



**New Superintendent:** The Board welcomed our new superintendent Peter Barron.

**Minister Invitation:** Minister LaGrange has invited the Board of Trustees to a half hour meeting on September 29, 2022 in Bonnyville, AB. The Board is invited to bring forth two items of discussion. Proposed topics include staffing shortages in every area including but not limited to teachers, bus drivers, and speech-language pathologists as well as discussions on local governance and autonomy.

**Board Evaluation:** The Board prepared an annual evaluation on August 18, 2022.

**Board Work Plan:** The Board annual work plan includes regular meeting items and events. In order to help inform the trustees about key areas in the division, Superintendent Barron offered to have the administration prepare formal reports as part of this work plan. A draft proposal will be brought back to the next meeting.

**Municipal Communication:** One of the actions arising from the Board evaluation is increasing communication with local municipalities. The Board will explore ideas such as having one annual meeting with a variety of municipalities or separate meetings between the Board and each group.

**Career Training Education Centre (CTEC) Lease:** The division has received confirmation of the renewed lease for the CTEC building in the Village of Myrnam and will be working with the Village on identifying sustainability options.

**ATA Participation:** Trustees approved the continuation of a partnership with the ATA Local and sharing the associated costs of a half day substitute teacher to allow for participation in monthly board meetings.

**Two Hills Day Care Request:** Following a needs assessment in the community of Two Hills, Vermilion Play Development has approached the Board with a request to lease a space in Two Hills School to establish a daycare. Alberta Health and Alberta Early Learning and Child Care requirements include the need for a sink, age appropriate washrooms, fencing and storage. The Board was supportive of the identified need in the community and asked administration to review requirements and prepare a cost estimate.

**Trustee Vacancy:** Longtime St. Paul Education School Board trustee and chairperson Heather Starosielski resigned from her seat Ward D. A decision regarding whether or not a by-election would be held was tabled until the next meeting.

**Trustee Attendance:** Trustees shared information about their meeting schedules for the months of July and August.

### Superintendent's Report

Mr. Peter Barron has toured most of the division schools and will visit the remaining 3 sites in the coming weeks. He has met with administrators, clergy, bus drivers and new teachers.

**Dual Credit:** As part of the Dual Credit Start-Up Grant, the division will be partnering with Portage and Lakeland colleges

**Elders Council:** The Elder's Council is looking forward to attending the Knowing Our Spirits conference.

**Staffing update:** Several schools are experiencing short and long term staffing challenges. Senior Administration has engaged a recruiting agency to find much needed full time teachers. Thank you to a number of retired teachers in our division for stepping into short term positions.

**School Supplies Donation:** Appreciation to Arden's and MyLuvPak for their donations of student backpacks and supplies.

**Registration for the 2022-23 School Year:** Online school and busing transportation registration remains open at all St. Paul Education schools and in-person registration is also available. Feedback about this new initiative will lead to some process improvements for the next school year.

**New Curriculum:** K-3 teachers in the division will be working with the new curriculum in English Language Arts and Math. Over the summer, a number of changes were made to the draft Physical Education and Wellness curriculum. A group of teachers will be meeting later in the month to update documents started last spring. Three K-2 teachers in the division chose to pilot the French Immersion curriculum.

### Financial Report

**2022-23 Budget:** Updates were provided on funding changes over the summer including support for the recent teacher settlement, enhanced federal French funding and approval to use reserves to offset the budgeted deficit.

**Transportation Challenges:** The division continues to have difficulty securing contractors and bus drivers. St. Paul Education will pay for training for any interested individuals.

### Information/Correspondence

**Task Force for Career Education:** The province has established a task force to develop programming that will increase connections between schools and jobs. The aim is to assist students in choosing their field of work earlier and support employers to find the skilled workers they need.

**Mental Health in Schools:** Alberta Education is providing funding for pilot projects that support the mental health of students and school communities. Proposals for this pilot project require a collaborative and innovative approach, bringing together school authorities, mental



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health service providers and other organizations to support the well-being of students. Administration is exploring ideas about how to partner with local organizations to support students and school communities.