

JUNE 18, 2020

Chair's Report

EIPS BEREAVEMENT

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Boymook extended condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of an Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) employee. Carol Hurl, known as Carlee, was a respected teacher at Uncas Elementary who passed away on May 29, 2020. Throughout Carlee's 39-year tenure, she was admired by her students, staff and EIPS colleagues. She is missed by all.

Association/Local Reports

ASBA SPRING GENERAL MEETING REPORT

The Board received for information a report from Vice-Chair Heather Wall who attended the ASBA Spring General Meeting on June 1, 2020:

- The meeting took place virtually, using the platform Zoom, and included 150 participants.
- Members passed the 2020-21 Budget
- Education Minister Adriana LaGrange also attended the meeting. She spoke about board autonomy, summer school and the *Choice in Education Act*.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Board received for information a report from Trustee Annette Hubick who attended the Partners in Education Foundation meeting on June 10, 2020:

- The board of directors voted in favour of dissolving the Partners in Education Foundation and surrendering its society certificate to the Registrar.
- The foundation was a registered charity that existed to collect and direct donations from individuals and organizations to support initiatives that benefited EIPS students, with a focus on science.
- The foundation's remaining funds are estimated at \$145,000—the board of directors allocated the funds to EIPS, a registered charity, to create:
 - new science kits for when the new curriculum is implemented (\$100,000).
 - a targeted fund (\$45,250) to use however agreed to by Dow Chemical Canada and EIPS.

ATA LOCAL REPORT

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

- The Local is concerned about funding related to the school re-entry plan, specifically related to implementing the proper safety measures. It fears the cost will fall on school boards, which will in turn negatively impact the money available for students in the classroom.
- The Local is also upset by a recent letter sent to all Alberta school board chairs. The letter was from Education Minister LaGrange and directed school divisions to invite members of the legislative assembly of Alberta to graduation ceremonies throughout the province. Zielke said the directive places further limits on families wanting to attend.
- Overall, teachers are worried about the upcoming school year—student and teacher safety, workloads and lower government funding. Going forward, everyone will need to continue to work collectively to support each other.

- Zielke thanked EIPS trustees and senior administration for their hard work these past few months. They've had to switch gears often with minimal notice to address emergent issues. She also thanked them for the continued and clear communication to staff, students and families. She hopes the summer proves restful and allows everyone time to recharge.

New Business

BUSINESS ARISING FROM IN CAMERA

The Board approved the motion that it "... ratify the memorandum of agreement as amended by the provincially appointed mediator's recommendations for the Elk Island Public Schools Teachers' Collective Agreement: Sept. 1, 2018 to Aug. 31, 2020."

BOARD POLICIES

The Board approved amendments to:

- [Policy 9: Board Representatives](#) – The change is the deletion of the Partners in Education Foundation from the policy, as it dissolved on June 10, 2020.
- [Policy 19: Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning and Working Environments](#) – The changes address the Board's commitment to violence and harassment prevention and strengthen and clarify the language within the policy.
- [Policy 21: Expense Transparency](#) – The change addresses requirements for posting receipts.

2020-21 ADMINISTRATIVE FEES: PLAY AND LEARN AT SCHOOL

The Board approved the Play and Learn at School (PALS) fees for the 2020-21 school year. The Division is introducing a new fee schedule for children who don't meet the criteria for PALS programming but meet the criteria for a typically developing twin. Providing programming for a typically developing twin benefits the child with disabilities and the PALS program as a whole (see pg. 31, "[2020-21 Administrative Fees: Play and Learn at School \(PALS\) Fees](#)").

AUDIT ENGAGEMENT LETTER

The Board approved the 2020 audit engagement letter. The letter outlines the services the Division's auditor will provide, and related terms, to EIPS for the fiscal year, ending Aug. 31, 2020.

USE OF RESERVES: 2021 ELECTION

The Board approved transferring up to \$90,486 from the Election Reserve and \$9,514 from the Division Unallocated Reserves to accrue up to \$100,000 for the 2021 election.

Committee Reports

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The Board received for information the report from the Advocacy Committee meeting on May 28. Topics discussed: communicating information about budget decisions, budget impacts for schools and the school re-entry plan.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Board received for information the report from the Audit Committee meeting on June 9. Topics discussed: the audit engagement letter, internal audit report, review procedures for school-based finances and deferral of some internal audits, because of COVID-19, to the 2020-21 school year.

Reports for Information

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT: SEPTEMBER 1 TO MAY 31

The Board received for information the Unaudited Financial Report, prepared by Financial Services, for the nine-month period ending May 31. Overall, expenses exceeded revenues resulting in an operating deficit of \$4.96 million. Revenues were \$3.49-million lower than the year-to-date budget—primarily the result of a funding reduction because of the cancellation of in-school classes and the timing of Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal projects. Similarly, expenses were \$8.40 million below the year-to-date budget, again, because of the cancellation of in-school classes and costs associated with services, contracts and supplies incurred later in the year.

SUMMARY OF FEE CHANGES: 2019-20

The Board received for information a summary of fee changes for the 2019-20 school year—between Jan. 1, 2020 and June 18, 2020. In total, there was one new fee request, which the Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer approved (see pg. 56, "[2019-20 School Fees](#)").

IMR PROJECTS PLAN: 2020-21

The Board received for information the list of projects planned under the Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) program during the 2020-21 school year. Annually, Alberta Education provides school divisions with IMR funding to ensure school facilities meet the necessary regulations and requirements, offer quality learning environments, and improve energy conservation and efficiencies.

