

Board News

June 6, 2018

Our Board of Trustees is comprised of Brenda Rosadiuk, *Chair*, Joan Zaporosky, *Vice Chair*, Ellen Aust, Shirley Caputo, Ken Fate, Fiona Fowler and Dale Karpluk

- Students from Parkland Composite High School's (PCHS) Envirothon Team gave a presentation to trustees on their recent hosting of the annual provincial competition. Envirothon is an academic science competition based on natural resource management. Through the event, the students learn about forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology, soils, and a current theme. The team from PCHS has participated in the provincial event for the past seven years, and has gone to the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) Envirothon five times. Only the winning team from the province, or state, moves on to the NCF Envirothon. With this year's provincial win, the team will be going to the 2018 NCF Envirothon Event in Idaho and the board was pleased to approve \$5,000 in funding towards some of the expenses for the team to attend.
- The board approved the 2018/19 school year budget based on the projected enrolments for the 2018/19 school year, 2017/18 financial information and data from the 2016/17 financials. A detailed report was provided that summarized the guiding principles, budget assumptions, financial risks, operating results, accumulated surplus, students and staffing statistics. Budget 2018/19 focuses on maximizing classroom resources and equitable funding allocation to students and schools, while maintaining fiscal responsibility. Although GYPSD expects an operating deficit of \$1.4 million, it is a significant improvement over the almost \$2 million deficit in Budget 2017/18. Through Budget 2018/19, the division will maintain the level of certificated full time equivalent positions and service levels in the classrooms.
- As part of the governance process, several board policies were reviewed and updated at today's meeting including Policy 16 - Recruitment and Selection of Personnel; Policy 21 - Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression; and Policy 2, Appendix A - Board Annual Work Plan.
- Trustees approved an increase to the 2018/19 ineligible transportation fees for the 2018/19 school year. The increase from the current fee of \$250.00 to \$350.00 is intended to off set the actual cost of \$812.00 per student per year. In addition, a new clause 2.4 was added to the policy that states "Ineligible students will not be registered on a school bus until the fourth (4th) week of school as ridership is being confirmed during this time."
- Director of Transportation Services, Mr. Corey Halabi, provided the quarterly Transportation Community Consultation Action Plan (TCCAP) update. The TCCAP provides the board with regular updates from transportation services on a number of topics including the school bus registration progress, student ridership, information on the number of ineligible students transported, ridership waiting lists, and current ride times.
- School instructional times for the upcoming school year were developed in accordance with Policy 18 - School Calendar and to align with the new pilot calendar implemented for the 2018/19 school year.
- Superintendent Lewis addressed the Annual Accountability Pillar Survey Summary for 2017-18. Every year Alberta Education conducts the Accountability Pillar Survey to all school divisions. The division uses this report to celebrate successes, identify trends, issues and areas of growth.
- Information on the Mental Health Capacity Building (MHCB) in School Initiative and Bringing Empowered Students Together (BEST) programs were highlighted at today's meeting. BEST continues to partner with GYPSD staff as the division continues to focus on self-regulation for students, teachers and educational assistants.

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