

JUNE 17, 2021

Special Presentation: First Nations, Metis and Inuit

Board Chair Trina Boymook started the meeting with the Land and People Acknowledgement and a statement from EIPS: "... As a Division, we stand in solidarity with everyone who suffered, and continues to suffer, because of trauma inflicted by Canada's residential school system. Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) has undertaken programs and initiatives based on respect, co-operation and partnership that embrace Indigenous teachings, heritage and contributions to enhance our understandings ... More work is needed to fully understand the full truth of what occurred at residential schools and to move forward with meaningful reconciliation."

Chair Boymook then introduced Cheryl Devin and Jeremy Albert, a consultant and advisor with EIPS' First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Centre. Both Devin and Albert thanked the Board and Division for its support over the years and the recent public acknowledgement of the mass grave site found in Kamloops, B.C. They also thanked all First Nations, Métis and Inuit lead teachers within the Division. Through that collective effort, the centre is better positioned to engage students and staff about Indigenous histories, perspectives and cultures.

Highlights of the First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Centre's work this year includes:

- supported teachers in meeting the First Nations, Métis and Inuit competencies, as outlined in the teaching and leadership quality standards;
- helped schools, teachers and students create ethical spaces where Indigenous and non-Indigenous can gather in friendship and dialogue, and that act as pathways for truth-telling and reconciliation;
- developed outdoor learning spaces for teachers and students to learn from the land—supported by a grant from Shell Canada;
- loaned out EduKits, which contain cross-cultural connections—the kits are so popular the centre created a second set to keep up with demand;
- purchased a second Indigenous Peoples Giant Floor Map—used to teach students about the history of the land from an Indigenous perspective;
- hosted a series of engagement sessions for school families—three sessions for families who want to learn more about Indigenous cultures, perspectives and histories, and three for self-identified First Nations, Métis and Inuit families to engage in conversation with the centre's team; and
- for National Indigenous History Month, the Centre's supporting schools throughout EIPS as they co-ordinate activities and lesson plans that celebrate Indigenous history and the beauty, diversity and strength of Indigenous Peoples and cultures.

Chair's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Board Chair Trina Boymook highlighted recent events:

- On June 1, the Board of Trustees and the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Local No. 28 met virtually to discuss matters of mutual interest.
- On June 2, Chair Boymook and Superintendent Mark Liguori participated in a Fort Saskatchewan school-site agreement taskforce meeting. Topics discussed: processes and the taskforce structure.

- On June 2, Chair Boymook attended the virtual Alberta School Boards Association's (ASBA) Edwin Parr Awards. She congratulated Haven Wong, a first-year special education mathematics teacher at Sherwood Heights Junior High, who was EIPS' nominee this year.
- On June 7-8, trustees took part in ASBA's virtual spring general meeting and professional development sessions. Over the two days, trustees met with Education Minister Adriana LaGrange; discussed several bylaw amendments, the 2021-22 ASBA budget, the K-6 draft curriculum, and emergent matters; and participated in various professional learning sessions.
- On June 10, Chair Boymook virtually attended a Parents Empowering Parents (PEP) event entitled, Let's Break to Educate. PEP is a local organization that provides support to families with children struggling with addiction.
- On June 18, Chair Boymook and Superintendent Liguori plan to meet Strathcona County Mayor Rod Frank to discuss the potential school site in Cambrian Crossing and other related issues.

GRADUATION AND FAREWELL CEREMONIES

It's an exciting time for schools, students and families within EIPS. Senior high schools are busy hosting graduation ceremonies. Meanwhile, elementary and junior high schools are hosting farewell celebrations for students in grades 6 and 9. The Board congratulates all EIPS 2021 graduates and wishes everyone the best as they move to this next stage in life.

Superintendent's report

RECENT EVENTS

Superintendent Mark Liguori highlighted recent events:

- On May 28, Superintendent Liguori met with Strathcona County RCMP Superintendent Dale Kendall for a brief meet and greet.
- On June 2, Superintendent Liguori joined Chair Boymook at a Fort Saskatchewan school-site agreement taskforce meeting. The focus: school-site allocations for all schools in the city.
- On June 2, Superintendent Liguori and Associate Superintendent Brent Billey attended ASBA's virtual Edwin Parr Awards. He congratulated EIPS' Haven Wong, who received one of the awards.
- On June 7, Superintendent Liguori joined trustees at the virtual ASBA's spring general meeting, which included great conversations—from a governance perspective.
- On June 10, Superintendent Liguori attended PEP's Let's Break to Educate event. It was a great event and an opportunity to hear stories about families and their children affected, and empowered, by addiction.
- On June 18, Superintendent Liguori and Chair Boymook plan to meet with Strathcona County Mayor Rod Frank—as part of its ongoing quarterly meetings—to discuss land use, school-site allocations and school-related information.
- Superintendent Liguori extended congratulations to all EIPS 2021 graduates. It's been a difficult year for everyone. He thanked: students for the perseverance, energy and excellence demonstrated throughout the year; families for walking alongside students and EIPS throughout the pandemic; and EIPS employees who collectively ensured all students were supported and progressed academically.

