

FEB. 16, 2023

Chair's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Board Chair Trina Boymook highlighted recent events:

- On January 30, Board Chair Boymook attended an Alberta School Board Association's (ASBA) Board Chairs meeting. Topics discussed: the upcoming election, advocacy strategies for the election and the forthcoming ASBA budget for 2023. ASBA plans to host another Board Chairs meeting in the coming weeks.
- On January 31, the Board met with the Town of Bruderheim Council. The two groups shared focus areas, successes, challenges and upcoming opportunities. They also discussed ways to continue working together.
- On February 4, Chair Boymook and trustees Cathy Allen and Don Irwin attended the Northern Alberta First Tech Challenge Robotics Championship at Bev Facey Community High. Both Bev Facey and Salisbury Composite High tied for second place. They now advance to provincials—March 4-5. Chair Boymook congratulated both teams and wishes them the best at the next competition.
- On February 10, Chair Boymook and trustees Jacqueline Shotbolt and Ralph Sorochan met with Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, the member of the legislative assembly of Alberta for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville. Topics discussed: EIPS' Fort Saskatchewan infrastructure needs and the rising student socio-economic challenges in the city.
- On February 10, Chair Boymook and trustees Allen and Irwin attended the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Partners in Education Luncheon. The highlight: Keynote speaker Tareq Hadhad, a Syrian refugee and founder of Peace by Chocolate, based in Nova Scotia. Hadhad shared a motivational story about his journey to Canada, risk-taking, entrepreneurship and giving back. Chair Boymook thanked Deneen Zielke, the President of the ATA Local No. 28, for the invitation.

THREE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY: FRENCH IMMERSION

On February 7, the Board attended the second in-person public engagement session about EIPS' French Immersion program. The Board is exploring ways to enhance French Immersion programming, address anticipated enrolment pressures and increase program retention. Chair Boymook thanked the French Immersion school community for participating and their feedback. Trustees will use the input gathered to help inform the next engagement session and future decision-making.

NEW SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM: VEGREVILLE

On February 13, Chair Boymook and Trustee Randy Footz attended the launch of a new school nutrition program in Vegreville. Through the program, students attending Vegreville schools receive healthy snacks during the school day. The program is funded through a new Alberta Education School Nutrition Program grant and supplied by the Community Association for Lasting Success in Vegreville.

TRUSTEES' SCHOOL TOURS

On February 16, after the Board meeting, Trustees plan to visit Fultonvale Elementary Junior High and Uncas Elementary as part of its 2022-23 Trustees' School Tours. The Board extends thanks to all the staff and students at the schools for hosting the tours. Everyone looks forward to learning more about each school and the programs offered.

Superintendent's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Superintendent Mark Liguori highlighted recent events:

- On January 31, Superintendent Liguori joined the Board to meet with the Town of Bruderheim Council. Being in Bruderheim and seeing the community's ongoing support of EIPS school initiatives is always a pleasure. He also wishes former town Chief Administrative Officer, Patty Podoborzny, all the best in her future endeavours.
- On February 7, Superintendent Liguori attended the second in-person public engagement session about the Division's French Immersion program. Those who attended offered valuable feedback, which EIPS will use to prepare for the next in-person consultation on April 13. In June, EIPS will present the Board with a report detailing the French Immersion engagement efforts to date.
- On February 16, Superintendent Liguori will join the Board on two school tours—Fultonvale Elementary Junior High and Uncas Elementary.

Association and Employee Group Reports

ASBA ZONE 2/3 REPORT

Trustee Jacqueline Shotbolt attended the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 meeting on January 20. The highlight: the collaborative discussions about the 2023-24 ASBA budget, including strategies to develop it and understand its terminology. Trustee Shotbolt also shared with trustees two upcoming information sessions. The first, a speakers' corners session focused on strategic thinking on February 23 at 6:30 p.m. The second, an ASBA-hosted conversation about election priorities for school boards and key messaging to share with school councils on February 28 at 7 p.m.

ATA LOCAL REPORT

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

- On February 10, the ATA hosted its annual Partners in Education Luncheon. Zielke thanked Chair Boymook and trustees Allen and Irwin for attending. The highlight was the keynote speaker, Tareq Hadhad, who offered both an inspirational story and important message.
- On February 10-11, Zielke attended an ATA Local President meeting. The meeting focused on the provincial election and included details about upcoming engagement efforts, work plans and strategies to promote strong public education.

New Business

2023 ASCA SCHOOL COUNCIL CONFERENCE AND AGM: REGISTRATION SPONSORSHIP

The Board approved sponsoring the registration fee for school council members to take part in the 2023 Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) School Council Conference and Annual General Meeting on April 21-23—for one member per school council up to a maximum of \$5,000. To qualify, members must be part of a school council with an active ASCA membership and apply before the registration deadline, April 6.

POLICY AMENDMENTS

The Board approved amendments to:

- [Board Policy 3: Role of the Trustee](#);
- [Board Policy 11: Board Delegation of Authority](#);
- [Board Policy 13: Appeals and Hearings Regarding Student Matters](#); and
- [Board Policy 17: Student Transportation](#)

Overall, the approved changes strengthen the policies' clarity, definitions, language and readability.



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

AUDITOR REAPPOINTMENT: MNP LLP

The Board approved reappointing MNP LLP, a national accounting firm, as the Division's external auditor for EIPS' year-end financial statements for Aug. 31, 2023.

BORROWING RESOLUTION: 2022-23

The Board approved the Division's borrowing resolution to meet expenditures during the 2022-23 school year. Annually, the Division submits a borrowing resolution to the Bank of Montreal to support the credit-facility agreements in place.

Committee Report

STUDENT EXPULSION COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from the Student Expulsion Committee meetings held on January 18 and February 1. The committee reviewed all relevant information and upheld the recommendations put forward by school administration.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from the Advocacy Committee meeting held on February 1. The topics discussed: the Board's advocacy strategy, upcoming election advocacy efforts, and the forthcoming education budget. The committee will review its plans after the province releases its Budget 2023, and make revisions where necessary.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from the Audit Committee meeting held on February 9. The meeting focus: MNP LLP's reappointment as EIPS' external auditor for its financial statements for Aug. 31, 2023.

POLICY COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from the Policy Committee meeting held on February 14. The committee reviewed five policies—several will come forward to the Board at the next Caucus meeting in March.

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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