

May 8, 2024

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



St. Paul Education

St. Paul and District STEAM Society Delegation

The Board enjoyed an engaging and informative presentation delivered by four [student delegates](#) who recently earned a complimentary trip to Ottawa at the end of May after showcasing their projects at the St. Paul and District STEAM Society Regional Science Fair. We extend our gratitude to Fatima Abbasi, Ryan Noel, Abeera Abbasi, and Abdulqudoos Abdulsalam for sharing insightful summaries of their remarkable projects. We wish you all the best of luck in Ottawa!

Social Studies Curriculum

The province has announced that the new draft Kindergarten to Grade 6 Social Studies curriculum is ready for piloting. School authorities can choose to pilot the updated draft curriculum in classrooms during the 2024-25 school year. Division leadership is communicating with teachers to determine interest in this opportunity.

Technology

The Division recently conducted a survey among staff to gauge their satisfaction with different aspects of our technology resources. Committed to enhancing curriculum delivery and ensuring consistent evergreening, the Division is actively exploring avenues to standardize staff access to high-quality technology.

Wellness Surveys

Schools are celebrating Mental Health Week from May 6-12. As part of the week's activities, the Division has invited students and staff to participate in a wellness survey to gather data about their overall mental, physical and social-emotional well-being. The local measures information will inform support and services for student and staff well-being and will be reflected in our school and Division education plans.

Excellence in Catholic Education Award

Congratulations to Raynelle Robinson, a teacher at École Racette School, for being the recipient of this award. The award was presented at the annual Sharing Purpose in Catholic Education (SPICE) conference in Kananaskis at the end of April.

Choices Program

The Choices Program took place on May 2 in St. Paul and May 8 in Two Hills. This program is a dynamic, interactive injury prevention experience for Grade 9 students that includes guest speakers and an enactment of a mock collision scene. Thank you to our Together We're Better MHCB program and community partners for their hard work in organizing this impactful event.

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 and to Kihew Asiniy for providing the host drum. Students from St. Paul Education and neighboring communities will have the opportunity to experience a showcase of talented dancers at this event.

Financial Update

The department has informed us of a few amendments to our 2024-25 funding profile, resulting in a reduction of \$148,369 in funding from the original projection. Considering our operational projections already indicated a decrease of \$315,885 from the previous year, this brings the total reduction to \$464,254. With decreased enrollment and additional inflationary pressures taken into account, we are facing a particularly challenging budgetary situation. Alberta Education requested information on carbon taxes paid over the last four years, with the division reporting \$434,299 in direct carbon taxes over this period. School divisions do not receive rebates and for the most part are not eligible for some of the energy efficiency grants available to municipalities making it more difficult to implement larger energy savings retrofits.

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Learning Together, Growing Together