



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, January 18, 2018
at Thorhild Central School



2018-19 School Calendar

Trustees reviewed two drafts of the proposed 2018-19 school year calendar. Both were similar to the 2017-18 calendar in that classes would start prior to the Labour Day weekend, and both the November break and regular staff work day Fridays are maintained.

Some trustees expressed a desire for additional scenarios, including those that delay the start of classes until after Labour Day. Superintendent Mark Francis indicated that to do so would require other accommodations that may impact the November break, staff work days and other factors in order to still meet mandated targets for instructional minutes.

Additional draft calendars will be developed and shared with school councils and other stakeholders for feedback, particularly around what priorities should be reflected within the calendar.

New EPC School update

Superintendent Francis reiterated for the Board of Trustees Aspen View’s January 15, 2018 announcement that the new Edwin Parr Composite School in Athabasca will open for the start of the 2018-19 school year.

Trustees commented that while some students may be disappointed not to be attending the new school sooner, the new timeline will allow a much smoother transition for all.

Superintendent Francis also noted that Aspen View’s application for a stormwater pond near the new EPC has been approved; the new timeline helps ensure that construction of the pond does not impact the school’s operations. As well, Aspen View has been advised that Alberta Transportation plans to begin work this spring to improve the intersection of University Drive and Highway 2.

Catholic school in Smoky Lake?

Aspen View Public Schools has become aware of a proposal by Lakeland Catholic School District to establish a new Catholic school in the Town of Smoky Lake. Following an in-camera discussion, the Aspen View Board of Trustees passed two motions: one, to request an emergent meeting with the Minister of Education in regard to the proposal; and two, to invite representatives from Lakeland Catholic Schools, the Town of Smoky Lake, Smoky Lake County and the Village of Waskatenau to a meeting to share information and hold discussions, so that decisions regarding education in the Smoky Lake area are community-driven.

The Board of Trustees of Aspen View Public Schools believes that the best way to support students – not just in Aspen View, but across Alberta – is through one single, publicly funded, inclusive school system.

Other highlights:

- Aspen View Public Schools will provide a written submission to the Province of Alberta as part of its pre-budget consultation process. Aspen View will focus on the need for a revised education funding framework that better addresses the unique challenges faced by rural school divisions.
- The Board of Trustees passed a motion to extend the terms of Aspen View’s newly-ratified agreement with support staff represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees, to all support staff employed by Aspen View.
- Aspen View Public Schools has agreed with its municipal partners that responsibility for the administration and oversight of the Smoky Lake Family School Liaison Worker program should transfer to Aspen View Public Schools.

Next Board Meeting:

Thursday, February 1, 2018
10 a.m. - Boyle School

Upcoming Events:

January 11-30, 2018
Diploma Exams

January 31, 2018
First Day of Semester 2

February 2, 2018
Semester Break/
Staff Work Day (No School)

February 15-16, 2018
Teacher’s Convention
(No School)

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

Division Office:

3600 48 Ave.
Athabasca, AB T9S 1M8
Phone: 780-675-7080
www.aspenview.org
email: info@aspenview.org
Facebook: @aspenviewschools