

NOV. 17, 2022

Chair's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Board Chair Trina Boymook highlighted several recent events:

- On October 26, the Board attended the first of four public-consultation meetings about the Division's French Immersion programming. Chair Boymook thanked the school community for participating and providing feedback. Trustees will use all the input gathered to strengthen the program divisionwide.
- On October 31 and November 1, the Board participated in the department Assurance Reviews, a divisionwide forum for schools and departments to share their individual results, annual plans, budgets, successes and challenges with the Board. The school Assurance Reviews take place in early December—open to EIPS families and community members. Collectively, the reviews allow trustees to gain a holistic understanding of what's happening throughout the Division.
- On November 4, trustees attended school Remembrance Day Ceremonies throughout the Division. Chair Boymook thanked all the schools that invited trustees to participate.
- On November 8, Chair Boymook met with Jordan Walker, the Member of the Alberta Legislative Assembly for Sherwood Park. The two discussed the replacement school for Sherwood Heights Junior High and École Campbelltown and the Division's reserve use.
- On November 11, Trustees attended their municipal Remembrance Day Services and placed wreaths on behalf of Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS).

Superintendent's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Superintendent Mark Liguori highlighted some recent events:

- On October 26, Superintendent Liguori attended the French Immersion public-engagement meeting at Heritage Hills Elementary. It was great to speak with school families and community members who attended about ways to improve programming within EIPS.
- On October 31 and November 1, the Division conducted Assurance Reviews for EIPS departments. He appreciates the work that goes into preparing for each review session. Collectively, it helps the Board and Division better understand how departments perform and develop plans to improve student learning.

Association and Employee Relations Reports

ASBA ZONE 2/3 MEETING

Trustee Cathy Allen presented highlights from the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 meeting held on October 28. Highlights include:

- EIPS Vice-Chair Colleen Holowaychuk was acclaimed as an ASBA Director;
- Various reports from association representatives and committees, including an Alberta Education representative—always informative and much appreciated; and
- a standing agenda topic to share with other trustees local challenges and successes.

ATA LOCAL REPORT

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

- On October 22, the ATA kicked off [Stand for Education](#), a three-phase campaign to encourage more Albertans to advocate for a strong public education system. The launch was a huge success and included a rally, where crowds gathered at the Alberta Legislative building to show support for a better system.

- On November 6, the ATA held a political engagement conference, which included details for Phase 2 of the Stand for Education campaign—four roundtable discussions to develop a goal and vision for public education in Alberta. The first roundtable event takes place on December 1. Educators, school families, community members and local businesses are all encouraged to attend. To register visit [Stand for Education](#).
- The Local ATA hopes to complement Phase 2 by hosting its own roundtable event. Zielke will share more information with the Board once details are finalized.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS GROUP REPORT

The Board received for information the Employee Relations Group (ERG) report from its Chair, Dulcie Jarvin:

- The ERG's pleased to see a drop in the number of school outbreaks—declared by Alberta Health Services.
- Recently, the ERG welcomed new member Angie Fortin, who works in EIPS Student Transportation. Fortin represents EIPS Central Services.
- The ERG's also looking for a new temporary member to represent Fort Saskatchewan.

New Business

UNAUDITED ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

The Board approved the transfer of \$753,419 million to the Division's unrestricted surplus from its internally restricted operating reserves to offset the net results in 2021-22.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: 2022

The Board approved the Audited Financial Statements for Aug. 31, 2022. MNP LLP, a national accounting firm, audited the statements and provided the opinion: The statements present the Division's financial position and results fairly. Briefly, the statements indicate a net financial asset position of \$14.1 million, which signifies adequate financial assets to cover liability balances. Non-financial assets include \$151.1 million in capital assets and \$1.9 million in prepaid expenses. Meanwhile, spent deferred capital contributions total \$144.4 million, which is comprised of provincial funding spent on capital assets. Overall, the Division ended the 2021-22 school year with an accumulated surplus of \$22.7 million and an operating deficit of \$1.7 million.

EIPS 2022-23 FALL BUDGET

The Board approved the EIPS 2022-23 Fall Budget for the period of Sept. 1, 2022 to Aug. 31, 2023. The Board originally approved the 2022-23 operating budget on May 25, 2022. Every fall, the budget is updated to account for current information regarding enrolment numbers, revenue changes, actual carry-forward amounts, expenses and planned reserve spending. Overall, the EIPS 2022-23 budget provides stability for schools and maintains essential services (see pg. 54, "[2022-23 Fall Budget](#)").

Highlights from the Fall Budget Report: 2022-23, include:

- operating budget* – \$206.21 million, which includes an \$8.23-million draw from operating reserves
- student enrolment* – 17,460, as of Sept. 29, 2022
- employees (full-time equivalent)* – 1,351.97, as of Sept. 29, 2022
- compensation* – 1.75% increase to salaries, as per the certificated settlement, ratified on June 10, 2022
- operating reserves* – \$4.93 million, as of Aug. 31, 2023.
- capital reserves* – \$460,000, as of Aug. 31, 2023
- instructional spending* – 78.4% of the total budget, equating to \$9,560 per student.
- system administration spending* – \$4.59 million, 2.2%, of total expenses.

NOTE: System administration spending is within the \$6.3 million provided by Alberta Education. EIPS will distribute the surplus funds for other uses, as allowed in the *Funding Manual for School Authorities 2022-23 School Year*.

