

Board Highlights

from the regular meeting held
Thursday, November 1, 2018
at Thorhild Central 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.”

PAT/Diploma Exam results

Superintendent Neil O’Shea presented division-wide results from Grade 6 & 9 Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) and Grade 12 Diploma exams written in the 2017-18 school year.

Grade 6 PAT scores were strong, particularly for Level of Excellence, as Aspen View exceeded the provincial average in five out of six categories. Grade 6 Math and Social Studies scores improved, but remain below the provincial average.

Improvement at the Acceptable Level occurred in four of six Grade 9 categories, but still remains below the provincial average in most subjects. There is concern regarding the number of Grade 9 students obtaining the Level of Excellence, as well as concern both within the division and the province around Grade 9 Math scores.

Grade 12 Diploma Exam scores remain generally stable, with strong results in English. An improvement in the Level of Excellence was also noted. There is concern regarding Math and some Social Studies results.

Math/Numeracy strategies

Aspen View Public Schools has established a teacher cohort tasked with developing strategies to improve math and numeracy across the division. Two members of the cohort, Brenda Mykytiuk and Rhonda Pawlik, presented to the board on steps taken so far this year at schools in the southern portion of the division, including professional development, student assessments, diagnostic tools and intervention strategies. A presentation at the next board meeting will review parallel strategies taking place at other division schools.

Transportation enhancements

The Board unanimously passed a motion to purchase and install GPS units on all buses contracted to operate for Aspen View. The GPS units will enable Aspen View to monitor buses which will help improve safety and security; aid

with route planning and analysis; and provide parents with real-time information on bus routes.

Twelve additional interior camera units will also be purchased for deployment on buses to assist with complaints and discipline issues.

The equipment purchases will be funded from deferred transportation revenue from previous years.

Revenue update

Secretary-treasurer Amber Oko advised the Board of Trustees that Aspen View’s revenue for the 2017-18 school year will exceed budgeted amounts by approximately \$799,000. Sources include:

- Credit Enrolment Units (CEUs) earned by high school students in Term 2 of the 2017-18 school year;
- Disbursement of assets from previous insurance provider (allocated to capital reserves);
- Retroactive payment reflecting rate change for federally-funded students;
- Investment income;
- Alberta Education revenue adjustments from prior years.

Aspen View’s audited financial statements will be presented at the November 22, 2018 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Other highlights

• The #newHAK public advocacy campaign, to lobby the provincial government to approve the replacement of the existing H.A. Kostash School building in Smoky Lake, is gaining momentum. The campaign has received significant media coverage, and was raised during Question Period in the Legislature by Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater MLA Colin Piquette.

• Aspen View Public Schools took part in the launch of the Public School Boards Association of Alberta ‘Together for Students’ campaign. Trustees will be sharing information with school councils at their upcoming meetings.

Next Board Meeting:

Thursday, November 22, 2018
10 a.m. - Division Office

Upcoming Events:

- November 12
Day In Lieu (No School)
- November 13-16
November Break
(No school)
- November 18-20
Alberta School Boards
Association Fall Conference
- November 26
Council of School Councils
meeting
Rochester 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

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