For the 2020-21 school year, the approved IMR grant for EIPS is \$5.07 million, which is slightly higher than what was approved in the 2019-20 school year. Multiple projects are identified for the 2020-21 school year—determined through consultations with Facility Services and EIPS schools; the Facility Condition Index; maintenance input and Alberta Infrastructure’s audit information, which includes electrical, roofing, interiors, exteriors, mechanical, flooring and modernization needs. Projects planned for 2020-21: the installation of carbon monoxide detection devices in schools, upgrades to educational areas and facilities, the replacement of several air-handling units and multiple deferred-maintenance projects (see pg. 58, "[2020-21 Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal Projects Plan](#)").

PLAYGROUND SUMMARY REPORT: 2019-20

The Board received for information the 2019-20 Playground Summary Report:

- In Strathcona County, the county is responsible for monthly inspections, maintenance and annual audits. Costs for maintenance and reporting is the responsibility of both Strathcona County (90 per cent) and EIPS (10 per cent). In 2019-20, projects included a new playground for Heritage Hills Elementary; a playground expansion at Wes Hosford Elementary, which is in the planning phase; and a repurposed area at Ardrossan Elementary.
- In the City of Fort Saskatchewan, the city is responsible for monthly inspections, maintenance and annual audits. All costs for maintenance and reporting are shared equally between EIPS (50 per cent) and the City of Fort Saskatchewan (50 per cent). In 2019-20, projects included the installation of two buddy benches at SouthPointe School, expected to be complete in summer 2020.
- In rural areas, playgrounds are inspected monthly by a certified playground inspection company contracted by EIPS. All costs associated with playground inspections (\$40,320) and playground maintenance (\$26,344) are paid by Facility Services using the Plant Operations and Maintenance funding. In 2019-20, projects included maintenance upgrades at Bruderheim School and Lamont Elementary.

FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS AND INUIT REPORT: 2019-20

The Board received for information a report about the First Nations, Métis and Inuit programming within EIPS during the 2019-20 school year (see pg. 66, "[First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Update](#)"). The report highlights include:

- The number of students who self-identify as First Nations, Métis and Inuit increased to 1,132 from 906.
- The Division used the funding from Alberta Education to support school projects, and central initiatives focused on improving educational outcomes for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students—particularly in the areas of literacy and numeracy—and developing staff foundational knowledge to support the Teacher Quality Standard and the Leadership Quality Standard competencies
- The Division hired a Cultural Advisor, Jeremy Albert, to assist with developing meaningful initiatives for students, families and staff. Albert will also help the Division facilitate positive, productive relationships between Indigenous families and school staff.
- The Division developed a [Guide to Promising Practices to Support First Nations, Métis and Inuit Funding Allocation](#), which provides schools with resources to guide their work and allocates funding accordingly.
- Results from the Provincial Achievement Tests, diploma examinations, Star 360 and Math Intervention/Programming Instrument (MIPI) indicate students who identify as First Nations, Métis or Inuit are achieving academic growth.
- Various community partnerships were maintained or formed within the Division and schools that enhance programming.
- All EIPS schools have a First Nations, Métis and Inuit education lead and professional learning is ongoing.
- Most EIPS schools have established relationships with either Elder Wilson or an Elder from the community.
- The Division continues to develop its First Nations, Métis and Inuit resources including a [First Nations, Métis and Inuit website](#) for staff; a [lending library](#) with more than 250 titles written by First Nations, Métis or Inuit authors and illustrators; the Indigenous People's Giant Floor Map; a [Guide to building relationships with Elders](#); an online [self-reflection tool](#); a draft [Guide to Smudging in EIPS](#); lessons and activities to support the Teaching Quality Standard's and Leadership Quality Standard's foundational knowledge development; and EduKits that contain lesson plans, traditional tools, resources, books and activities for teachers to use to engage in Indigenous education.

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL FIELD TRIPS: 2019-20

The Board received for information a report regarding the school field trips—national and international—that took place within the 2019-20 school year. The overall number of field trips is significantly lower than the previous year because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the cancellation of in-school classes.

- Number of national trips: 1
- Number of students who participated in the national trip: 33
- Number of international field trips: 1
- Number of students who participated in the international trip: 20

LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSES REPORT

The Board received for information a report on the locally developed courses available to students in the 2020-21 school year. At the senior high level, the Division is acquiring 30 new locally developed courses, renewing eight courses from the past year and extending 86 courses. At the junior high level, there are no new locally developed course or renewals planned for the upcoming year (see pg. 79, "[Locally Developed Courses](#)").

Trustee Reports Roundtable

Trustees shared information and highlighted recent events:

- **Trustee Randy Footz** attended Vegreville Composite High's virtual school council meeting. Attendance was excellent.
- **Trustee Annette Hubick** attended virtual school council meetings for Salisbury Composite High, Davidson Creek Elementary, Mills Haven Elementary and Clover Bar Junior High. She also attended a virtual presentation hosted by the Alberta School Councils' Association. The keynote speaker was Jody Carrington, a motivational speaker, author and clinical psychologist, who spoke to parents about ways to support children and teachers through the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Trustee Don Irwin** attended Alberta School Board Associations' Spring General Meeting, the Audit Committee meeting and a virtual school council meeting for Fultonvale Elementary Junior High.

Board Members

Trina Boymook, *Chair* | Heather Wall, *Vice-Chair* | Randy Footz | William (Skip) Gordon
Colleen Holowaychuk | Annette Hubick | Don Irwin | Jim Seutter | Harvey Stadnick

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