



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, May 18, 2017
at Aspen View Division Office



Budget approval postponed

Following a detailed presentation by administration, the Aspen View Public Schools Board of Trustees voted to postpone approval of the 2017-18 operating budget to their June 8 meeting. Alberta Education has provided additional information and extended the deadline for school jurisdictions to submit their approved budgets to June 30; Aspen View trustees voted to postpone approval of the budget so that administration can determine if any changes are recommended to the budget as presented.

Projected enrolments were updated to reflect the addition of the new Deep Creek Colony School in 2017-18. Aspen View's enrolment is forecast at 2,750 students, down 95 students from Aspen View's September 30, 2016 enrolment.

As a result of the enrolment decline, Aspen View estimates 2017-18 operating revenue from all sources at just under \$42 million, approximately \$1.07 million less than the current year.

A number of strategies have been evaluated in order to reduce expenses. To achieve a balanced operating budget for 2017-18, Aspen View would need to reduce expenses by approximately \$1.45 million, or three per cent.

'Good Spirit' decision reviewed

The Board of Trustees was briefed on the April 20, 2017 ruling of the Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench in the 'Good Spirit' case, in which a public school division took legal action after a Catholic school was allowed to open in a small community where the public school had closed. The court ruled that provincial funding of non-Catholic students attending a Catholic school is a violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Should the 'Good Spirit' case be appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada as anticipated, it

would have a significant bearing on education in Alberta as the two provinces' school systems are very similar.

The circumstances in the 'Good Spirit' case are strikingly reminiscent of the situation Aspen View encountered in 2003, when Waskatenau School was allowed to reopen as Holy Family Catholic School.

Accountability Pillar results

Preliminary Accountability Pillar feedback from Aspen View's student, parent and staff surveys have yielded very positive results.

Division-wide results show significant improvement in four categories (Program of Studies, Education Quality, Citizenship and Continuous Improvement), as well as improvement in Safe & Caring Schools and Parental Involvement.

The survey results will be combined with data from diploma and PAT exams, high school completion rates and other measures to form the full Accountability Pillar, part of the Annual Education Results Report that will be presented in the fall of 2017.

Other highlights:

- The Board of Trustees approved another 21 locally developed courses to be offered within the division. That brings the total number of approved locally developed courses available to 47. Locally developed courses are high school credit courses, available within specific schools based on student enrolment and availability of instructors.

- Aspen View will continue to exchange correspondence with Alberta Education Minister, Hon. David Eggen, around the funding framework for K-12 education. The Board hopes to secure a meeting with Minister Eggen in the near future to further highlight its concerns.

Next Board Meeting:

Thursday, June 8, 2017
10 a.m. - Smith School

Upcoming Events:

June 15:
Start of Diploma Exams
June 16:
Start of Grade 6 PAT Exams
June 23:
Start of Grade 9 PAT Exams;
Last day of School for
Grades K-6 (plus LTIS Grade 7)
June 29:
Last Day of School for
Grades 7-12 and all staff

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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