



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, December 14, 2017
at Aspen View Public Schools Division Office



Bill 28 - School Amendment Act

Superintendent Mark Francis provided trustees with an overview of Bill 28, amending the School Act, which received Royal Assent on December 15, 2017. Key elements of the bill include:

- Establishing a common age of entry for Kindergarten of five years old by December 31 (already in place within Aspen View);
- Establishing standards for Educational Service Agreements between First Nations and school boards;
- Removal of the 2.4 km ‘walk limit’ for student transportation. New regulations regarding transportation are expected in early 2018;
- Establishment of professional practice standards for principals, superintendents and school jurisdiction leaders;
- Changing the establishment process for separate school districts.

Francis noted that the impact of Bill 28 will become clearer as its associated regulations are released in the coming months.

Aspen View Bus Driver Award

The Board of Trustees passed a motion to create an Aspen View Bus Driver of the Year Award, with the first presentation at the Aspen View Staff and Recognition Awards Night on May 11, 2018. Nomination processes will be shared with stakeholders early in the New Year.

Athabasca & District Music Festival

The Board of Trustees heard a presentation from Ida Edwards, representing the Athabasca & District Music Festival. Edwards spoke of the many performing arts opportunities provided through the festival, highlighted the benefits to students of participating in performing arts, and encouraged greater participation in the festival from schools.

Trustee Candy Nikipelo commented that while there are obstacles to school participation such as cost, time and expertise, they can be overcome.

Aspen View administration committed to sharing information on the festival with schools and to encourage their participation.

Alberta Rural Education Symposium

Aspen View Public Schools continues to support the Alberta Rural Education Symposium (ARES), which it helped establish in 2013. The 7th annual ARES will be held in Edmonton March 4-6, 2018 with a theme of ‘Building Healthy Rural Communities’. The Board passed a motion authorizing trustees to attend and will encourage representatives from municipalities within Aspen View to attend as well.

CUPE agreement

The Board of Trustees passed a motion to ratify a four-year Memorandum of Agreement between Aspen View Public Schools and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 4575. Key elements of the agreement include:

- No salary increases for the first two years of the agreement (September 1, 2016 - August 31, 2018); a one-per-cent salary increase on September 1, 2018; and a further 1.5-per-cent salary increase on September 1, 2019.
- Alignment with existing vacation structure for non-union support staff.
- One paid personal leave day per year.

Negotiations took place between September and November 2017, with CUPE Local 4575 ratifying the Memorandum of Agreement on November 25, 2017.

CUPE Local 4575 represents Aspen View support staff working within Smoky Lake County (H.A. Kostash School and Vilna School).

Next Board Meeting:

Thursday, January 18, 2018
10 a.m. - Thorhild Central School

Upcoming Events:

December 25, 2017-
January 5, 2018:
Christmas Break (No School)

January 8, 2018:
Classes Resume

January 9, 2018:
Council of School Councils
5 p.m. - WHPS

January 11-30, 2018:
Diploma Exams

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):
April Bauer
- Ward 5 (South Central):
Tom Mykytiuk
- Ward 6 (South East):
Donna Cherniwchan

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