

Board Meeting Brief

January 31, 2024

Treaty 8 Lands



Treaty 6 Lands



Board Priority 1

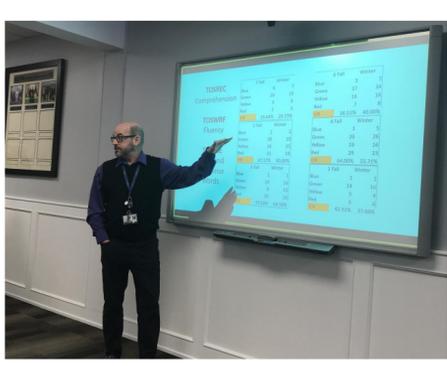
STUDENT LEARNING

The Board approved an International Trip for the high school students at Jasper Junior/Senior High School. The trip to Italy, France, and London will take place over Spring Break.



The Board Chair shared her appreciation for the Division's high school students as they completed their first semester courses, and Grade 12 students completed their first round of Diploma exams.

École Mountain View Elementary School Principal Kurt Scobie shared his [school's approach to literacy instruction](#), highlighting the scientific, research-based practice teachers use to ensure students have the foundational skills they need to successfully read and comprehend the various texts they encounter across the subject areas.



Assistant Superintendent Aschenmeier added to the discussion by sharing an information report identifying the specific programs and practices engaged by teachers not only for **literacy** but **numeracy** as well. In January, kindergarten learners were assessed with the Reading Readiness Screening Tool, and Grade 1 students were screened as per Alberta Education's mandatory literacy and numeracy screens. The student learning data collected through the screening process alerts teachers to students who will need additional support - including small group or individual plans - to catch students early.

Student data is essential information for teachers, informing their instructional design and activities. The data gathered at the *beginning* of the school year, a semester, a unit, or a topic in a subject area provides teachers with a baseline from which to identify gaps in student understanding or necessary skills. The data they gather *after* instruction has occurred provides feedback on the effectiveness of instructional choices. [The data and action cycle informs each school's improvement plan](#); annually, all the schools' data is aggregated and analyzed to inform the [Division's Education Plan](#).

Board Priority 2

TEACHER, SUPPORT STAFF, AND LEADER EXCELLENCE



Congratulations Principal Kurt Scobie - appointed the new principal for Harry Collinge High School 2024/25!

The Board Chair offered congratulations to **Superintendent Lewis** who recently completed her doctoral degree. Chair Karpluk shared the Board's appreciation for Dr. Lewis' demonstrated commitment to learning. Chair Karpluk also acknowledged [North Central Teachers' Convention](#) taking place on February 8th and 9th, and wished all teachers safe travels en route to Edmonton for the annual professional learning event.

Superintendent Lewis shared [highlights from her report](#), which included preparation for and attendance at the Niton Community Discussion, and preparation for launching the registration window for [Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten programming](#) the next school year. The Board is proud to support full-day kindergarten programming across the Division.

Chair Karpluk praised the exceptional professional learning opportunities made available to Alberta's school board trustees through the provincial organizations of [ASBA](#), [PSBAA](#), and the [Rural Caucus](#).

Inclusive Consultant Amy Corser shared whole-division PD planning for March and May. Assistant Superintendent Aschenmeier shared her work supporting new teachers through classroom visits and her support of principals to identify and nominate exceptional first-year teachers for the annual [Edwin Parr Award](#).

The Chair of the Board Policy Committee, Trustee Bobilek, brought forward recommended updates. The Board approved updates to Board Policy 17 - *Student Transportation*, Appendix A - *Fees*, Policy 7 - *Board Operations*, and Policy 8 - *Committees of the Board*.

Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Jun Lin and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Mr. Benoit Kudinga delivered a strong first quarter financial report illustrating the Division is on track in its monitoring of [expenses and operational funds](#).

Board Priority 3

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



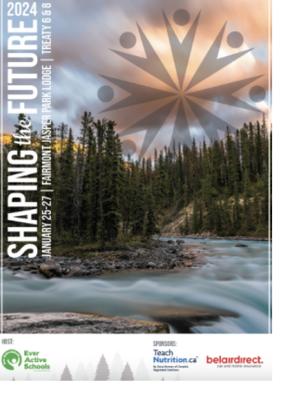
Board Chair Karpluk and Lobstick Trustee Melodie Bobilek hosted a [community discussion at the Niton Central School](#) on January 30th. The event was arranged in response to a request made last spring from some parents wanting to explore the possibility of moving the current Grade 9 program out of NCS. Chair Karpluk and Trustee Bobilek provided the 50+ attendees with past enrolment trends at NCS, recent census data for the Hamlet, explained how a school budget is directly linked to student enrollment and staffing, and highlighted the implications of a small staff for the range of learning options available as a result. Those in attendance were almost unanimous in their support for the Grade 9 program remaining at NCS. Last May, parents, staff, and junior high students were invited to share their thoughts via surveys - [the survey responses are posted to the website](#). The results from the January 30 event will be collated and then discussed to determine the next steps. Those results will also be posted to the website.

The Board and Superintendent Lewis attended meetings with **MLAs Martin Long and Shane Getson**. MLA Long also attended the Niton Community Conversation.



Board Priority 4

SYSTEM HEALTH and WELLNESS



The Board received a report from **Director of Human Resources, Meghan Auriat**, on the second meeting of the Division Health and Wellness Committee. The committee met in January to go over the data from the Division's Health and Wellness Survey sent out to all staff in December. The committee looked at the data to determine possible initiatives to address key themes that emerged from the responses.

Trustee Pettitt shared her learning from attending the [Shaping the Future Conference](#), which focuses on comprehensive school health.

Dr. Lewis and members of the senior leadership team met with leaders of Alberta's Post-Secondary Institutions to hear how teacher development programs are integrating wellness outcomes into pre-service learning. Specific to rural school divisions, a key discussion included how the K-12 system works with Field Placement Departments to encourage students in Education degree programs to request a rural practicum experience and how communities are enticing teachers to remain in rural locations to build a life and a career.



LOOKING AHEAD...



- February 7 & 8 - Public School Board Council
- February 8 - Teachers' Convention Invitational Luncheon
- February 15 & 16 - CUPE Negotiations
- February 19 - Family Day
- February 20 & 21 - Edwin Parr Nomination Package Review
- February 21 - ASBA Strategic Plan Virtual Meeting
- February 23 - ASBA Zone 2/3 Meeting
- February 26 - ASBA Speakers Corner
- February 28 - Pink Shirt Day
- February 28 - Public Board Meeting