



Community of School Councils (COSC) Engagement: Under normal circumstances, the Division would host a face to face COSC meeting in the spring. This year, given the success of the public engagements that were held earlier this year, the Division will host an open Zoom meeting for all stakeholders on June 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Topics to be discussed include staffing, technology, plans for fall re-entry, and our student's mental health and educational needs. This approach aligns with the expectation for stakeholder engagement in the Division Education Plan.

Transportation Task Force: The Transportation Task Force was tasked with providing recommendations to the Minister in regards to improving transportation. A number of important recommendations have come forth from the Task Force report, including a special recommendation to modify/relax training requirements during the pandemic to address challenges with recruitment. At this time it is not known what the training requirements will be post-pandemic. A Student Transportation Audit team will also be formed to review all matters pertaining to student transportation operations at the school jurisdiction level, including funding, costs, fees, policies, shared transportation, route efficiency, stops, ride times, and use of technology. The audit team will use the information gathered to identify best practices. Finally, there is a recommendation to review the current student transportation funding model and revise as needed to ensure it is appropriate to fund legislated student transportation requirements, is aligned with findings from the Audit team, and is predictable, sustainable and equitable. While school authorities have been given the autonomy to set transportation fees, not enough is known about the new funding model to make any decisions about local student transportation fees at this time. Trustees passed a motion to maintain all current transportation fees for the 2021-22 school year. Trustees will be gathering more feedback from stakeholders on this topic, starting with the upcoming COSC meeting on June 16. [The remaining recommendations can be viewed on the Alberta Education website.](#)

Locally Developed Courses: Trustees approved a number of locally developed courses to be acquired for 2021-2022.

2021-22 Budget: Secretary Treasurer Champagne reviewed the proposed budget for the upcoming school year. Key budget issues include post-pandemic catch-up for students, distance education, technology upgrades and the outstanding contract with teachers. The Division is also facing inflation pressure in areas such as benefits, insurance, transportation and the carbon tax. At \$56 million dollars, the budget for 2021-22 is mostly the same as last year minus two significant grants that will no longer be continued. These are \$1.2 million in one-time COVID-related funding and \$400,000 for Innovations in First Nations Education. The Division has experienced five consecutive years of deficits in the transportation department and will be working with stakeholders to ensure sustainability. Overall, this budget has a moderate deficit of \$681,055. Despite planned deficits for the past six years, the Division felt it was important to maintain stability as much as possible post-pandemic before making any significant budget decisions. Trustees passed a motion to approve the 2021-22 budget as presented.

Graduation Ceremonies: The province has very recently released a number of updated guidance documents for high school graduation ceremonies. Currently, "a school may host a graduation ceremony on school property without external in-person attendees, during regular school hours while adhering to the current Alberta health measures." When Stage 2 is announced, the following will apply: "When the graduation ceremony is outdoors and has fixed seating, such as a grandstand, it will be limited to 1/3 seating capacity. When the graduation ceremony is taking place outside where there is no fixed seating, the organizers will be able to set up chairs/seating for up to 150 people with distancing restrictions in place. Indoor graduation ceremonies will be limited to 1/3 of the fire code occupancy and can only take place as a seated event. Masking and physical distancing between households is required. No indoor social gatherings are permitted. If the event will be occurring in a school, with individuals outside of the grade 12 classroom cohort, it will need to take place outside of school hours and follow the applicable guidance. Once again, no indoor social gathering will be permitted to take place before, during or after the graduation ceremony."

Stony Creek Colony School: The Division has received a request from the Stony Creek Hutterite Colony to open a school for next year. Trustees passed a motion by Trustee Cook to establish a colony school at the Stony Creek Hutterite Colony. The Division looks forward to providing services to the students from this colony.



Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent Brodziak offered a word of praise and gratitude to students, parents, and staff for all of their good work and effort during what has been a very difficult year.
- Alberta is now in Stage 1 of Open for Summer with Stage 2 tentatively set for June 10. A number of different things may be considered if the province moves into Stage 2 as planned, including face to face School Council meetings, field trips, and graduation ceremonies. As noted below, there are new guidelines for a variety of scenarios for graduations held outdoors or indoors, all of them with continued masking and social distancing expectations. Graduation exercises have already been held at Mallaig, Ashmont, Myrnam and SPAEC schools with others to be held in the upcoming weeks. Although the Division reached out to the department to inquire about additional considerations for graduation, any exercises that have already occurred or been planned were required to be planned in accordance with the current guidelines.
- Reminder to all school staff that classroom conversations surrounding vaccination should be sensitive to student and parent choice. A conversation of this nature constitutes personal health information and cannot occur.
- [Update in regards to final exams for high schools and junior high schools \(as posted on May 6\)](#). High school exams will continue much as they have in the past but there were some changes to junior high exams such as a maximum weighting of 10% and all exams being open-book. There will not be final exams in grades K to 6.
- On May 28 the Government of Alberta committed up to \$45 million to support students in Grades 1-3 who are experiencing difficulties as a result of pandemic-related learning disruptions. The focus will be on intervention for literacy and numeracy. More details will be shared when they are known. Of note, prior to this announcement, the Division was already in the process of forming Division Literacy and Numeracy committees to look at these two areas post-pandemic and moving forward.
- On May 31, Division flags were lowered to remember the 215 children found at Kamloops Residential School. For National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, the Division will be holding a Division-wide (K-12) honour song and prayer led by Mr. Clifford Cardinal. That same day he will also be providing an address on the 215 children found at Kamloops to students from grades 7-12. The presentations will be both age-appropriate and curriculum-related. Mr. Cardinal was recently appointed as the Cultural Advisor for all Division schools. Congratulations to Mr. Clifford Cardinal on this appointment.
- June 3 was recognized as Mental Wellness day with a theme of 'Take care of yourself and each other'.
- Staffing has been mostly completed with a few remaining job advertisements to be filled.
- Together We're Better summer programming will be offered. Please watch social media for more information.
- Care Kits were shared with Division schools from the County of St. Paul Family and Community Social Services.
- The Division Technology leads will be meeting with school administrations to discuss and plan for technology upgrades that are planned in schools over the summer.

Financial Report

- Trustees reviewed cheque and financial information and passed a motion supporting the proposed Rural Caucus budget.

Reports

[Letter from Dr. Hinshaw dated June 8, 2021](#): Vaccine information for parents. [See the Division website.](#)

[Alberta Schools Boards' Association \(ASBA\) Zone 2/3](#): Trustee Rajoo reported on the May 23 meeting.

[Alberta School Boards Association Spring General Meeting](#): Trustees participated in two days of business meetings and professional development which were held earlier this week.

[Capital Report](#): The report provided a synopsis of work to be completed on school sites over the summer months.

[Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association \(ACSTA\)](#): Trustee Wiebe provided an overview of planned activities of the ACSTA, including information on the upcoming elections.