

DEC. 14, 2023

Chair's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Board Chair Cathy Allen highlighted recent trustee events:

- Throughout December, trustees attended, and continue to attend, school-based concerts, performances and activities throughout the Division to celebrate the holidays. Chair Allen thanked all the schools for inviting trustees and said it's something they look forward to every year.
- On December 4, trustees met with the Alberta Teachers' Association Local No. 28 executive—Deneen Zielke, the President, and Dave McKinnon, the Vice-President. The focus: ways the two groups can work together to support each other in shared advocacy priorities and public education.
- On December 5, trustees attended an Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) advocacy session about the proposed collegiate school in Fort Saskatchewan. Partners throughout the Industrial Heartland attended who learned more about the proposed project and discussed its possibilities. Chair Allen thanked the organizing committee for co-ordinating the event, and Fort Saskatchewan High students and staff for hosting.

Superintendent's Report

RECENT EVENTS

Associate Superintendent Ryan Marshall presented the Superintendent's Report on behalf of Sandra Stoddard. Recent events included:

- On December 5, the Division hosted an advocacy session about the proposed collegiate school—the No. 1 priority listed on EIPS' [Three-Year Capital Plan](#). It was great to meet with partners from the Industrial Heartland to discuss the collegiate school's potential, workforce needs and how to work together to enhance student learning opportunities in ways that benefit the region and its economic growth.
- Like the Board, senior administration members have attended, and continue to attend school Christmas concerts and performances throughout the Division. It's always exciting to go to these. You get to see students perform, how proud families are and the culture developing within each school.

Association and Employee Relation Reports

ASBA ZONE 2/3 MEETING

Trustee Jacqueline Shotbolt presented highlights from the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 meeting held on December 1. Discussion highlights included:

- Regular zone business—including membership news, financial reports and reports for information.
- Advocacy discussions focused on best practices, initiatives and parent engagement.
- The guest speaking was Ron Taylor, an Alberta Education representative, who shared details about the new elementary curriculum, the recent curriculum consultation meeting and Phase 3 of the new curriculum roll-out. He also invited ASBA Zone 2/3 to send any questions about the new curriculum to Alberta Education to answer. The department will try to answer these before zone meetings.

ATA LOCAL REPORT

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

- On December 4, the Local's executive met with Chair Allen to discuss shared advocacy goals. Teachers appreciate when the Board and the Local work collaboratively to enhance learning and working environments. Zielke thanked Chair Allen for attending, and she looks forward to meeting again.



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- On December 14, Zielke attended a Sherwood Park and District Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting—an opportunity to represent public education within EIPS.
- Zielke thanked the Board and senior administration for attending the many Christmas performances and activities throughout the Division—there’s nothing that makes it feel more like Christmas than hearing children sing.
- Zielke wishes everyone at EIPS a Merry Christmas and all the best in the new year.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS GROUP REPORT

The Board received for information the Employee Relations Group (ERG) report from Michelle Miller, the committee’s Chair:

- Schools and classified staff are busy completing projects and preparing for the Christmas break.
- The ERG begins its *Classified Handbook* review in January 2024.
- Central-based classified staff have completed the Job Information Questionnaire. EIPS is now administering the questionnaire to school-based classified staff. The Division hopes to have the results finalized before the end of June.
- On behalf of the ERG, Miller wished the Board a happy holiday.

New Business

BOARD POLICY AMENDMENTS

The Board approved amendments to the following Board policies:

- [Policy 5: Role of the Board Chair](#)
- [Policy 11: Board Delegation of Authority](#)

The approved changes all help to strengthen the policies’ clarity, definitions, language and readability.

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, 2024.

SPORT FOR LIFE

The Board approved designating Clover Bar Junior High’s Sport for Life program as an EIPS alternative program, effective starting in the 2024-25 school year. Open to students in grades 7 through 9, the year-long program introduces learners to healthy living through a range of sport, recreation and well-being activities. The aim is for students to use the skills and knowledge attained through the program and incorporate these into their daily living—now and throughout their lives. As such, the Board also approved amending [Board Policy 18: Alternative Programs](#). Starting in the 2024-25 school year, the policy will list the Sport for Life program as an EIPS alternative program.

Committee Report

POLICY COMMITTEE

The Board received for information a report from the Policy Committee meeting held on December 5. The committee reviewed five policies—4, 5, 6, 7 and 11. Policy 6 required no changes. Amendments to policies 5 and 11 were approved at the December Board meeting (see pg. 2, “Board Policy Amendments”). The remaining two policies will come forward to the Board for review early in the new year.



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Reports for Information

LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSES: 2023-24

The Board received for information a report about the locally developed courses available to students in the second semester of 2023-24. The Division plans to introduce Developing Personal Value: 15, 25 and 35 at Next Step starting in February 2024. Open to students in grades 10, 11 and 12, the course helps learners recognize their inherent worth by emphasizing their infinite personal value.

BULLYING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK

The Board received for information a report regarding Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week 2023, which took place November 13-17. Staff and students throughout EIPS participated in various activities focused on ways to promote kindness and healthy relationships. School activities included morning announcements, presentations on bullying, healthy relationship building, deeds of kindness and more.

In addition to Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week activities, all EIPS schools have ongoing projects and initiatives in place focused on building healthy relationships, such as the Seven Sacred Teachings, Random Acts of Kindness, Bucket Fillers, Leader in Me and various community-service programs. Overall, promoting welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments for students and staff is a key priority for the Division and is an ongoing commitment to ensure everyone feels welcomed, caring, respected and safe. Trustees thanked schools for the work they do year-round to promote healthy relationships.

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT: SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2023

The Board received for information the Unaudited Financial Report for EIPS, prepared by Financial Services. As of Nov. 30, 2023, revenues exceeded expenses, resulting in an operating surplus of \$1.24 million. The operational revenue for the three months was \$50.58 million, which represents 25 per cent of the budget. Meanwhile, total expenses incurred was \$49.33 million, which represents 25 per cent of the budget. The primary reason for the surplus: costs associated with staffing, services and supplies that will be incurred later in the school year (see pg. 81, "[Unaudited Financial Report for Sept. 1, 2023 to Nov. 30, 2023](#)").

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Randy Footz wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Blessed Kwanzaa. He hopes all find peace and joy over the holiday season—especially those living in areas with conflict, such as Ukraine and Gaza.

Board Members

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

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