

Board News

November 20, 2019

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

Financial Updates

- The Board received good news in regards to the Division's financial status for the year ending August 31, 2019. Despite a projected deficit, hard work and strategic efficiency planning resulted in an overall small surplus by the end of last year.
- Unfortunately, due to an unexpected increase in over \$1 million in insurance premiums (274 per cent) as well as an additional \$2 million loss in provincial grants, the Board expects an approximate \$3 million deficit for the 2019/2020 school year. Further efficiencies and adjustment of service levels are presently being investigated in anticipation of the next provincial budget announcement in February 2020.

Policy Updates

- As part of their regular review, Trustees received recommended changes to Policies 1, 2, 5, and 6 from the Policy Committee. Proposed amendments are to align with current government legislation, and the new Education Act, as well as to clarify intent of each policy. Policy 2, Policy 2 - Appendix C, and Policy 6, each require further consultation before approval. Approved changes to Policy 1, Policy 2 - Appendix A and Appendix B, Policy 5 and Policy 7 are on the Division's website.

Student Learning Updates: Literacy and Exam Results

- Various literacy initiatives have resulted in significant student improved results over the last year.
- Superintendent Lewis was pleased to share the significant growth in the Division's 2018/2019 PATs and Diploma Exam results.

School Councils' Annual Reports

- The 2018/2019 School Councils' Reports provided an overview of each school council's activities and events. School councils provide valuable support and guidance to their school in meeting the Board's priorities as well as the school's annual continuous improvement plan.

Other News in Brief

Superintendent's Reports:

- **Staffing** - An update on current staffing levels across the Division.
- **Powerschool** - Information on the Instructional Support Plan module in Powerschool software.
- **PASI** - Provincial requirement to house all student records in a digital format by 2020.

- **IMR** - 2019/2020 Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal Expenditure Plan.
- **Water Testing Protocols** - Current water testing protocols in Division facilities.

Trustee Reports:

- Discussed attendance at Remembrance Day assemblies at local schools and legions, as well as monthly school council meetings.
- Met with MLA M. Long at the Alberta School Boards Association's Fall General Meeting and Awards Banquet.
- Edson Trustee Fowler enjoyed a session on conflict resolution at the last PSBC meeting, and her work as a judge at the local high school's pumpkin carving contest along with Trustee Zaporosky. She was also pleased to hand out school information folders at a recent Chamber of Commerce meeting.
- Due to inclement weather, local trustees Aust and Caputo were the Board's representatives at this year's ATA Induction Ceremony in Hinton.
- Jasper Trustee Karpluk attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting that recognized the 100th anniversary of CNRail.
- Trustees Fowler, Karpluk, Zaporosky, Aust, and Rosadiuk participated in valuable discussions at the Rural Caucus.

Superintendent's Update:

- Guided various departments and schools through the budgetary process in streamlining protocols and seeking efficiency strategies.
- Led this month's professional development with school administrators in the important work of instructional rounds and effective coaching in support of the Board's priority of teaching and leadership excellence.
- Established external contracts with the Alberta School Boards Association for efficiency audits for payroll and human resources, and policy revisions.
- Investigated possible resource sharing partnerships with other school divisions.
- Attended various governance meetings with trustees and local MLAs.



Trustees Karpluk and Zaporosky with MLA Long at the MLA Breakfast hosted by the Alberta School Boards Association

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