

DEC. 17, 2020

Chair's Report

ROUNDTABLE: MINISTER OF ADVANCED EDUCATION

On December 9, Board Chair Trina Boymook, trustees, Superintendent Mark Liguori and Associate Superintendent Sandra Stoddard attended a roundtable discussion with Advanced Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaides—hosted by the Fort Saskatchewan and District Chamber of Commerce. Topics discussed: Advanced Education's 10-year strategic plan and its key objectives, and ways to expand the apprenticeship program to include more sectors and careers.

Superintendent's Report

HOLIDAY GREETING

Superintendent Mark Liguori wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He also thanked all EIPS staff, students and families for their contributions to the Division ensuring the school year is as best as possible, given the circumstances. That support is paramount to the success of all students and is much appreciated. He wishes everyone a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and looks forward to having everyone back learning, be it in-school or out-of-school, on Jan. 6, 2021.

Association and Local Reports

ASBA ZONE 2/3 REPORT

Trustee Heather Wall attended the ASBA Zone 2/3 meeting on Dec. 4, 2020. The meeting was held virtually through Zoom. Highlights include:

- Vice-Chair Colleen Holowaychuk, who's also the Zone Chair, did an exceptional job co-ordinating the meetings.
- The various committees shared information.
- The Advocacy Committee's offering a professional learning session for trustees on Feb. 8, 2021.

ATA LOCAL REPORT

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

- Zielke thanked Superintendent Liguori for his holiday greeting. It's been a challenging year for everyone. Teachers and support staff appreciate all the work and efforts done by EIPS Central Services.
- Recently, the Local purchased masks for teachers, which have printed on them "Speak Up for Public Education." The masks are also available for trustees, EIPS' administration team and support staff.
- Zielke hopes everyone has a Merry Christmas and a relaxing break.

New Business

BYLAW 008/20: THE RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE CONDUCT OF SCHOOL TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

Bylaw 008/20: The Rules and Procedures for the Conduct of School Trustee Elections received three readings by the Board and was then passed. The bylaw will guide the upcoming school trustee election.

JUNIOR HIGH HONOURS

The Board directed administration to establish a Junior High Honours system program. Starting in 2021-22, EIPS will offer an honours program at Ardrossan Junior Senior High, F.R. Haythorne Junior High and Sherwood Height Junior High—the same schools the pilot project took place in 2020-21. The program is open to students in grades 8 and 9 who have an academic average of 80 per cent or higher in all four core subjects—language arts, mathematics, science and social studies—along with common entrance criteria, such as teacher rating scales. The program’s aim: To foster an enriched learning environment that challenges and meets the needs of high-achieving students.

PROVINCIAL ACHIEVEMENT TESTS: 2020-21

The Board accepted the recommendation to suspend the Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT) for the 2020-21 school year. Annually, school divisions provincewide administer PATs to students in grades 6 and 9 in language arts, math, science and social studies. Because of the pandemic, Alberta Education made PATs optional for the current school year. Despite the Division’s best efforts, COVID-19 has resulted in considerable disruptions to learning—a result of isolation requirements, missing instructional time because of illness and the temporary online learning. Looking ahead, EIPS anticipates continued COVID-19 related interruptions throughout the new year. As such, it believes cancelling PATs is in the best interest of students for the 2020-21 school year.

Committee Report

POLICY COMMITTEE

The Board received for information the report from the Policy Committee meeting held on December 8. The committee plans to amend three policies, which will come forward to the Board at an upcoming meeting.

Report for Information

BULLYING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK

The Board received for information a report regarding Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week 2020, which took place November 16-20. Staff and students throughout EIPS took part in a variety of activities focused on ways to promote kindness and healthy relationships. School activities included morning announcements, virtual presentations on bullying and healthy relationship building, lesson plans, deeds of kindness and more. In addition to Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week activities, all EIPS schools have ongoing projects and initiatives in place focused on building healthy relationships such as the Seven Sacred Teachings, Random Acts of Kindness, Bucket Fillers, Leader in Me and various community-service programs. Overall, promoting welcoming, inclusive, respectful and safe learning environments for students and staff is a key priority for the Division and is an ongoing commitment it has made to ensure everyone feels welcomed, respected and safe. Trustees thanked schools for the work they do year-round to promote healthy relationships.

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT: SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER, 2020.

The Board received for information the Unaudited Financial Report for EIPS, prepared by Financial Services. As of Nov. 30, 2020, revenues exceeded expenses, resulting in an operating surplus of \$3.24 million. The operational revenue for the three months was \$48.6 million, which represents 25 per of the year-to-date budget. Meanwhile, total expenses incurred was \$45.4 million, which represents 23 per cent of the year-to-date budget. The primary reason for the variance: costs associated with staffing, services and supplies incurred later in the school year (see pg. 186, [“Unaudited Financial Report for Sept. 1, 2020 to Nov. 1, 2020”](#)).

Trustee Reports Roundtable

Trustees shared information and highlighted recent events:

- **Vice-Chair Colleen Holowaychuk** attended school council meetings and the Andrew School Committee meeting. Currently, the committee is putting together a promotional video to highlight Andrew School. She also thanked Superintendent Mark Liguori for the support shown to the school and committee.
- **Trustee Randy Footz** attended the roundtable discussion with Advanced Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaides, A.L. Horton's school council meeting and brought greetings at the school's virtual Christmas concert. He wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and hopes the new year is a better one.
- **Trustee Skip Gordon** wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
- **Trustee Annette Hubick** attended Salisbury Composite High's school council meeting, which included a robust discussion about the four-semester system. She also participated in a webinar hosted by Jody Carrington, a motivational speaker, author and clinical psychologist. The session entitled, "Five Brave Moves ... to Write the Next Pandemic Chapter," focused on the role of trustees during a pandemic. She wishes everyone within EIPS a safe, healthy and happy holiday season.
- **Trustee Don Irwin** attended the roundtable discussion with Advanced Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaides, and congratulated Chair Trina Boymook for the excellent presentation on the Division's Career Pathways program. Trustee Irwin also thanked students, families and staff for all the extra work and care that went into making this school year possible. He encourages everyone to follow the provincial restrictions to help ensure a safe holiday and school year. He wishes everyone and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
- **Trustee Jim Seutter** attended Heritage Hills Elementary's school council meeting. He wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
- **Trustee Harvey Stadnick** attended the November school council meetings and the regular trustee meetings. He wishes everyone a Merry Christmas, as much as is possible, and hopes for a better new year in 2021.
- **Trustee Heather Wall** wishes everyone a happy, healthy holiday season.

EIPS BEREAVEMENT

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Boymook extended condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Lynn Patterson, a former Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) trustee who served on the Board from 1998 to 2017. Patterson had an impressive background that included a master of education and many years of teaching. Throughout it all, he was a staunch advocate of the importance of access to quality education. He will be missed by all.

Board Members

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

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