



On Wednesday, September 22, 2021 the Board of Trustees of St. Paul Education held a special meeting to address a number of emergent items.

**September 30th - Truth and Reconciliation:** Trustees passed a motion to update the school calendar to reflect September 30th as a holiday instead of a professional development day. This reflects the Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #80 and will provide the opportunity for reflection and to support and honour those who have been impacted by residential schools. Schools will hold Orange Shirt Day activities for their students and staff on an alternate day.

**Board Operations Policy 7 Amendment:** Senior administration recommended the following amendment to Board policy - “Any petitions to the board must follow the Education Act Petitions and Public Notices Regulation” (Alberta Regulations 91/2019).

**Superintendent’s Report:** The superintendent shared the new provincial health measures that were announced by the Government of Alberta on September 15, 2021. With respect to health restrictions, we are mandated to follow AHS directives, but within this context, our goal is also to apply a reasonable, balanced approach to the extent possible. The effects of the pandemic are causing some stress points within the Division, these include bus driver shortages, staffing availability, higher than usual levels of recorded staff absences, and a number of Division schools in either outbreak status or under investigation for outbreak status. (On September 17th, Glen Avon was declared to be on outbreak status by Alberta Health Services. On September 21, Racette School was also declared to be on outbreak status by AHS.)

The Board of Trustees must balance the legal rights of parents, students and staff with Board responsibilities to provide a respectful and safe learning environment as outlined in the Education Act and a safe work environment as per the Occupational Health and Safety requirements. In accordance with these obligations and the current Alberta Health Services guidelines, people are no longer legally required to quarantine if they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. However, if they are not fully immunized and have been exposed to COVID-19, it is strongly recommended they avoid public and other high-risk locations. The Board is exploring the impacts of COVID as it relates to leave provisions with its employees.

Beginning the 2021-2022 school year, the Elk Point Outreach School (EPOS) was to be relocated into existing space at the FG Miller Jr/Sr High School. Trustee Young from Elk Point has requested that this decision be reviewed at the October 13, 2021 Board meeting. Given that the pandemic is still on-going, Superintendent Brodziak agreed that a relocation is perhaps not in the best interest of students at this time.

**Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Curriculum and Engagement Group:** In preparation for the focus group curriculum engagements with Board Chairs on October 12, November 14 and December 1, ASBA is seeking specific, concrete feedback from parents and community members on the draft K-6 curriculum and implementation process. The feedback will be shared with Alberta Education and the Government of Alberta in advance of the new curriculum rollout. The superintendent and his team will work on putting a survey out to our parents and community to gather feedback in advance of the first ASBA Board Chairs meeting on October 12.



**Election Update:** Two candidates Dwight Wiebe (Glen Avon Ward), and Jan Rajoo (Ward B) are acclaimed. Eight candidates have filed nomination papers to fill four positions in the remaining wards.