



# Aspen View PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*“Aspen View Public Schools is committed to preparing our students to achieve success and reach their unique potential through the provision of meaningful learning opportunities.”*

## Board Highlights

from the regular meeting held Thursday, June 22, 2017  
at Aspen View Public Schools Division Office



### Draft school fees list

The Aspen View Public Schools Board of Trustees unanimously approved the draft 2017-2018 school fees list for submission to Alberta Education. The submission comprehensively lists, by school, what fees may be charged for specific courses, activities, projects or items. Changes were also approved to bring Aspen View policy in line with the newly passed *Bill 1 - An Act to Reduce School Fees*. School fee lists require Alberta Education approval before they can be implemented. It should also be noted that the list describes only what fees may be charged and the maximum amounts; fees may be reduced or eliminated based on program availability and cost.

Alberta Education estimates a three-week turnaround to review each division's school fee lists.

### Meeting with Education Minister

On June 16, 2017, Aspen View Public Schools board chair Dennis MacNeil, vice chair Candy Nikipelo, trustee Anne Karczmarczyk and Superintendent Mark Francis met in Edmonton with Alberta Education Minister Hon. David Eggen. Discussion centred around rural education funding and the implementation of *Bill 1 - An Act to Reduce School Fees*, and also touched on changes to the *Municipal Government Act* and advocacy for a single publicly funded education system.

Aspen View's delegation reported that the meeting was extremely positive and they found Minister Eggen to be very receptive to Aspen View's concerns. In particular, they noted that Minister Eggen agreed that a review of the education funding framework is required, and recognized the impact of changes to Credit Enrolment Unit funding to rural school divisions.

The Board of Trustees will follow up with a letter thanking Minister Eggen for meeting with them and continuing their dialogue.

### Literacy update

Donna Wesley, Director of Curriculum & Technology, provided an update on Aspen View's literacy initiative. Across the division, 286 students in Grades 1-8 took part in the Leveled Literacy Intervention program, with 90 per cent improving by 0.5-2.5 grade levels. Among all Grade 1-8 students in Aspen View, 71 per cent are now reading at or above grade level, which is a seven-per-cent improvement from one year ago. While the improvement is significant, Wesley noted that there is still much work to do as between 20-30 per cent of Grades 1-4 students still struggle with reading.

For the 2017-18 school year, increased emphasis will be placed on improving school administrators' capacity to support and reinforce literacy programs within each school.

### Other highlights:

- The Board of Trustees awarded a tender for boiler system replacement at Landing Trail Intermediate School. Work will take place over the summer with the total project cost (approximately \$195,000) fully funded through Aspen View's 2016-17 provincial Infrastructure Maintenance & Renewal grant.

- Aspen View is projected to have saved close to \$80,000 in short-term substitute teacher costs in 2016-17. While specific circumstances vary, the overall savings can be attributed, in part, to greater encouragement of in-house professional development on 'Staff Work Day' Fridays, as well as an increased focus on staff mental health and wellbeing as reflected in schedule changes such as the November break.

- The Board of Trustees has approved its board meeting dates and locations for the 2017-18 school year. The full list is available on the Aspen View Public Schools website [here](#).

### Next Board Meeting:

Thursday, August 31, 2017  
10 a.m. - Landing Trail  
Intermediate School

### Upcoming Events:

June 29:  
Last Day of School for  
Grades 7-12 and all staff

August 23:  
School offices reopen

August 30:  
First Day of School  
for students

### Trustees:

Ward 1 (North West):  
Nancy Sand

Ward 2 (North Central):  
Anne Karczmarczyk  
Dennis MacNeil (Chair)

Ward 3 (North East):  
Candy Nikipelo (Vice Chair)

Ward 4 (South West):  
Vacant

Ward 5 (South Central):  
Elohne Chizawsky

Ward 6 (South East):  
Donna Cherniwchan

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