

EIPS QUARTERLY UPDATE

FALL 2023

EIPS IN THE NEWS

EIPS students and staff take part in Read In Week 2023

| *The Sherwood Park and Strathcona County News*

Lieutenant Governor Award granted to Next Step student

| *The Sherwood Park and Strathcona County News*

EIPS prepares for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

| *The Sherwood Park and Strathcona County News*

Public education is an investment

| *The Sherwood Park and Strathcona County News*

EIPS students create communities for the homeless and become Ambassadors of Hope

| *The Fort Saskatchewan Record*

Alberta teachers to Play the Feud!

| *St. Albert Gazette*

FOR STARTERS

Quite a lot has happened since the last

EIPS Quarterly Update. We kick-started the year, welcoming back more than 17,760 students, took part in multiple internal and external meetings—including with various government officials, and developed a work plan and advocacy strategy for the year. Trustees also elected its Board Chair and Vice-Chair for the year. I'm thrilled to share I am the new Board Chair, and Susan Miller is the newly elected Vice-Chair. Together, we'll lead the Board for the 2023-24 school year.

A big thank you to Trina Boymook and Colleen Holowaychuk—past chair and vice-chair—for their extraordinary work over the last several years. Both have worked tirelessly advocating for public education. While their roles are changing, slightly, they remain EIPS trustees, and their guidance will continue to benefit the Board and Division.

Given the Board's new makeup, we thought it the perfect time to reintroduce trustees to you, which you can read on the back page. Get to know each member, the community they represent and their purpose as an EIPS trustee. Collectively, they represent you and the communities EIPS serves, ensuring a strong public education system where all students have the tools to succeed.

Cathy Allen,

Board Chair, Elk Island Public Schools

INSIDE EIPS

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, which coincides with Orange Shirt Day, took place on September 30. The day is intended to remind Canadians about the history of residential schools, remember the victims and honour the survivors. To recognize the day's significance, schools throughout EIPS spent the week leading up to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation engaging in activities to deepen knowledge, understanding and traditions.



Read In Week took place October 2-6. Annually, the Division hosts the initiative to encourage a lifelong love of reading and to enhance literacy awareness among students, staff, families and community members. Through various activities, students spent the week learning about the importance of reading; how to choose the right book; the art of storytelling; and how stories have the power to teach lessons, broaden perspectives and foster empathy.

INBOX

With a new Board Chair and Vice-Chair, will the Division's advocacy efforts shift focus?

The Board's advocacy plan is an evolving document. It's guided by all nine trustees, based on current affairs and divisional challenges. So, it changes annually.

Last year, significant work went into making public education part of the provincial election and securing funding for a new replacement school in Sherwood Park. The year before, we focused on reinstating the provincial Fuel-Price Contingency Fund.

With all three now achieved, new advocacy areas include mental health and well-being, classroom complexity and the new curriculum. The longstanding areas are infrastructure needs, the values of public education, Board autonomy and education funding. What will always remain constant is the Board's commitment to representing students' best interests and acting as the voice for public education.

MEET THE EIPS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Made up of nine locally elected members, here is EIPS' Board of Trustees. While they're from different backgrounds, they share a common goal: Ensure all 17,760 students in EIPS have the tools needed to succeed and realize their full potential. Together, they're focused on student achievement and well-being, setting the Division's education policies, and decision-making that meets the needs and concerns of the communities EIPS serves. These are your advocates for public education.



Cathy Allen, Board Chair, Sherwood Park

Elected: 2021 **Profile:** Trustee and former EIPS principal and educator. **Purpose as trustee?** When I think about my purpose

as an EIPS trustee, it's about being an advocate for strong public education, which ultimately benefits our communities and province. To do that, it requires collaboration with stakeholders and making thoughtful policy and budget decisions that align with the Division's priorities and are also in the best interests of students.



**Susan Miller, Board Vice-Chair
Strathcona County, north of Wye Road**

Elected: 2021 **Profile:** Trustee and former health care aid. **Purpose as trustee?** My

purpose as a trustee is to do what it takes to provide high-quality education for every student in EIPS. I truly believe children, and young adults, are our most precious resource. From that belief stems my passion to see every student succeed in all areas of their life.



Trina Boymook, Trustee, Sherwood Park

Elected: 2013 **Profile:** Trustee and former EIPS board chair (2013-23). **Purpose as trustee?**

My purpose as trustee is to ensure all 17,760 students within EIPS receive high-quality, student-centred education. That means constantly advocating for students, seeking what is in their best interest, and continually leveraging the Division's financial resources. Ultimately, it's our job to make sure EIPS meets the diverse learning needs of students, and the community's expectations.



**Randy Footz, Trustee
Vegreville and western Minburn County**

Elected: 2017 **Profile:** Trustee, former EIPS educator, and long-time resident of the

Vegreville area. **Purpose as trustee?** As trustees, we advocate for public education and the local school system—with duties ranging from governance to overseeing financial resources, and all things in between. Most important for me, however, is ensuring every student can learn, grow and thrive in positive, safe and caring environments that also respect diversity and foster a sense of belonging.



**Colleen Holowaychuk, Trustee
Lamont County**

Elected: 2010 **Profile:** Trustee and Councillor for the Town of Lamont. **Purpose as trustee?**

For me, being a trustee is about bringing the voice of the rural community to the table and ensuring all students, regardless of where they live, have equity in education. A big part of that is working with the community, helping them understand the Division's issues and making the best decisions for students.



Don Irwin, Trustee, Sherwood Park

Elected: 2017 **Profile:** Trustee and former principal. **Purpose as trustee?** For most of my career, I've worked in education and with

children. I'm passionate about it, and being a trustee is an extension of that work. I want to make sure every student can fulfill their potential and learn in environments where they feel cared for and protected, and that nurture their mental, physical and emotional character.



**Jim Seutter, Trustee
Strathcona County, south of Wye Road**

Elected: 2013 **Profile:** Trustee and former EIPS principal and educator. **Purpose as trustee?** I

feel my purpose as a trustee is to always make decisions for EIPS students and families that provide quality educational experiences. As such, when making any decisions—about policy, budget, facility, staffing and curriculum—it's always rooted in how to best maintain high-quality, student-centred, safe and caring learning environments for all students.



**Jacqueline Shotbolt, Trustee
Fort Saskatchewan**

Elected: 2021 **Profile:** Trustee, senior management in the business-financial sector

and completing a business administration degree. **Purpose as trustee?** It's a profound honour to serve as an elected trustee. The position carries the hope and aspiration of the communities EIPS serves and a purpose anchored in student well-being and ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive. Together, we work with the community to uphold these principles and provide a promising future for all students.



**Ralph Sorochan, Trustee
Fort Saskatchewan**

Elected: 2021 **Profile:** Trustee and former EIPS principal and director. **Purpose as trustee?**

Student Success! I believe teachers are experts in pedagogy, and parents are first partners and experts in their children. In my opinion, consistently considering the communities' voice in decision-making helps ensure students are provided with high-quality, student-centred educational experiences that value individual diversity, inclusive education and Indigenous education opportunities.