JAMES MOWAT ELEMENTARY: ENROLMENT PRESSURES

Over the last few years, Fort Saskatchewan has experienced substantial residential growth. In fact, the growth is at a point where it affects the Division's ability to provide accommodation for students living in the area. For EIPS, addressing enrolment pressures at James Mowat Elementary is most critical. That's because, despite adding one modular classroom, the school reached full capacity in 2022-23. The key factor to the school's student growth is it's the designated receiving school for the city's Westpark neighbourhood. As such, the Division anticipates the high enrolment to continue at the school as Westpark develops and families move in.

To determine how best to address the school's enrolment pressures, the Division conducted a series of public consultations with the school community, including three public meetings and two online surveys. Using all the feedback gathered through the public consultations and background resources, EIPS proposed four recommendations for trustees to consider. After a thorough review, the Board approved the following recommendations:

1. introduce a Random Selection Process Pilot to address the enrolment pressures at James Mowat Elementary, based on a Closed-Boundary Priority Scale—effective for the 2023-24 school year;
2. make Fort Saskatchewan Elementary the alternate-designated school for the James Mowat Elementary attendance area;
3. allow grandfathering for all current students enrolled at James Mowat Elementary; and
4. apply busing fees as outlined in the Transportation Fee Schedule.

Essentially, if registrations exceed the available space for a specific grade, James Mowat Elementary will use a random selection process to accept new children to the school. Students currently attending James Mowat Elementary, regardless of where they live, can continue attending the school. Children with a sibling attending the school, and returning the following year, can register to attend the school. Those selected through the random selection process can stay at the school until they transition to junior high. Those not selected attend their alternate-designated school—Fort Saskatchewan Elementary.

Committee Reports

STUDENT EXPULSION COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from the Student Expulsion Committee meeting held on October 27. The committee reviewed all submitted information and upheld school administration's recommendations.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Board received for information the report from the Audit Committee meeting held on November 2. The committee reviewed the audited financial statements, the Local Authorities Pension Plan compliance report, the new asset retirement obligation standard, and the Division's internal audit report.

Reports for Information

THREE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY: ATTENDANCE AREA

The Board received for information an update on one of the projects listed in the Division's Three-Year Engagement Plan. In May 2022, EIPS developed a Three-Year Engagement Strategy. The plan identifies areas where the Division can improve operations to best serve students. In total, there are four engagement projects listed within the plan. Project 1 is a three-year engagement strategy for Strathcona County, including an attendance area cleanup, French Immersion review, System Program review and balancing senior high enrolments. All are interconnected strategies and require a phased approach.

The first focus area is a junior high attendance area cleanup. Specifically, the Division's exploring possible changes to the junior high attendance boundaries in Sherwood Park:

- moving the feeder school for all regular program students at Brentwood Elementary to F.R. Haythorne Junior High for grades 7 to 9; and
- moving the feeder school for students living within Lakeland Village, Summerwood and Summerwood North to Clover Bar Junior High for grades 7 to 9.

To facilitate public consultations, EIPS contracted Western Management Consultants (WMC). Working collaboratively with EIPS, WMC drafted various advertising materials, hosted four drop-in public consultations, conducted two surveys and collected additional feedback from the school community. WMC then analyzed all the data and compiled four What We Heard Reports. EIPS created two Frequently Asked Questions resources.

[What We Heard Report: Brentwood Elementary Junior High Attendance Area -- spring 2022](#)

[What We Heard Report: Brentwood Elementary Junior High Attendance Area -- fall 2022](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions: Brentwood Elementary Junior High Attendance Area](#)

[What We Heard Report: Northeast Sherwood Park Junior High Attendance Area – spring 2022](#)

[What We Heard Report: Northeast Sherwood Park Junior High Attendance Area – fall 2022](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions: Northeast Sherwood Park Junior High Attendance Area](#)

Initially, EIPS planned to bring forward a recommendation for the Attendance Area Cleanup in November 2022. However, more time is needed before making a decision, as public consultations are still ongoing for several Division programs. Any decisions made about the junior high attendance areas will take effect in 2024-25, at the earliest. EIPS remains committed to ensuring the final Attendance Area Cleanup recommendation respects the feedback collected during the public consultations.

Special Board Meeting: Nov. 24, 2022

ANNUAL EDUCATION RESULTS REPORT 2021-22

The Board approved EIPS' *Annual Education Results Report 2021-22*, an Alberta Education reporting requirement that provides school families and community members with easy-to-understand information about the Division. It also serves as a mechanism to improve accountability and transparency with local stakeholders. The *Annual Education Results Report 2021-22* features detailed information about how EIPS is doing relative to Alberta Education's performance measures; how the Division's supporting students to achieve the best possible outcomes; and highlights its successes, challenges and priorities moving forward. Now approved, the Division will submit the report to Alberta Education on November 29. After sending it to the province, EIPS will also post it online and share it with the Committee of School Councils and the school community. To read the report visit, eips.ca—available November 29.

Board Members

Trina Boymook, *Chair* | Colleen Holowaychuk, *Vice-Chair* | Cathy Allen | Randy Footz | Don Irwin | Susan Miller | Jim Seutter | Jacqueline Shotbolt | Ralph Sorochan

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