



Assurance Plan Update: Asst. Superintendent Gervais reviewed the draft version of the Assurance Plan with the Board of Trustees. This plan is due to Alberta Education on May 30, 2021, with a follow up results report due in November. The new assurance model has an emphasis on stakeholder engagement and local context. St. Paul Education has identified five goals for the upcoming year. Once this plan has been approved at the Board meeting on May 26, it will be posted on the Division website.

Locally Developed Courses: The Board of Trustees approved the acquisition of a number of Locally Developed Courses to be used in Division schools.

Board Policy 16 - Recruitment and Selection of Personnel: Trustees passed a motion approving the revised policy. All board policies can be viewed on [the Division website](http://www.stpauleducation.ab.ca) at www.stpauleducation.ab.ca.

Capital Plan: Each year the Division submits a capital plan to the province. Based on the information provided and available funding, the province decides which projects will go ahead on a yearly basis. Capital priorities submitted by St. Paul Education include replacement schools in Mallaig and Elk Point and a modernization for the Myrnam School. The Mallaig project was originally put forward by the Division as a 350 student capacity replacement school. Given that enrolment is around 210, officials recommended that reducing the capacity to 320 students would improve the ranking merits of the project. Trustees approved a motion to amend the capital plan submission to reflect a capacity of 320 for the Mallaig School project.

Superintendent's Report

- May 3, 2021 was Bus Driver Appreciation Day and May 7, 2021 was Support Staff Appreciation Day. We thank all of our bus drivers and support staff for the amazing work they do each day for all our students.
- Education Week was celebrated May 3 to 7, 2021. This year's theme was Learning is a Journey.
- Mental Health Week was recognized May 3 to 9 2021. This week celebrates and promotes mental health, including Hats On for Mental Health Day. The Division continues to recognize the importance of mental health, especially during these times, and recently released a [post on supporting the well-being of students](#).
- The first round of staffing calls has been completed and a number of job advertisements, including three administrative positions, have been posted. The Division Religious Education Coordinator will be leaving the Division in the fall. The duties of this position will be taken into the portfolio of one of the new Assistant Superintendents.
- On May 4, 2021 the provincial government announced that school staff and child care workers are now eligible for the COVID 19 vaccine.
- Schools have moved to online at home learning for Kindergarten to Grade 12 from May 7 to May 25, 2021, as directed by the provincial government. As per guidelines from Alberta Education, schooling for K-6 students will focus on literacy and numeracy. Elementary schools in the Division are providing one hour of literacy instruction, one hour of numeracy instruction, one physical activity session, and one block of alternate instruction per day. Division junior and senior high courses are being offered synchronously via Google classroom in accordance with the directive from Alberta Education that schooling for grade 7-12 students should be 'business as usual'. [For more details see the Division website](#).
- Students and parents may have questions about graduation or student achievement at this time of year. Parents can contact their child's school for more information. Junior and senior high school administrators will be contacting parents regarding any students at risk. [For more information see the Division website](#).
- The Division has set up some guidelines for year-end exams. Senior high final exams will continue as usual. Any junior high final exams will be open book and will not be worth more than 10% of the student's final grade. [See the Division website](#).
- The [Learning at Home Code of Conduct](#) was also recently shared on social media and the Division website as a reminder to families at this time.



Financial Report

- Trustees reviewed cheque and financial information.
- Secretary-Treasurer Champagne reported on the progress of the 2021-2022 budget development. One of the areas the Division is looking at is the transportation area, where there have been deficits for the last six years. Trustees will be discussing the feasibility of introducing transportation fees to all riders at an upcoming meeting. As the province has recently announced the formation of a Student Transportation Task Force, an increase in fees may be temporary should funding increase in future years. Board Chair Starosielski requested that trustees get feedback on this idea from school councils. Another area the Division is looking at is the enhancement of Division technology infrastructure. A significant amount has been committed to make improvements to the Division network and lay the background for a technology evergreening plan. The final 2021-2022 budget will be submitted at the end of the month when final staffing decisions are made.

Reports

Alberta Schools Boards' Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3: Trustee Rajoo provided his report from the April 23, 2021 meeting which included discussion on the upcoming spring general meeting (SGM), a presentation on the proposed ASBA budget, and discussion of proposed policy positions to be debated at the SGM. Trustee Rajoo added that since the SGM will be conducted virtually, the Board may wish to make arrangements to support online participation. The next Zone 2/3 meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2021.

Alberta School Councils' Association Annual General Meeting: Many thanks to the three parents from the Division and Trustee Cook, who attended this virtual event.

Rural Caucus: Trustee Wiebe gave a report from the April 27, 2021 meeting which was focussed primarily on mental health. This meeting included a presentation from another school authority and an address by the Minister of Education. Of note, the recently released [jack.org website](http://jack.org/website) addresses youth leadership in mental health. Board Chair Starosielski encouraged families to also see the [Division website for more resources and support for mental health](#).

Trustee Attendance Schedule: Trustees reviewed upcoming meetings and commitments.

Council of School Councils: Each spring for the past number of years, the Division has hosted a Council of School Councils meeting in June. This year, given the success and popularity of the open parent meeting in August of 2020, the Division will be hosting an open meeting open to all parents, school council members, and other interested stakeholders. The meeting will be held on June 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Correspondence

- Town Bus Routes: With the recent withdrawal of services by Krues Busing for in-town routes, the Division has awarded two of the routes to Kridon Enterprises. Trustees thanked Krues for their service with in-town busing over the years.
- Vaccination Update: As of May 10, 2021, all Albertans age 12 and up are eligible for the COVID 19 vaccine.
- Modernizing Apprenticeship Education: Alberta Government recently announced that they will update the apprentice education and skilled trades governance. The new act implements recommendations from the Skills for Trades Task Force and will update the framework for apprenticeship education and regulated trades education, hopefully expanding offerings in this area.
- Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan (ASEBP) Trustees' Report: A written report from the ASEBP Trustees' meeting on April 23, 2021.
- Student Transportation Task Force: This report was received late May 11, 2021. The Board of Trustees will review the report and hold further discussion at the June 9, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting.