



Delegation: Mr. Ron Martin spoke on behalf of a group of concerned citizens regarding a possible vaccine or testing administrative procedure.

COVID-19 Hazard Assessment: COVID-19 has been deemed a workplace hazard and it is the superintendent's responsibility to reduce or mitigate hazards and create any associated Administrative Procedure (AP). A joint letter from the Minister's of Health and Education was received October 5, 2021. It is under the Board's purview to ensure that legislation is being followed. The Board and administration have not rushed to implement any policy or administrative procedure without careful consideration of a number of complexities. The Board met November 29, 2021 with legal representation to review ramifications of a potential policy. Section 1 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms allows individual rights to be limited provided that the limit is prescribed by law and proportionate. According to the Alberta Human Rights Commission, "the balancing of health and safety pressures during a pandemic overrides certain rights, for a time, in the interest of protecting the general public from COVID-19. Case precedence and trends are both important considerations. Both provincial and federal governments have implemented mandates for their employees. The Alberta Teachers' Association has been advocating for vaccination mandates and will support employers. Leaders of the Catholic Church including the Bishop and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops are "encouraging greater vaccine uptake among the general population and strengthening the common good of our Canadian society."

Superintendent Brodziak noted that the goal is to keep schools open for in person learning. Case numbers are easing and all seven schools were cleared of outbreak status during which time two classes had to move to at home learning. A primary operational concern cited is the lack of substitute teachers and support staff which puts stress on the entire system. Vaccination rates have increased in the St. Paul and Two Hills areas to 69.6% and 49.7% respectively for ages 12 and up. These numbers are still below the province of 84.5%. Hospitalizations in the province include both vaccinated and unvaccinated yet those in Intensive Care Units are largely partially or unvaccinated individuals. The risks of the new Omicron strain is still unknown. Our Board is one of the 38 Boards under the Alberta Risk Management Insurance Consortium (ARMIC) who have indicated that any claim or incident arising due to Covid including defense cost will not be covered within the board's liability policy or the insurance premiums will go up.

Superintendent Brodziak recommended the creation of a temporary Administrative Procedure to mitigate the risks. Some considerations of a draft AP include considering how this might impact the length of parent meetings and access to public libraries in some of our smaller communities. Also, the accessibility of valid testing in our rural areas and the related cost for employees. There are third party hosts that could facilitate this and address some of the privacy issues. Some exclusions and exemptions would apply:

- School visitors attending school for 15 minutes would not be required to show proof of vaccination status or proof of a negative test.
- Individuals who had COVID-19 may present as false positive for 90 days following. Upon proof of AHS PCR positive test, they may be exempt from testing.
- Bus drivers would be exempt as they do not typically enter schools.
- Community coaches and volunteers who work directly with children would be required to provide double vaccination status or proof of negative test
- Those qualifying for valid medical and religious exemptions will be considered on a case by case basis.
- Individual circumstances would be considered for those that choose not to comply which may include leave of absence without pay, modification of duties or termination of employment.

The Board voted in favor of supporting the Superintendent's recommendation to move forward with an AP which includes the choice of proof of vaccination or Proof of a negative privately-paid test result from a sample that is taken within the prior 72 hours, or valid exemption letter.

Declaration of status will be expected for early January and this temporary AP would take effect on March 1, 2022. A motion was also passed by the Board to consider implementing their own policy that would have trustees align with the upcoming AP.

2022-23 Draft Calendar: The Board of Trustees reviewed a draft calendar for 2022-2023 school year that takes into consideration the hours of instruction at every level as well as provide contingency for inclement weather. This draft will be made available for feedback at parent council meetings and at the school level for staff feedback until the end of January.

SPECS Name Change Request: The Board received a letter from SPECS stakeholders requesting consideration for a name change. As per Policy 20, the Board supports the formation of a Naming Committee to plan and consult with the community and provide any additional information.

Mary's Table Initiative: St. Paul Education is pleased to announce a generous initiative from Bishop Paul Terrio of the Diocese of St. Paul, called Mary's Table. Through a cash donation, the program will provide children in most need throughout the division with a meal every Monday starting in January.

