

School Council Report - November 2019

Enrolment

While overall enrolment in the division is down by 1.4% (46 students), no schools meet the criteria for school closure. Total number in community schools was 3776 – this number fluctuates as students move in or out of the division.

Trustee Keough resignation

As a result of the resignation of Trustee Keough, Trustee McElroy will be the representative for the Swan Hills School.

2020-2021 school year calendar approved

The Board approved the 2020-2021 school year calendar, after being presented with five options to consider. Alternate school calendars will be considered in February 2020. Start day for students is September 2 and end day is June 25.

AP 20-03 School Dispute Resolution (External Communication Protocol)

This has not changed from our original External Communication Protocol AP – only the name has changed to align with requirements under the Education Act. This AP addresses who to contact when you are experiencing something you may view as problematic. It is imperative that you contact the person who is responsible for the decision first, so as not to be redirected.

Ward Review

We are working on the details of the ward review. We have asked the permission of school councils to engage our parents and community members at a January/February meeting with a presentation on the ward review options, timelines and process.

Water Lead Level Testing

Due to a research study being published around concerns about lead concentrations in school water our facilities director had water tests performed at all of our schools. The lead content at all sites is below the acceptable limit of 5 parts per billion.

Alberta School Boards Association FGM – Nov. 17-19

Position statements going forward to government:

- Charter Schools: That government enforce the regulations on Charter Schools and wind down Charter Schools once their learning style, working style or pedagogy is being offered by the local public, separate or Francophone school board.
- Choice in Education Act: That the choice in education act continue to support and enhance the 61 public, separate and Francophone School Boards.
- Naming of Public School Boards: That the minister support public boards in altering their division name under section 116 of the Education Act to include the word "public" in their legal division name.
- Vaping: That the Ministries of Education and Health collaborate and share research about the effect of vaping... And that all levels of government expeditiously amend statutes under the Tobacco and Smoking Reduction act and Tobacco and Vaping Product Act and regulations to align the restrictions on the consumption, promotion, marketing and sale of vaping products to Alberta's youth with those on tobacco products.

- **Inclusive Practices:** That AB. Education Review current inclusion practices, with involvement from all stakeholders, to assess the strengths and challenges of these inclusion practices, report findings, and provide the necessary funding to implement evidence-based practices that support the diverse learning needs of Alberta students.
- **School Bus Speed Limits:** PHSD – that buses are able to operate at the posted speed limit, passed with the support of 90% of school boards, representing 77.33% of students
- **FTE for Early Childhood Education:** That government utilize the actual full time equivalent for ECS when determining school boards' utilization of schools.
- **Superintendent Regulation:** That the government restore the local autonomy of School Boards, by rescinding the current Superintendent of Schools Regulation and amend the Education Act to remove the requirement for Ministerial approval of Superintendent appointments.

Tobacco and Smoking Prevention Act

The public also has an opportunity to provide feedback on how to improve legislation around vaping. The on line survey closes November 29th

<https://www.alberta.ca/tobacco-and-smoking-reduction-review.aspx>

Here's an informative video titled: "Are Students Juuling in your classroom?"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLD7kW_uVEY

Choice in Education Act

I have participated in a webinar on this topic, and we await the Act with some trepidation. The government is seeking feedback from the general public on the various school systems we have in the province. They have said there will be no changes in funding, but that they are enshrining a parents right to choose. The survey needs to be completed by December 6th

<https://www.alberta.ca/choice-in-education-engagement.aspx>

Budget

Alberta Education has informed us that the new education funding framework will not be released until February with an implementation date of September 2020. The education budget will remain the same for the next 4 years at \$8.223 billion.

Follow me on Facebook or Twitter. Check out the 'Board News' in the Barrhead Leader!
Jennifer.Tuininga@pembinahills.ca 780-674-6579 H, 780-284-0971 C

