipping pancakes. Overall, the event was well attended, and another great success.

Board Evaluation

Trustees conducted their annual Board Evaluation, which documents the performance of the Board and its effectiveness over the 2018-19 school year.

Superintendent's Report

Startup and Welcome

With the 2019-20 school year officially starting on September 3, Superintendent Mark Liguori offered a warm welcome to the more than 17,150 students and their families, who are either new or returning to the Division. He also thanked the Board for hosting the Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast—a tradition staff looks forward to year after year.

Throughout the summer, EIPS staff 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 Start conference, an annual orientation program

for new principals, assistant principals, teachers and employees. Overall, the event was a huge success.

Association/Local Reports

ATA Local Report

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

- On August 12-16, Zielke attended the ATA Summer Conference with executive members from locals around the province. The conference focus: recent education-related initiatives announced by the province. Specifically, the ATA is concerned about the province's decision to remove teacher input from the new curriculum panel, Bill 9: Public Sector Wage Arbitration Deferral Act and Bill 8: The Education Amendment Act. In response to Bill 9, the ATA has filed a legal challenge and is preparing for the upcoming arbitration. Meanwhile, Bill 8 poses many repercussions for the public school system, particularly the new rules on how Gay-Straight Alliances are established and operated in schools.
- On August 28, Zielke attended the EIPS Off to a Good Start orientation session. At the event, she brought greetings on behalf of the Local, met with new teachers within the Division, encouraged attendees to visit the Local's website and explained how to access its online professional learning account.

New Business

2019-20 Trustee School Liaison Representative List

The Board approved the Trustee School Liaison Representative List for the 2019-20 school year. The complete list is available at eips.ca (see page 13, "[Amended Trustee School Liaison Representative List 2019-20](#)").

Rural Caucus of Alberta Membership

The Board approved the recommendation to withdraw the Division's membership from the Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards, effective Sept. 1, 2019. It also approved amendments to [Board Policy 9: Board Representatives](#) as it relates to the decision to withdraw.

Reports for Information

Administrative Procedure 145: Draft

The Board received for information a draft of [Administrative Procedure 145, Use of Personal Communication Devices](#). The AP, developed to operationalize [Board Policy 24, Personal Communication Devices](#), outlines how cellphones and personal communication devices are used during the school days—by both students and staff. Both Policy 24 and *AP 145* take effect Sept. 1, 2019.

Facility Services: 2019 summer project update

The Board received for information an update on Facility Services' summer projects in 2019. Throughout the summer months, Facility Services oversaw 121 projects across the Division—65 per cent of those are now complete. The projects ranged in nature and included improvements to electrical systems, roofing, interiors, exteriors, mechanical equipment and flooring at various EIPS schools. Other projects included: project managing the construction of Heritage Hills Elementary, the abatement and demolition of the former Ardrossan Elementary building; the demolition of seven modular classrooms at Ardrossan Junior Senior High and Uncas Elementary; and the construction of one modular classroom at École Campbelltown.

Employee Benefit Plan

The Board received for information the 2019-20 Employee Benefit Plan report outlining premium rates for staff under the Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan (ASEBP). New this year, the Division is moving to the Vision Plan 3, which increases coverage to \$400 per person every two years. The Board will also cover 100 per cent of the benefit premiums—a cost previously shared with employees.

Trustee Reports Roundtable

Trustees shared information and highlighted recent events:

- *Vice-Chair Heather Wall* attended and brought greetings at the Division's Off To A Good Start conference, which was a privilege. She's also looking forward to the upcoming school year.
- *Trustee Randy Footz* commended the Superintendent and staff involved in providing grief support and counselling to the school community when a student attending Vegreville Composite High passed away, shortly after the school year ended. The support provided by EIPS was much appreciated.
- *Trustee Annette Hubick* attended the Canadian School Boards Association Annual Congress in Toronto in early July. Overall, the conference was an enriching experience, which included amazing speakers and valuable discussions with trustees from all over Canada.
- *Trustee Harvey Stadnick* attended a golf tournament hosted by the Boys and Girls Club of Fort Saskatchewan over the summer. The money raised will go toward the organization's new building fund and its ongoing programs.