

RFS School Council Meeting

Trustee Report for February 10, 2021

1. School Viability

No schools are being considered for closure. Fort Assiniboine met one criteria, student enrolment. As this September was unusual in that all of our schools had reduced enrolment due to at home learning, we will not entertain closure. FAS numbers are projected to increase in the coming years.

2. Budget

We ended the 2019/2020 school year with a surplus of \$2 million. Some of this was due to students learning from home from March – June and Vista Virtual having a very successful summer school program. When the board learned of this, we directed senior administration to ask principals what might be added to allow more support to students. The advice was more support staff and so an ad was placed for 1 fte Speech Language Pathologist, 1 fte Behaviour Therapist and a .5 Occupational Therapist.

3. School Year Calendar

The board approved the 2021/2022 calendar for PHSD. We had heard that staff liked the staggered entry to this school year. It allowed for fewer student on the first day of school and possibly less anxiety for students. The approved school year for next year starts with staggered entries on August 31 and September 1.

4. Mental Health Project

This is joint project between PHSD, Barrhead Community Living and Barrhead Anglican Church. It is funded through a COVID Mental Health grant. The program is called Together Talk and will focus on providing on-site as well as virtual counseling, as well as group activities to promote mental well being.

5. Insurance

We received a good news story at our last board meeting. Our insurance which you will remember sky rocketed last year came in at about half of what we

expected. We had set the budget at \$800,000 and it has come in around \$400,000

6. Trustee Interviews

Trustees will be calling school council chairs as well as various businesses and elected officials to get a broader perspective on what our stakeholders value in education. I have completed my interviews and found it very interesting.

7. Canada Safe Return to School Funding

We were allotted \$3,216,350 in funds from the federal government. This is the amount allotted and current amount spent.

Co-op Pool \$ 1,241,350.00 spending to date 87,812.00

Facilities \$ 400,000.00 spending to date \$137,885.00

Transportation \$ 75,000.00 spending to date 14,620.00

Vista Virtual \$1,500,000.00 spending to date \$2,885,500.00

Total Left is \$ 90,533.00

8. Alberta School Council Association

They are still providing workshops. Some have a cost as government has decreased the funding they receive.

9. Trustee Elections

September 20 is the cut off date for filing nomination papers. October 18, 2021 will be election day for trustees. People can get the nomination packages on-line or they can be picked up at the Regional Office in Barrhead. We will be running ads in the local paper twice a month until September and then they will run the two weeks prior to September 20. I strongly encourage people with a passion for education to run.