

# Board NEWS

October 3, 2018

## ► Increasing Students Supports & Resources

Trustees unanimously approved a motion to provide a letter of support for additional funding from the Mental Health Capacity Building (MHCB) Enhancement Fund to expand the supports and resources currently offered through the Bringing Empowered Students Together (BEST) Program in the division. The BEST Program is a Mental Health Capacity Building In-School Initiative funded by Alberta Health Services and has offered resources and supports in several GYPSD communities since 2011. The funding will allow the BEST Program to expand their supports and resources to promote positive mental health, facilitate access to early intervention and improve knowledge of effective and innovative services across the mental health continuum in our children, youth, families and communities in all GYPSD schools.

### **Other Notes of Interest**

- The board was pleased to provide a letter of support to the Town of Edson for their application for a provincial Civic Forfeiture Grant in the amount of \$100,000 for the local School Resource Officer position.
- Trustees completed an online survey from ASBA that will be used to assist the ASBA Board of Directors in developing key messages and advocacy points about education funding in anticipation of a provincial election.
- Ken Baluch, Director of Facility Services, provided a report on the various maintenance projects completed over the last few months.
- Cindy Wang, Secretary Treasurer, reported that the division has a slight increase in the total student

enrolments as of September 30th. The increase is 2.6 per cent compared to the 2017/2018 September 30th enrolment numbers, or an increase of 114 students. Ms. Wang also provided the fourth quarter unaudited financial report for the 2017/2018 school year which reports a deficit of \$1.9 million.

- A report on the various field trips over the last school year as well as upcoming international trips were discussed by the board. Local and international field trips offer GYPSD student enhancements to education opportunities, building global citizenship, and developing social awareness skills in our youth. Experiential learning opportunities also build essential competencies for life and the world of work.
- Superintendent Lewis shared with the board about her attendance at various school and divisional events and activities over the last few weeks.

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