



**Covid Update:** With cases on the rise both locally and elsewhere, the Division has implemented a couple of additional precautions. Starting in January all School Council meetings will be held via Zoom or GoogleMeet. All staff meetings will also be held strictly via Zoom or GoogleMeet. The recent provincial announcement about restrictions for team sports for Edmonton, Calgary and surrounding areas does not currently apply here as our area is identified as a purple zone. Therefore, at the current time, all Division sports activities for single cohorts will continue with all precautions still in place. The Division has experienced a number of positive cases, however, some of these involved students enrolled in at-home learning or students who were not in attendance at school while infectious. To date, the Division has had six positive cases that impacted 43 staff, 157 students and 8 subs. Note that the Division recently shared changes relating to the daily checklist for students, as announced by the province. Effective Monday, November 2, runny nose and sore throat is no longer listed as a core symptom for children 18 years of age and younger (loss of smell or taste has been added to core symptom list). For more details, [see the Division website](#). As a Division, we commend the work of countless healthcare workers who are working behind the scenes as the pandemic wears on and also acknowledge people in other sectors (e.g., grocery stores) who continue to provide services to the public.

**Ward Bylaw:** As announced at the October meeting, a draft ward bylaw was previously circulated to the public. Trustees passed a motion of approval for first formal reading. The purpose of Bylaw No. 1/20 is to revise ward boundaries to decrease the number of trustees to six and allow more flexibility in the town of St. Paul by removing the line dividing the town into St. Paul South and St. Paul North. The Glen Avon Ward will continue to exist separately and is unchanged. Reducing the number of trustees will achieve future Board efficiencies and has proven to be effective over the past number of months as one of the trustee positions has remained vacant.

**Election Administration:** Municipal elections are scheduled for October 20, 2021. The Division would like to coordinate with other municipalities and is confirming agreements with municipal partners. Since municipalities may need to deal with provincial counts for referendum and senate, the Town of St. Paul has requested that the Division employ their own ballot counters in order to expedite results.

**Family School Liaison Workers Support (FSLW) Letters:** The Division has enjoyed excellent support for the FSLW program from municipal partners. This valuable program provides mental health and well-being support to students and their families, including students enrolled in at-home learning now and all students learning at home during the initial months of the quarantine. Trustees passed a motion to once again send letters to municipal partners asking for financial support for this program.

**Board Policy 5-Role of the Board Chair and Policy 8-Board Committees:** Trustees passed a motion approving revisions to Policy 5-Role of the Board Chair, as presented by Trustee Cook. Policy 8 was tabled to the December meeting. All board policies including the revised Policy 5 can be viewed on [the Division website](#).

**School Fees:** Given the uncertainty of school operations, trustees passed a motion at their August meeting to defer the collection of school fees until November. The majority of schools recommended to further defer fee collection until after Christmas, in consideration of additional expenses incurred during the Christmas season. Trustees supported this recommendation and decided to review the circumstances once again in January with the possibility that fees will be collected as of February 1, 2021.

**Ashmont International Trip:** Due to the increase in liability and cost, the Board of Trustees had previously decided to no longer support international travel trips. Prior to this decision, there was a trip planned for March, 2021 that was put on hold in spring 2020 after the COVID 19 pandemic was declared. The Board of Trustees passed a motion to cover the non-refundable deposit portion of the March, 2021 trip that was previously collected. This is a one time only occasion.

**Insurance:** The Division participates in an insurance consortium with partnering school authorities. The high number of high cost claims around the province has caused insurance premiums to rise substantially, including insurance premiums for contract bus operators who purchase their insurance through the Division. The Division has committed to continue to work with bus contractors who have an interest in pursuing insurance through Alberta Risk Management Insurance Consortium Division (ARMIC), which is the Division's insurance group.



### Superintendent's Report:

- Chromebook purchase program for parents: There are still 25 Chromebooks available for purchase by families.
- Remembrance Day Activities: All school events were held virtually and schools participated in a number of Remembrance Day activities including the Legion poster contest.
- November is Family Violence Prevention month.
- Division-wide local scholarship winners were recently recognized in a social media post. Many thanks to the organizations and individuals that make the scholarship program possible. Of note, the Division was notified that a total of \$96,400 in Rutherford Scholarships was awarded to Division students.
- On December 8, representatives of the Division will be participating in a virtual event in support of Catholic education. The event is hosted by GRACE (Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education).
- The Division is waiting for further provincial direction from the province as it starts preparation for our annual Christmas concerts.
- The Division Accountability Pillar Summary 2019-20 has been prepared and is available [on the Division website](#).

### Financial Report

- The year-end report is currently being prepared to be presented to the audit committee on November 25. This meeting will be broadcast live starting at 11:30 a.m.
- The Division has recently submitted the Nominal Roll to Indigenous Services Canada.

### Capital Projects

- Remediation of the front exterior stairs at Two Hills Menonite School is ongoing and is expected to be completed next week.
- Gravel is being stockpiled for the parking lot at Ashmont School. Once completed work will be suspended for the winter and will resume next spring.

### Correspondence

- Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards Financial Report
- Alberta Education Curriculum Working Group: Alberta Education has recently called for nominations for teachers to serve on curriculum working groups (CWG). CWG members will provide advice on the draft curriculum through the lens of their subject/discipline knowledge and classroom perspective while also providing targeted feedback to inform the refinement of draft curriculum. Meetings will be held virtually. Trustees held discussion about the challenges of moving forward with curriculum review during a world pandemic and in particular the additional stressors of new curriculum on teachers, who are already working very hard under the present circumstances.