

Public Board Meeting - December 18, 2019

Financial News

Trustees made the decision to seek insurance program alternatives due to the significant increase in insurance premiums - almost 300 per cent - by their current provider, the Alberta School Boards' Reciprocal Insurance Exchange (ASBIE). If no other fiscally beneficial insurance options are found by June 2020, the Board can give notice to rejoin the ASBIE program.

The first quarter financial report noted that revenues and expenses to date are within the targeted projections as of November 30, 2019. Student enrolment increased by 1.6 per cent however, due to the provincial reallocation of several grant funds and an unexpected increase of 274 per cent to insurance premiums - almost \$800,000 – the Board will post a \$2.7 million deficit. With the approval of the Minister of Education, the Board of Trustees will reallocate funds from Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) as well as implement cost savings initiatives such as central office staff reduction, a temporary hiring freeze and limits to division spending to help reduce any impact on front line staff for the current year.

Guiding Document - Board Approves Three-Year Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report

Trustees approved the 2019-2022 Three-Year Education Plan (3YEP) and the 2018/2019 Annual Education Results Report (AERR). Each year Alberta Education requires every school division to submit a document containing a Three-Year Education Plan and Annual Education Results Review. The 3YEP and AERR provides stakeholders information regarding the Division's successes in improving results using the strategies developed by education stakeholders. This document provides a clear, detailed picture of Grande Yellowhead Public School Division (GYPSD) students' achievements and the strategic work that is in place for student success, inclusion, and well-being. Superintendent Lewis shared some of the highlights from the results report that noted the Division's concerted focus on literacy had resulted in Grade 6 and 9 reading results above the provincial average. The full report is available on the Division's website by January 6, 2020.

Professional Development in Action - Palisades Indigenous Camp

The ninth annual Palisades Indigenous Camp for educators was held at the Palisades Education Stewardship Centre in Jasper National Park from October 7-9, 2019. Forty-five attendees, including 17 from GYPSD, received invaluable hands-on learning and cultural teachings in support of Competency Five of the Teaching and Leadership Quality Standards. The GYPSD Indigenous Education Team along with local Elders, knowledge keepers, and members from the Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium, provided various supports and resources for the experiential and authentic three-day camp. GYPSD is proud to be a provincial leader in supporting Indigenous learning and cultural teachings through resources such as those offered during the annual camp.

Expanding the World to Students - GYPSD's International Education Program

The Division has proudly offered an international education program for a number of years. International education programs assist students and educators in acquiring international and intercultural knowledge, skills, and awareness they need to live and work effectively in a global environment. By committing to international education, GYPSD builds connections and creates opportunities for future collaboration between students, educators, and communities worldwide, and fosters a commitment to responsible global citizenship. For the 2019/2020 school year, students from Germany, Japan, the Philippines, and South Africa are opening the world to GYPSD students by sharing their unique cultures and traditions while studying at a GYPSD school. Interested families who may be interested in providing a warm and welcoming Canadian homestay for international students are invited to contact the Division to learn more. A new addition to the international education program is the Tekarra Language Camps where students experience two weeks of winter sports, English Second Language classes, and make connections with Canadian schools, students, and families. For more information, please visit the international education page on the Division's website.

Superintendent's Update - A Busy Quarter of Learning

Superintendent Lewis provided an in-depth overview of the various events and professional learning across the Division over the last four months. Instructional rounds with administrators, school visits, data analysis, new teacher supports and learning, advocacy and budget meetings with local government officials, and attendance at community open houses are just a few of the scheduled events that kept the senior administration team busy in the first quarter of the school year. Planning for other spring events includes community engagement sessions across the Division, a Council of School Councils' meeting, international education fairs, recruitment fairs, and a new recognition evening for next fall. Superintendent Lewis was also pleased to share that she has been asked to be the superintendent representative on this year's selection committee for the 2020 ASBA's Edwin Parr Award for First Year Teachers.

Trustee Reports:

- Over the last couple of weeks, trustees participated in a number of local school events including Christmas concerts and drama performances. Edson trustees Fowler and Zaporosky also took part in the Town of Edson's Santa Clause Parade on Parkland Composite High School's float that won the Best Youth Float.
- Governance work continued with a Board Planning Seminar, Policy Committee meetings, Alberta School Boards Association's Zone 2/3 meeting, a mayor candidate forum for Yellowhead County, and school council meetings.
- Board Chair Rosadiuk offered congratulations on behalf of the Board to Yellowhead County's newly elected mayor, Jim Eglinski, and the best holiday wishes to all GYPSD staff, students, families and community members.
- Trustees entertained central office staff with their new musical version of *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer aka Carolyn their Red-Haired Leader*, and provided a delicious home-cooked lunch as a thank you from the Board.

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