

MAY 26, 2021

Chair's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Board Chair Trina Boymook highlighted some recent events:

- On April 27, Chair Boymook and Superintendent Mark Liguori virtually attended a Strathcona County public hearing on the Cambrian Crossing area structure plan. At the hearing, EIPS raised its concerns about the proposed joint school site and overall size.
- On May 4, Chair Boymook took part in Fort Saskatchewan's School-Site Agreement Taskforce.
- On May 14, Chair Boymook virtually attended a Sherwood Park and District Chamber of Commerce event. The highlight was keynote speaker Doug Schweitzer, Alberta's Minister of Jobs, Economy and Innovation, who spoke about the province's economic outlook for the coming year. During the question-and-answer period, Chair Boymook discussed the need for all communities to have reliable and equitable access to the internet.

Superintendent's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Superintendent Mark Liguori highlighted some recent events:

- On April 27, Superintendent Liguori joined Chair Boymook virtually at the Strathcona County public hearing. The hearing was on the Cambrian Crossing area structure plan, which details how the county plans to develop and use the land.
- On May 4, Superintendent Liguori also took part in Fort Saskatchewan's School-Site Agreement Taskforce. Established by the City of Fort Saskatchewan, the taskforce determines how school lands are designated, acquired and disposed of.

Association/Local Reports

ASBA ZONE 2/3 REPORT

Trustee Heather Wall attended the ASBA Zone 2/3 meeting on April 23, 2021. The meeting included fulsome discussions about matters of education. Trustee Wall also thanked Vice-Chair Colleen Holowaychuk, the Chair of ASBA Zone 2/3, for her hard work over the last year. She made the meetings invaluable—particularly the professional learning.

ATA LOCAL REPORT

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

- On May 22-24, ATA members across the province met virtually for the 2021 Annual Representatives Assembly. Members brought forward many resolutions. Some of the resolutions, passing with approximately 95 per cent support, include:
 - Express to Education Minister Adriana LaGrange a lack of confidence in the content and design of Alberta Education's draft kindergarten to Grade 6 curriculum.
 - Call on the province to place a moratorium on piloting and implementing the draft K-6 curriculum until submitted for an independent and open review. As well, that the rewriting process include certificated Alberta teachers and faculty from post-secondary institutions.

- Call on the province to delegate responsibility for the redevelopment of the kindergarten to Grade 12 programs of studies to an independent and apolitical provincial curriculum development authority—supported by subject-based program managers from Alberta Education and Alberta-based universities, ATA representatives, teachers and Alberta School Councils' Association representatives.
- Urge the province to include in the K-12 curriculum specific learning outcomes addressing concepts related to gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, LGBTQ2S+ perspectives and historical events.
- Members also supported, by 99 per cent, a vote of non-confidence in Alberta's Education Minister.

New Business

2021-22 BUDGET REPORT

The Board approved the 2021-22 budget based on decisions and discussions put forward by administration and the Board during the [detailed budget presentation](#) on May 20, 2021. The Board approved an operating budget of \$197.18 million for the period of Sept. 1, 2021 to Aug. 31, 2022. Of that, \$190.33 million will come from the Division's annual revenue and \$6.85 million from operating reserves. EIPS will use the operating reserves to cover costs to support schools and departments; professional learning; consultant support; mechanical coolers; non-recurring supplies, services and equipment; and pandemic-related costs.

Briefly, the Division's accumulated surplus is projected to be \$14 million as of Aug. 31, 2022—which includes operating reserves (\$7.53 million), capital reserves (\$690,000) and investment in tangible capital assets (\$5.78 million). Instructional costs comprise 79% of the total budget, equating to \$9,370 per student. System administration spending equates to 2.3% (\$4.45 million) of total expenses, which is below the \$6.30-million targeted grant provided by Alberta Education. And, the Division's Unallocated Reserve is \$1.72 million more than the recommended two per cent of operating expenses. EIPS will use the unused funds for other Divisional uses—as per guidelines listed within the *Funding Manual for School Authorities 2021-22 School Year*.

Overall, the EIPS 2020-21 budget supports the mission, values and priorities of EIPS. Now approved, schools and departments will use EIPS' spring budget to begin planning for the upcoming school year. The complete [EIPS 2021-22 Budget Report](#) is available at eips.ca.

BUDGET REPORT: ALBERTA EDUCATION

The Board also approved the Alberta Education Budget Report for the year ending Aug. 31, 2022 (see pg. 71, "[Budget Report for the Year Ending Aug. 31, 2022](#)").

BOARD POLICIES: AMENDMENTS

The Board approved the following Board Policy amendments:

- [Policy 2: Role of the Board](#) – The changes strengthen the language and clarity of the policy.
- [Policy 8: Board Committees](#) – The changes include a strengthened definition of "Ad Hoc Committees," and removing the reference of a recording secretary from the Advocacy Committee section.

- [Policy 18: Alternative Programs](#) – The changes made improve the policy’s readability, make reference to the *Education Act* and include the Advanced Placement program as an Alternative Program within EIPS.

EIPS FOUR-YEAR EDUCATION PLAN: 2018-22

The Board approved the [EIPS Four-Year Education Plan: 2018-22](#), which details the Division’s priorities, goals and outcomes over a four-year period. The Division’s three key priorities:

- Priority 1: To promote the growth and success of all students.
- Priority 2: To enhance high-quality learning and working environments.
- Priority 3: To enhance public education through effective engagement.

