



# 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 24, 2018  
at Smith School



### Budget approval

The Aspen View Public Schools Board of Trustees unanimously approved the 2018/19 Spring Budget with a revised operating deficit of \$376,337. Revenue is expected to decrease by approximately \$714,000 from the 2017/18 Fall Budget, due to an anticipated decline in enrollment of 62 full-time equivalent students, as well as decreases in both Infrastructure Maintenance Renewal (IMR) funding and school-generated funds. Overall expenses are budgeted to decrease by approximately \$421,600, to \$42.19 million. Factors impacting expenses include grid and negotiated salary increases, staffing changes, expenses tied to specific grants, and adjustments to budgeted expenses based on previous years' actuals.

### School Fees

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved a recommendation from the Transportation Committee that School of Choice fees — a \$100 fee assessed to students who attend a school outside their designated attendance area — be suspended for the 2018/19 school year.

Immediately following, the Board unanimously approved the amended 2018/19 Fee Template, which is a comprehensive listing of all school-based and centrally-administered fees that may be charged during the 2018/19 school year. Each school will communicate fees to families as applicable. A discussion around fee collection will take place at the June 14, 2018 Board of Trustees meeting.

### Assessment changes

Starting in the 2018/19 school year, reporting of student achievement in Grades 4-6 will change to the same method currently used for Grades 7-12. The change follows a review by Aspen View Public Schools, conducted at the request of both educators and parents, that determined that the current

‘outcome based’ reporting method used in Grades 1-6 does not clearly identify general and specific learner outcomes from the Program of Studies, and does not clearly communicate student achievement in relation to the learner outcomes.

A review of the current student assessment practices for K-3 is ongoing.

### Attendance

Following the standardization of attendance codes at the start of the 2017-18 school year, Superintendent Mark Francis provided an update on Aspen View attendance data through May 10, 2018. Research indicates that students who miss more than 10 per cent of instructional days are at an increased risk of negative outcomes. Across Aspen View, between 30-50 per cent of students are absent — for any reason — for more than 10 per cent of instructional days.

Aspen View Public Schools will launch an attendance initiative in 2018-19, including an ‘early warning’ system when absences approach at-risk levels; parent communication; and expectations and strategies for staff intervention.

### Support services vacancies

As a member of Aspen Regional Collaborative Service Delivery (RCSD), Aspen View will formally request the involvement of the Minister of Advanced Education in helping address the shortage of support service professionals in rural Alberta. Aspen RCSD currently has 19 vacant positions in the area of Speech Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Mental Health and other specialized services. Some of these positions have been vacant for more than two years.

### Other highlights

- A Request for Proposals has been issued for construction of the sports fields at the new Edwin Parr Composite School.

### Next Board Meeting:

Thursday, June 14, 2018  
10 a.m. - Division Office

### Upcoming Events:

June 13-28, 2018  
Diploma Exams

June 20-27, 2018  
Grade 6&9 PAT Exams

June 21, 2018  
National Aboriginal Day

June 29, 2018  
Last Day for 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):  
April Bauer
- Ward 5 (South Central):  
Tom Mykytiuk
- Ward 6 (South East):  
Donna Cherniwchan

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