

Board Highlights

from the regular meeting held
Thursday, May 2, 2019
at Smith School



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.”

Early Childhood Services program review

Aspen View Public Schools contracted Barbara Gammon, a former administrator with Palliser School Division, to complete a review of Early Childhood Services (ECS) within Aspen View, including both pre-Kindergarten (Great Beginnings) and Kindergarten programs. The executive summary of her report was presented to the Board of Trustees.

Ms. Gammon's report commended Aspen View for its work in recent years to increase accessibility to Great Beginnings programming, including for children with special learning needs.

The report also contains several recommendations, including to further expand accessibility to ECS programs in all communities; provide screening dates for early identification of special learning needs; maximize funding opportunities; and increase professional development.

Superintendent Neil O'Shea advised that administration will fully review the report and develop an advocacy plan to support further expansion of ECS programming.

VTRA Protocol

Shannon Smith, Director of Student Services, and Amy Kuchera, school therapist, presented to the Board of Trustees on the Athabasca & Area Violence and Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol.

VTRA is a collaborative strategy to reduce threats to school and community safety through the sharing of information, advice and support amongst agencies. Partners in the Athabasca & Area VTRA include Aspen View Public Schools, RCMP, Health Services, FCSS, Childrens Services, municipalities and other service providers.

The VTRA Protocol is due to be ratified

by the partner organizations in the weeks to come; in the meantime, the Board of Trustees approved a Fair Notice to be posted in school offices and websites, advising students, staff and parents of Aspen View's commitment to the VTRA Protocol.

Student Engagement

The Board of Trustees heard a presentation on the Student Engagement event held April 16, 2019 at Boyle School. Fifteen students from Grade 8-11 from across Aspen View participated, facilitated by school therapist Amy Kuchera and wellness coordinator Glenda Gray. Three trustees also attended.

Students discussed the Teacher Quality Standard, mental health literacy, comprehensive school health, positive aspects about each school, and other topics. Among the key information received from students was the importance of relationships with school staff; access to qualified and trustworthy adults in times of distress; the need for information of available resources; and the desire for more inter-school networking outside of athletics.

Superintendent O'Shea advised that the facilitators will meet with the Board of Trustees' Student Voice Committee to review the event and determine next steps; and provide feedback to the participating students.

Other highlights

- Superintendent O'Shea advised Aspen View's participation in job fairs at both the University of Alberta and Concordia University has yielded positive results, with candidates from both schools applying for recently posted teaching positions within Aspen View.

- The Board of Trustees approved, in principle, an out-of-country field trip for Grade 9-12 students from H.A. Kostash School to Italy in spring 2020.

Next Board Meeting:

Thursday, May 16, 2019
10:00 a.m. - Division Office

Upcoming Events:

May 6, 2019
Bus Driver Appreciation Day

May 6-12, 2019
Mental Health Week

May 10, 2019
Aspen View Awards &
Recognition Night

May 17, 2019
Staff Work Day
(No school for students)

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

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