

March 13, 2024

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



St. Paul Education

Mallaig Community Engagement

The Division hosted a Community Engagement session on March 7 in Mallaig. We extend our gratitude to the parents, community stakeholders, and MLA Glenn van Dijken for attending. The session fostered productive discussions and valuable feedback on the potential inclusion of a daycare in the design of the new school planned for Mallaig. Following the recent provincial budget announcement, it was confirmed that the Division will not receive funding to proceed with the Mallaig replacement school construction during this current budget cycle. The Division remains optimistic that funding will be approved in the next cycle.

Provincial Budget Announcement

The Provincial budget was released on February 29. At the provincial level there is a modest increase of 4.4% to the overall Education budget; however, student growth province wide is expected to be about 3.6% which narrows the amount to accommodate inflation. The Division is awaiting the release of its funding profile to assess the local impact of the budget. The Division will receive additional \$86,558 in one-time funding for the current school year to support nutrition programming in schools.

2024-25 Two Hills Mennonite and Colony School Calendar

The regular calendar was approved on February 14, 2024. Superintendent Barron has created an alternative calendar for the Two Hills Mennonite and Colony schools. The Board of Trustees approved the recommended calendar. The 2024-25 calendar for Two Hills Mennonite and the Colony schools can be viewed [here](#).

School Division Pow Wow

The Division will host a Traditional School Pow Wow on May 30, 2024. We extend our gratitude to the Frog Lake First Nation for hosting this event at their Pow Wow Arbour. This celebration of Cree culture will feature talented dancers from St. Paul Education schools showcasing their talents and skills.

Local Scholarship Program

The 2024 Local Scholarship Booklet is now available on our [website](#). It features numerous scholarships, awards, and bursaries that our graduating students can apply for. This year, we are excited to introduce a new scholarship - the Pratch Family Foundation Arts Scholarship. Thank you to all our generous sponsors for supporting this valuable program and assisting our students in their career and post-secondary endeavors.

Alberta Rural Education Symposium

Several representatives from the Board and Division attended this conference, which was hosted in Enoch in early March. Participants had the opportunity to attend sessions and participate in conversations focused on cultivating relationships, nurturing connections and harvesting success in the context of rural education.

Capital Plan Priorities

The Board of Trustees passed a motion to approve the 2023-24 IMR and Capital Plan. Capital plan improvements are subject to provincial funding approval. The Division's priority ranking includes the replacement of the École Mallaig and Elk Point Elementary schools and modernizations to the New Myrnam and Heinsburg schools.

Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan Premium Rate Increase

An increase in these fees will result in a cost of approximately \$200,000 for the Division. The Board of Trustees approved a motion to share a letter of concern with the Minister of Education and the Alberta School Boards Association regarding the ASEBP rate increase.

For more information, contact:

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Learning Together, Growing Together