



Aspen View PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board Highlights

"Aspen View Public Schools is committed to preparing our students to achieve success and reach their unique potential through the provision of diverse learning opportunities."



From the regular meeting held Thursday, May 22, 2025 at Athabasca University

2025-26 Budget

The Board of Trustees of Aspen View Public Schools unanimously approved its 2025-26 budget with a projected deficit of approximately \$254,000 to be funded from reserves.

Total revenue is forecast at \$44.14 million, a 1% increase from 2024-25. Provincial funding is projected to decrease to \$36.3 million, which is nearly \$165,000 less than the April version of the 2024-25 funding profile. While some provincial grant funding has increased, including transportation, classroom complexity, and operations and maintenance, Aspen View's base funding has decreased due to enrolment decline, the new Adjusted Enrolment Method, and a 33% decrease in stabilization funding.

Revenue from other sources is projected to increase, including a \$100,000 increase in federal funding, and a \$130,000 increase in school-generated revenue.

Total expenses are projected at \$44.39 million, which is a 1% increase from 2024-25. Salary grid increases and higher benefit costs have increased expenses, as have additional costs for repair and maintenance, contractors, and insurance.

Trustees noted that continued enrolment decline and decreased stabilization funding continue to pose a significant risk to Aspen View, particularly in light of increasing operating costs. They stressed the need for better rural transportation funding, as Aspen View forecasts a \$565,000 transportation deficit despite increased busing fees.

Transportation fees

The Board of Trustees approved transportation fee increases for 2025-26, as recommended by the Transportation Committee.

The fee for eligible riders rises from \$75 to \$100 per student, to a family maximum of \$250. The same fee amount applies for students

attending a school of choice, as well as for students with a second home address.

The fee for non-eligible riders (those who reside within the walk limit) rises from \$200 to \$250 per student, to a family maximum of \$625. The same fee applies for alternate transportation requests (transporting students to an address other than their residence).

Aspen View compared its transportation fees with those of 13 neighbouring or similar sized divisions. Even with the increase, Aspen View's fees are consistently less than the average fee charged among those comparable divisions.

Board evaluation

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved its 2024-25 self-evaluation.

The evaluation indicates the Board's confidence that it is meeting its responsibilities across all key areas of governance, including accountability to the provincial government, community assurance, student learning, policy, superintendent relations, political advocacy, board development, and fiscal accountability. Trustees report strong working relationships with administration and one another, guided by respectful dialogue and a shared commitment to student success. The Board is engaged in regular policy review, supports transparent financial decision-making, and values collaboration with school communities and municipal partners.

Areas for further development include more consistent monitoring of safe and welcoming school environments, strengthened use of stakeholder feedback in priority-setting, and a more structured approach to advocacy planning.

Other highlights

- The Board of Trustees unanimously approved Aspen View Public Schools' [2024-25 Education Plan](#), originally presented at the previous meeting.

Next Board Meeting:

Thursday, June 19, 2025
10 a.m. - Athabasca University

Upcoming Events:

June 11, 2025
Diploma Exams start

June 21, 2025
National Indigenous Peoples Day

June 25, 2025
Diploma Exams end

June 26, 2025
Last day of school for students

June 27, 2025
Last day of school for staff

Trustees:

Ward 1 (North West):
Brenda Fulmore

Ward 2 (North Central):
Vacant

Dennis MacNeil

Ward 3 (North East):
Candy Nikipelo (Chair)

Ward 4 (South West):
April Bauer

Ward 5 (South Central):
Elohne Chizawsky

Ward 6 (South East):
Donna Cherniwchan
(Vice Chair)

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"Aspen View Public Schools acknowledges Treaty 6 territory: the ancestral and traditional territory of the Cree, Dene, Blackfoot, Saulteaux, Nakota Sioux, as well as the Métis. We acknowledge the many First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples whose footsteps have marked these lands for generations. We recognize the land as an act of reconciliation and gratitude to those on whose territory we reside or are visiting."

Engage Learning. Ignite Potential. Inspire Success