

Board News

September 20, 2017

Our Board of Trustees is comprised of Brenda Rosadiuk, *Chair*, Joan Zaporosky, *Vice Chair*, Shirley Caputo, Betsy DeClercq, Carol DeMong, Ken Fate, and John Stitzenberger

Capital Projects Update

Facility Services provided their regular update to the board on the current capital project in the division: the new replacement school in Edson, Mary Bergeron Elementary.

Edson: The school opened on September 5, 2017 with all classrooms being completed. Work is ongoing at the school with landscaping in the front and the east side being completed over the next couple of weeks. The east playground is scheduled to be completed the week of September 18th. Exterior stucco work is ongoing as well as work is continuing in the gym and learning commons and both are scheduled for completion in October.

Other News in Brief

- The board was pleased to approve funding in support of two camps in Hinton this year: \$2,500 to host 'It's Cool to Know Your Way in a Relationship Camp' for all Grade 8 GYPSD students; and \$1,400 for the annual Imagine Conference for all Grade 6 students. Both events are fully supported by trustees as extremely valuable in building capacity for positive youth development and assist those supports and resources that exist in GYPSD schools.
- An in-depth revision to Policy 12 - Role of the Superintendent was approved at today's meeting to reflect the Superintendent Leadership Standards as well as guidelines provided by the Alberta School Boards' Association.
- Hinton trustees brought up some concerns in regards to the new inter-school busing routes for ineligible riders within the Town of Hinton. Superintendent Lewis updated the board that the transportation department has addressed the majority of concerns noted to date including the amendment of drop-off times. Over the next couple of weeks, administration is reviewing other possible route changes that can be made within budgetary constraints to address other concerns brought forward. She reminded trustees that the transportation budget has been in a deficit budget over the last three years due to the expansion of ineligible ridership service within towns' limits which is not part of the transportation's funding model by the province. Although the division does charge a fee for this service, it is only a fraction of the actual cost which is closer to \$600 per rider. Discussions on the continuation of this service may be brought forward later this year.
- After consultations with both internal and external stakeholders, trustees revised the current ineligible transportation fee from \$300 to \$250 with a family maximum of \$750 for the current school year. Those families who paid the original fee of \$300 will be issued a refund of \$50 within the next 30 days. Please see the accompanying press release for more information.
- Assistant Superintendent Karén provided the Fourth Quarter Statement of Revenues and Expenses to August 31st, for the year ending August 31, 2017. Excluding any fiscal year-end closing adjustments, a preliminary review of the division's financial operations indicates that the balance of revenues over expenditures is at 93.8% of the projected budget, or \$982,010 - 54.8% of the original deficit budget projected at \$1,793,111.
- Assistant Superintendent Shipka reported on the current application of the division's universal screening assessments which includes Aimsweb, HLAT's (Highest Level of Achievement Test), and Mathletics. These screens are characterized by the administration of quick repeatable testing of age-appropriate skills for students which provide the necessary evidence to identify learning needs and determine appropriate teaching supports to improve both literacy and numeracy skills.
- AP 505 - School Fees was amended to reflect current legislative requirements in regards to program and non-program fees.

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