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. With the year coming to an end, Zielke's report reflected on the pandemic and the last 16 months. It's been a challenging year that's tested, everyone. Despite that, staff, students and families all came together to support and lean on one another. Teachers, in particular, demonstrated incredible resiliency, professionalism and regard for the value of their work. With summer just around the corner, it's now time to rest and recharge. She wishes everyone—trustees, administration, staff, students and families—a wonderful summer break.

New Business

BOARD POLICIES

The Board approved an amendment to [Policy 9: Board Representatives](#). Under the updated policy, membership of the Committee of School Councils now includes: "1. Board Chair, and 2. Minimum of two trustees." The change ensures consistent messaging and better support for the Board's engagement work.

AUDIT ENGAGEMENT LETTER

The Board approved the 2021 financial audit engagement letter and LAPP audit engagement letter. Both outline the services the Division's auditor will provide and related terms. The financial audit letter is for the fiscal year ending Aug. 31, 2021. Meanwhile, the LAPP audit letter is for the calendar year ending Dec. 31, 2021—completed every three years.

STEPS SYSTEM PROGRAM

The Board approved creating a new school site in the Provincial Approach to Student Information (PASI) system for students, grades 7-12, enrolled in the Steps to Enhanced Personal Success (STEPS) program. Previously, EIPS registered secondary students enrolled in the STEPS program at Salisbury Composite High, even those in grades 7-9. Grade 7 students register in PASI as a Grade 10 student, the following year as a Grade 11 student and then a Grade 12 student until completing their programming. Changes to Alberta Education's funding manual no longer make this possible. That's because after these students reach their actual Grade 10 year, they're considered in their fourth year of senior high school and only receive 25 per cent of provincial funding. Going forward, the Division will register all STEPS students, grades 7-12, at Salisbury STEPS Junior Senior High.

FRIENDS OF EDUCATION: 2021

The Board approved nominating Dow Chemical Canada for the 2021 Friends of Education Award, an annual event hosted by the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA). The award's purpose: To recognize and thank the many Alberta-based organizations that contribute to education in their community. Every year, Dow Chemical Canada makes a significant financial contribution to EIPS, including a \$20,000 annual donation to maintain the Partners For Science program, an innovative science and technology program founded on the principle that students learn best by doing. In addition, this year, Dow Chemical Canada generously donated funds to support First Nations, Métis and Inuit students, and provided several volunteer employees to enhance learning within EIPS classrooms. Other recent contributions include a \$50,000 donation to the Partners In Education program to fund junior high STEM and Career and Technology Foundations courses. It also provided \$140,000 to help implement the new curriculum. Collectively, Dow's ongoing support offers students a huge advantage, enhances student learning, makes a lasting difference in schools and has a lifelong impact.

Committee Reports

POLICY COMMITTEE

The Board received for information the report from the Policy Committee meeting on June 2. Policies discussed: 9, 16, 22, 24, 25, and 26. The Board approved the recommended amendments to Policy 9 during this meeting (see pg. 3, “Board Policies”). Minor grammar edits are needed to policies 24 and 25. Policies 16, 22 and 26 remain unchanged.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Board received for information the report from the Audit Committee meeting on June 10. Topics discussed: the 2021 financial audit engagement letter, LAPP audit engagement letter and internal audit report. Vice-Chair Colleen Holowaychuck thanked the committee’s two external members for their continued service and Financial Services for its ongoing work to ensure the Division stays compliant and on track.

Reports for Information

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT: SEPTEMBER 1 TO MAY 31

The Board received for information the EIPS Unaudited Financial Report for the nine-month period ending May 31, 2021. Overall, revenues exceeded expenses resulting in an operating surplus of \$3.73 million. Revenue for the nine months is \$145.74 million, which represents 75 per cent of the year-to-date budget—an expected percentage at this point in the fiscal year. Meanwhile, total expenses are \$142.01 million, which represents 72 per cent of the year-to-date budget—slightly lower than anticipated (see pg. 32, “[Unaudited Financial Report for Sept. 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021](#)”).

