



# 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, September 14, 2017  
at Aspen View Public Schools Division Office



### Preliminary enrolment

Preliminary student enrolment numbers were shared with the Board of Trustees. As of September 17, 2017, Aspen View Public Schools' total K-12 funded enrolment is 2,715 students, which is 15 students below the projected funded enrolment of 2,730. Of note:

- Whispering Hills Primary School's current Kindergarten enrolment is unexpectedly low, at just 70 students; by comparison, Grades 1-3 have enrolments of 110-133 students each.
- Vilna School's total enrolment is currently below projections, but may change significantly due to expanded transportation options from the Saddle Lake First Nation.
- Schools with enrolments currently ahead of projections include Edwin Parr Composite School, H.A. Kostash School, Thorhild Central School and the Centre for Alternative & Virtual Education.

Official enrolment counts, from which provincial funding is determined, will be recorded on Friday, September 29, 2017.

### School of Choice fee

The Board of Trustees passed a motion to amend the 2017-18 transportation fees established at the August 31, 2017 meeting. The motion implements a \$100 annual fee per student (capped at \$200 per family) for busing to a school other than their designated school. Parents/guardians are responsible for transporting those students to an assigned bus stop for that school.

### Electoral Boundaries Review

Trustees reviewed Aspen View's written submission in response to the Interim Report of the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission. Aspen View opposes the commission's recommendations, which include amalgamating constituencies in rural Alberta in order to add

ridings in urban centres.

Aspen View also takes strong exception to statements in the report that the reduction of rural voice due to the redistribution of seats is an 'inevitable result'.

Please follow the links for the [Interim Report](#) and [Aspen View's response](#).

### School Act consultations

Trustees Donna Cherniwchan and Elohne Chizawsky, superintendent Mark Francis and Thorhild Central School Parent Council chair Lisa Lloyd will represent Aspen View Public Schools at an Alberta Education consultation regarding potential amendments to the *School Act*. Trustees discussed Aspen View's position on a number of related issues, including:

- strengthening home education regulations;
- review of the 2.4 km 'walk limit' for transportation funding;
- determining residency by the location of the student, not the parent(s);
- allowing school boards to determine, case-by-case, the enrolment of overage and underage students; as well as the availability of full-time Kindergarten programs.

### Other highlights:

- Some bus routes in the Athabasca attendance area have been frequently cancelled and/or amalgamated, due to a shortage of bus drivers. Aspen View Public Schools is working with the contractor to ensure recruitment strategies and other initiatives are in place to remedy the situation.
- Aspen View Public Schools has communicated with RCMP and other law enforcement agencies within its communities, encouraging them to maintain an active presence around schools to help reinforce traffic safety.

### Next Board Meeting:

Thursday, October 5, 2017  
10 a.m. - Rochester School

### Upcoming Events:

- September 30:  
Orange Shirt Day  
(School recognition on September 29)
- October 6: Staff Work Day  
(No School for Students)
- October 9: Thanksgiving  
(No School)
- October 16:  
School Board Elections

### 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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