



JAN. 21, 2021

Chair's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Board Chair Trina Boymook highlighted a recent meeting:

- On January 20, Chair Boymook and Superintendent Mark Liguori met virtually with Strathcona County Mayor Rod Frank and Darrell Reid, the Chief Commissioner of Strathcona County. The four met to discuss Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) recent Sherwood Park Value Scope Session, the reason for the session and the proposed plan moving forward.

Superintendent's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Superintendent Mark Liguori highlighted recent events and shared information:

- On January 20, Chair Boymook and Superintendent Liguori met virtually with Strathcona County Mayor Rod Frank and Darrell Reid, the Chief Commissioner of Strathcona County, to discuss the recent Sherwood Park Value Scope Session and future partnership needs.
- On January 11, EIPS welcomed students back to in-class learning. He's pleased to have students back and schools running as normal as possible. Superintendent Liguori also thanked staff for their efforts to make the transition as seamless as possible.

Association and Local Reports

ATA LOCAL REPORT

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

- On February 4-5, the ATA is hosting its virtual North Central Teachers' Convention.
- Zielke also invited trustees to attend the convention's virtual Partners in Education session featuring keynote speaker Shelley Moore, a renowned expert on effective practices of inclusion, special education, curriculum and professional learning.

New Business

COVID-19 COST UPDATE AND RE-ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

The Board approved changes to the budget estimates for costs related to COVID-19. Recently, administration reviewed the Division's estimated COVID-19 cost for the 2020-21 school year—based on the province's Scenario 1 school re-entry plan. For the most part, costs for personal protective equipment, supplies and custodial services are on target. However, medical illness costs related to COVID-19 are lower than estimated (\$1,000,000). Meanwhile, EIPS requires additional money for its elementary French Immersion out-of-school learning option (\$100,000) and senior high out-of-school learning option (\$80,000). The reason: resource needs and an increase in students, respectively.

The Board also approved an adjustment to the Division's To Be Allocated budget. The additional funds (\$495,411) allows:

- literacy and numeracy consultants, currently teaching out-of-school learners, to begin transitioning back to supporting teachers and students in their respective areas;
- Human Resources to hire a secretary to assist with professional learning efforts; and
- Facility Services to hire a senior buyer to assist with requests for proposal contracts.

SIGNING AUTHORITY MATRIX

The Board approved the amended [Signing Authority Matrix](#) for the Division. Collectively, the changes strengthen the matrix's process, language and clarity (see pg. 14, "[Signing Authority Matrix](#)").

SCHOOL FEE PARAMETERS: 2021-22

The Board approved the school fee parameters for the 2021-22 school year. The parameters are based on the guidelines laid out within the new *Education Act* and the Board's mandate for affordable school fees. Highlights of the 2021-22 school fee parameters include:

- *Optional courses fees* – can increase by five per cent, at a cost-recovery rate—and up to seven per cent for food courses.
- *Noon supervision fees* – can increase by five per cent, at a cost-recovery rate.
- *Activity fees* – can increase by five per cent or more, at a cost-recovery rate.
- *Extracurricular fees* – can increase by five per cent or more, if at a cost-recovery rate.
- *Non-curricular travel fees* – can increase by five per cent or more, at a cost-recovery rate.
- *Non-curricular goods and services fees* – can increase up to five per cent, at a cost-recovery rate.

BOARD POLICIES: AMENDMENTS

The Board approved amendments to the following policies:

- [Policy 7: Board Operations](#) – The edits reflect recent changes made to two ministerial orders, the Board's corporate name and the Division's electoral subdivisions. Other edits strengthen and clarify the language within the policy.
- [Policy 23: School Fees](#) – The edits improve the policy's readability and clarity.

Committee Report

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The Board received for information the report from the Advocacy Committee meeting held on Dec. 17, 2020. Topics discussed: advocacy strategies, successes and challenges, and next steps—such as developing a communications tool for elected officials and the topic for the next Board Chair column.

Report for Information

SCHOOL STATUS REPORT: 2019-20

The Board received for information the School Status Report for the 2019-20 school year. The report identifies enrolment numbers, school utilization rates and per-student costs within the Division. The data is presented by geographic sectors and on a four-year comparative basis to ensure analysis is based on long-term trends and not isolated incidences (see pg. 75, "[School Status Report for 2019-20](#)").

Highlights from the report:

- The average cost per EIPS student is \$6,925, which is a decrease from the previous year—the result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the cancellation of in-school classes.
- EIPS currently has 18 schools operating above the \$6,925 average.
- The Division's utilization rate for 2019-20 increased to 75 per cent—up by two per cent from the previous year.

INTERIM SCHOOL FEE APPROVAL SUMMARY: 2020-21

The Board received for information a summary of fee changes for the 2020-21 school year. To date, the Division has received and approved 36 fee change requests (see pg. 100, "[2020-21 Interim School Fee Approval Summary](#)").

Trustee Reports Roundtable

Trustees shared information and highlighted recent events:

- **Vice-Chair Colleen Holowaychuk** attended various virtual school council meetings. School administration all commented on how nice it is to have students back in-person. Vice-Chair Holowaychuk also attended a video shoot co-ordinated and produced by the Andrew School Committee. The video promotes both the school and community. She thanked the many dedicated volunteers who helped with the video, and Superintendent Liguori and EIPS Communication Services for the continued support. The video debuts in a few weeks.
- **Trustee Skip Gordon** attended the January Committee of School Councils (COSC) meeting, which was a virtual meeting.
- **Trustee Annette Hubick** attended the January COSC meeting and two virtual school council meetings—for Davidson Creek Elementary and Clover Bar Junior High. During the Clover Bar meeting, administration shared preliminary results from its recent survey of in-school students about the school re-entry, the transition to temporary online learning, mental health and general well-being. She applauds this demonstration of valuing student perspective and input.
- **Trustee Don Irwin** attended the January COSC meeting, which included valuable feedback about the transition to temporary online learning. During the Woodbridge Farms Elementary school council meeting, members shared the school raised more than \$35,000 for the Strathcona Christmas Bureau, and school council gave flowers to all staff members at Woodbridge Farms. Meanwhile, the Westboro Elementary school council meeting included a discussion about school fees for the upcoming year. Trustee Irwin looks forward to the remaining three school council meetings this month.
- **Trustee Jim Seutter** attended four school council meetings. Administration and staff all commented on how pleased they are to have students physically back at school.
- **Trustee Harvey Stadnick** attended three school council meetings, which all included discussions about school fees for next year.
- **Trustee Heather Wall** attended various meetings throughout the month, including school council meetings and board meetings.

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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