

June 12, 2024

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



St. Paul Education

Education Plan and Budget

The Board of Trustees has approved its Education Plan and a \$58,407,702 balanced budget for the 2024-25 school year. Due to inflation, flat provincial funding and declining enrollment, balancing the budget required reducing expenses as using reserves was not an option as these have been depleted over seven years of deficits. The Board explored various cost-saving measures, leading to necessary staffing adjustments managed primarily through transfers and attrition, ensuring minimal impact on class sizes. Strategic hires were made to advance educational goals, focusing on supporting the learning of students and teachers, as well as staff and student wellness. The budget, based on uncertain enrollment figures and undetermined wage increases, aims to balance immediate needs with long-term sustainability, prioritizing student achievement, technology upgrades, and staff development. View the 2024-2025 Budget Infographic [here](#).

Mallaig School Design Process

A four-week pause has been requested for the design phase of the proposed new school in Mallaig to assess the inclusion of space for a daycare. The design process will resume on July 2, 2024.

Student Engagement

The Board will continue its discussions on engaging students in identifying topics of interest to both the Board and students, as well as highlighting school achievements.

Wellness Survey

In May, students and staff participated in a wellness survey. The survey questions addressed various aspects of overall mental, physical, and social-emotional well-being. Initial findings for students highlight nutrition, sleep, technology use, anxiety, and their sense of connection at school. For staff, the survey themes focused on work-life balance, occupational stress and financial stress. Overall, staff expressed satisfaction with their workplace. This data will inform and guide wellness initiatives within the Division and schools.

Terry Fox Foundation

École Mallaig School was recognized by the Terry Fox Foundation for ranking as the 20th top fundraising school in Alberta, raising an impressive \$5,726 last year.

Division Pow Wow

The Traditional School Division Pow Wow, held on May 30th, was a remarkable event showcasing the talents of dancers from local schools. We extend our deepest gratitude to our Division FNMI Committee, Trustee Melvin Abraham, and Frog Lake First Nation for their invaluable support in making this event a success. As we enter Indigenous History Month in June, this celebration stands as a significant tribute to the rich culture and traditions of Indigenous communities.

Local Art Exhibit

A selection of our talented students' artwork is beautifully displayed as part of the "Fragments: The Youth Artistic Process" art exhibit at the St. Paul and District Arts Foundation. The exhibit is open to the public June 12th to 20th, from 2 PM to 7 PM.

End-of-Year Update

The final day of school for students is June 26th. Information regarding summer programs offered by our Together We're Better MHCB program and other community partners will be available on our website and social media. Our Back-to-School webpage will be available in mid-July, providing school supply lists and other pertinent information for those preparing for the upcoming school year. We extend our best wishes to our students, families, and staff for a pleasant and restful summer.

Long Service and Retirement Celebration

Congratulations to staff who were honored at the Long Service and Retirement Celebration hosted by the Division on June 5.

For more information, contact:

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Learning Together, Growing Together