The plan also outlines the performance measures and strategies the Division will use to meet each priority, goal and outcome in the 2021-22 school year.

The 2021-22 school year is the last year of the four-year plan, as the current Board developed it. This fall, EIPS will form a newly elected Board. Once elected, that Board will then begin developing another Division four-year plan using comprehensive stakeholder feedback. EIPS administration, schools and departments use the *EIPS Four-Year Education Plan* to develop and implement strategies that build on the Division's key priorities.

2020-21 CAPITAL RESERVES: CONNECTING LINKS

The Board approved using capital reserves to construct connecting links for six modular units relocating to Ardrossan Junior Senior High (\$30,000) and SouthPointe School (\$50,000). The connecting links are required for the modular units at both schools and not an expense covered by the province. Now approved, construction will start almost immediately using capital reserves earmarked for the 2020-21 school year.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION: 2020-21 PANDEMIC FEE CREDIT

The Board approved a credit for riders who accessed Student Transportation services throughout the entire 2020-21 school year. The reason: Pandemic-related in-school class closures and quarantine requirements resulted in riders not accessing Student Transportation services at the normal frequency. Riders in kindergarten to Grade 6 will receive a five per cent credit of the total transportation fee. Meanwhile, riders in grades 7 through 12 will receive a 10 per cent credit of the total transportation fee. Student Transportation will credit each rider’s PowerSchool Parent Portal account, which families can use toward EIPS fees for the 2021-22 school year.

Committee Reports

STUDENT EXPULSION COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from the Student Expulsion Committee, which held three hearings on April 26. For all three cases, the recommendation for expulsion was upheld.

Reports for Information

2020-21 SUMMER PROJECTS

The Board received for information a report from Facility Services highlighting its projects for summer 2021. In total, 564 projects are planned, which includes 231 Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal projects (\$7.87 million), seven Capital Maintenance Renewal projects (\$2.46 million), and 326 Operational and Maintenance projects. The 2021 summer project highlights include:

INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE AND RENEWAL

- Relocating Next Step Sherwood Park and Next Step Vegreville to Salisbury Composite High and Vegreville Composite High, respectively;
- replacing and preparing roof sections at Fort Saskatchewan High;
- monitoring water flow at all EIPS schools;
- upgrading and repairing the front entrance of Salisbury Composite High;
- replacing or upgrading air-handling units at Ardrossan Junior Senior High, Bev Facey Community High and Brentwood Elementary;
- installing close-circuit television surveillance cameras at schools throughout the Division;
- upgrading the data cabling to CAT 6 at Ardrossan Junior Senior High and Rudolph Hennig Junior High;
- upgrading the heating, ventilating and air-conditioning system at Fort Saskatchewan High; and
- upgrading the kitchen exhaust system at Lamont High.

CAPITAL MAINTENANCE RENEWAL

- Replacing the acoustic ceiling and lighting at École Campbelltown and James Mowat Elementary;
- replacing the electrical distribution at Lamont Elementary and Vegreville Composite High;
- replacing the unit ventilator, pump and fire-alarm at Sherwood Heights Junior High; and
- upgrading the air distribution, micro-duct and ceiling at Wes Hosford Elementary.

In addition, Facility Services continues its closeout work on Heritage Hills Elementary, the demolition and reclamation of the former Wye Elementary, and the relocation of six modular units—two at Ardrossan Junior Senior High and four at SouthPointe School (see pg. 151, [“2020-21 Summer Projects,”](#) for the full list of projects planned in summer 2021).

Trustee Reports Roundtable

Trustees shared information and highlighted recent events:

- **Vice-Chair Colleen Holowaychuk** attended a recent ASBA Speakers’ Corner featuring Kevin Cameron, the Executive Director of the North American Center for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response Inc. She also took part in the May Committee of School Councils (COSC) meeting and her regular school council meetings.
- **Trustee Randy Footz** attended the May COSC meeting and school council meetings for A.L. Horton and Vegreville Composite High.
- **Trustee Skip Gordon** attended virtual school council meetings for Ardrossan Elementary, Ardrossan Junior Senior High and Uncas Elementary.



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- **Trustee Annette Hubick** attended the May COSC meeting and three school council meetings, which all featured two key themes. The first: The Division's recent independent review of Alberta Education's draft curriculum. Overall, school families appreciate having access to the review and describe it as dispassionate, professional and clear. The second was a general sense of gratitude for the collective efforts of staff, students and families in meeting the challenges schools faced this year.
- **Trustee Don Irwin** attended the May COSC meeting and virtual school council meetings for F.R. Haythorne Junior High, Glen Allan Elementary and Westboro Elementary. He also attended the LOGOs Society meeting and Wes Hosford Elementary's annual Senior Tea, which was virtual and included student presentations from each class.
- **Trustee Jim Seutter** attended the May COSC meeting and four school council meetings.
- **Trustee Harvey Stadnick** attended his regular school council meetings. He also mentioned the Division's recent independent review of the draft K-6 curriculum. It's an excellent document, and he hopes all EIPS families review it.
- **Trustee Heather Wall** attended her regular school council 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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Trina Boymook, *Board Chair* | P 780 417 8101

Laura McNabb, *Director, Communication Services* | P 780 417 8204

www.eips.ca | Twitter: [@eips](https://twitter.com/eips) | Facebook: [elkislandpublicschools](https://www.facebook.com/elkislandpublicschools)