IMR AND CMR PROJECT PLANS: 2021-22

The Board received for information the list of projects planned under the Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) program and the Capital Maintenance and Renewal (CMR) program during the 2021-22 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. New this year, it also provides school divisions with CMR funding to ensure schools remain safe and healthy for students and staff.

For the 2021-22 school year, EIPS’ approved IMR grant is \$2.27 million and CRM grant is \$2.46 million for a total amount of \$4.72 million—\$348,000 less than the Division’s total IMR funding last year. Multiple projects are identified for the 2021-22 school year—determined through consultations with Facility Services and EIPS schools, the Facility Condition Index, maintenance input and Alberta Infrastructure’s audit information. Projects planned: the installation of carbon monoxide detection devices in schools, the installation of CCTV cameras in schools, upgrades to educational areas and facilities, the replacement of several air-handling units and multiple deferred-maintenance projects (see pg. 53, “[2021-22 Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal—IMR and CMR—Project Plans](#)”).

PLAYGROUND SUMMARY REPORT: 2020-21

The Board received for information the 2020-21 Playground Summary Report:

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 2020-21, projects included a replacement playground at Ardrossan Elementary and a playground expansion at Wes Hosford Elementary—currently in the planning phase.

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 2020-21, projects included a replacement playground structure at James Mowat Elementary.

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 2020-21, projects included maintenance upgrades at A.L. Horton Elementary, Bruderheim School and Lamont Elementary.

LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSES REPORT

The Board received for information a report about the locally developed courses available to students in 2021-22. At the senior high level, the Division’s renewing 11 locally developed courses—zero courses were acquired, and 20 courses expired. Meanwhile, at the junior high level, the Division has no new locally developed courses or renewals planned for the upcoming school year (see pg. 61, “[Locally Developed Courses](#)”).

Trustee Reports Roundtable

Trustees shared information and highlighted recent events:

- **Vice-Chair Colleen Holowaychuk** attended the remaining school council meetings, the Board’s meeting with the ATA Local No. 28 and ASBA’s spring general meeting. Trustee Holowaychuk also thanked EIPS staff for their work during what was a challenging year and congratulated all EIPS 2021 graduates. She hopes everyone has a wonderful and restful summer.
- **Trustee Randy Footz** attended A.L. Horton Elementary’s school council meeting, the Board’s meeting with the ATA Local and ASBA’s spring general meeting. He also thanked EIPS counsellors for their work helping staff and students at Vegreville Composite High deal with the passing of a young man. Lastly, he thanked all EIPS staff, students and families for all their work to make this year successful. He hopes everyone has an enjoyable summer break.
- **Trustee Annette Hubick** attended the Board’s meeting with the ATA Local; ASBA’s spring general meeting; and school council meetings for Brentwood Elementary, Clover Bar Junior High, Davidson Creek Elementary, Mills Haven Elementary and Salisbury Composite High—all of which included discussions about parent concerns with the new K-6 draft curriculum. She then extended thanks to all EIPS staff, students and families for their collective efforts to face and overcome the many challenges posed by the pandemic. Trustee Hubick also thanked Board Chair Trina Boymook for her ongoing leadership representing EIPS, and all school boards as the Vice-President of ASBA—both especially demanding this past year. She wishes everyone a restorative, relaxing and fun summer, and looks forward to seeing everyone back in September.
- **Trustee Don Irwin** attended school council meetings for Woodbridge Farms Elementary and Wes Hosford Elementary, the Board’s meeting with the ATA Local, and ASBA’s spring general meeting. He also thanked all EIPS staff for all their work in what was a challenging and difficult year. Trustee Irwin wishes everyone an enjoyable summer.
- **Trustee Jim Seutter** attended ASBA’s spring general meetings, the Audit Committee meeting, and has one more school council meeting to attend for Heritage Hills Elementary. He also thanked everyone within the Division for helping EIPS survive and thrive during this pandemic. Trustee Seutter wishes everyone the best over the summer break.
- **Trustee Harvey Stadnick** attended the remaining school council meeting for the year. He also thanked senior administration, EIPS Central Services and all school staff for their work throughout the pandemic—ensuring schools were operational and able to offer education programming during an incredibly unique and challenging year. He hopes everyone has a wonderful summer.



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- **Trustee Heather Wall** thanked everyone within EIPS for their commitment to students during the pandemic. It was a challenging two years, to say the least. And yet, the strength shown by the EIPS leadership team, staff, students and families was remarkable. She wishes everyone a great summer.

Board Members

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

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