Coop Bags for Breakfast Donation: St. Paul Education thanks the Cornerstone Co-op for their generous donation of \$19,200 for our breakfast programs. This donation is made possible with the use of reusable bags at the Co-op stores.



Christmas Activities: School Christmas Concerts will be held virtually. Modified versions of traditional school wide Christmas meals will occur for staff and students. The Board passed a motion to provide some funds to schools for staff to hold a working lunch sometime during the month of December in recognition and appreciation of staff's continued hard work. The division office will be closed on December 24, 27, 28 and 31, 2021.

Superintendent's Report

Spectators at sports: As part of a phased-in process, two guardians, regardless of vaccination or testing status, would be allowed under 1/3 capacity during home league games beginning in January. Future considerations might include expanding this to tournaments, presentations and other class activities.

At Home or In School Learning - Parents are asked to let their principal know by the deadline of January 7 to transfer between At Home and In-Person learning for the second semester.

Together We're Better - In partnership with the Two Hills Wellness Coalition our Together We're Better project is helping with the organization of the Let Hope Light the Night Christmas Memorial Service in Two Hills on December 12. Our TWB project was also part of a community led Youth Resilience program that wrapped up at the end of November. During this 8 week program youth were able to learn from various community speakers including the administrators from our THS and THMS, local FSLW's and our division Cultural Advisor.

Holiday Travel - An email was sent to staff acknowledging the need for a well-deserved break and to be aware of the possible implications from travel disruptions.

Financial Report

Insurance Costs: The secretary-treasurer provided information about insurance costs for the current school year. While still a little over a million dollars, premiums are down 11% over last year.

FSLW Contributions: The board received information on municipal contributions to the Family School Liaison program supporting student mental health. Contributors include the Town and County of St. Paul and the Town and County of Two Hills. The Board thanked municipal partners for their ongoing support.

Information/Correspondence

Empowering Student Success: Trustees reviewed a letter for a proposed community event in partnership with local agencies. This fair would bring together agencies to support families in the community with children living with genetic or neurodevelopmental diagnosis.

Covid-19 Vaccines for 5-11 Year Olds: The Board of Trustees reviewed a letter from the Education Ministry in regards to vaccines for children aged 5 to 11 years old. Parents can book appointments through AHS or call 811.

ASBA Zone & FGM Report: Trustee Wiebe provided information from the ASBA Zone and Fall General Meeting. Elections were held for President and Vice President. Several advocacy resolutions were passed.

ACSTA AGM: Trustee Andersen reported on the elections held for President and Vice President. The next meeting is in February.

ASCA School Council Engagement: Themes of discussion about Covid-10 mitigation, the new curriculum, mental health issues and the School Council grants. Council of School Councils will send information in regards to funding and available workshops for the January meetings.

ASBA Curriculum Focus Group Update: Repeated concerns about the content and pace of implementation have been shared at the meetings. The ASBA final report with feedback about the new curriculum will be submitted to Alberta Education on January 7, 2022. The government plan is still to move forward with implementation for September 2022.

Rural Caucus AGM: This virtual meeting will be held on December 16th, 2021.

Trustee Attendance Schedule: Trustees shared information about their meeting schedules for the months of November and December.

Joint Letter CBO Insurance Impact: A letter of concern from several districts including SPERD regarding transportation cost pressures.

ASBCA Letter of Concern: Concerns to the Alberta Government regarding the serious financial challenges facing our contract bus operators (CBOs) in trying to secure sufficient insurance coverage at a reasonable premium rate.

Chinook's Edge Bill 70 Request: A letter from Chinook's Edge School Division was shared regarding a request for increased liability protection for school boards from the Government of Alberta.

Bill 85 - Education Statutes Amendment Act: The goal of the act is to elevate the status of the teaching profession across Alberta by improving transparency and increasing accountability. It would provide parents with additional confidence in their children's safety while at school and streamline disciplinary processes for the teaching profession in Alberta.