

**Horizon School Division No. 67
Regular Board Meeting – Division Office
ERIC JOHNSON ROOM**

**Regular Board Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, June 19th, 2018 – 1:00 p.m.**

A – Action Items

A.1 Agenda	ENCLOSURE 1 ENCLOSURE 2 ENCLOSURE 3
A.2 Minutes of Regular Board Meeting held Tuesday, May 15 th , 2018	
A.3 Minutes of Board Budget Meeting held Tuesday, June 23 rd , 2018	
A.4 June 2018 Payment of Accounts	

D – Discussion Items

D.1 Board School Tours 2018-2019	ENCLOSURE 4
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I - Information Items

I.1 Superintendent's Report – Wilco Tymensen	ENCLOSURE 5
I.2 Trustee/Committee Reports	ENCLOSURE 6
• I.2.1 Zone 6 ASBA Report – Marie Logan	
○ ASBA SGM 2018 Summary	
• I.2.2 June Administrator's Meeting Report – Christa Runka	ENCLOSURE 7
• I.2.3 June Facilities Committee Report – Bruce Francis	
I.3 Associate Superintendent of Finance and Operations Report – Phil Johansen	ENCLOSURE 7
I.4 Associate Superintendent of Learner Services – Amber Darroch	
I.5 Associate Superintendent of Programs and Human Services Report – Anita Richardson	

C-Correspondence

C.1 Taber Times – Transportation issues continue discussion at Horizon	ENCLOSURE 8
C.2 Vauxhall Advance – Indigenous Foundation Forming in Area	
C.3 Taber Times – Dipping into Reserves	
C.4 Taber Times – Classroom Improvement Fund Continues	

Dates to Remember

• June 21 – National Indigenous Peoples Day – Celebration - 4:00pm at Confederation Park
• June 26 – ACE Place Graduation
• July 4 – New Teacher Induction Planning Meeting
• August 22 – Board Meeting
• August 23 – 24 – Induction Program
• August 27 – PD Day
• August 28 – Staff Meetings (all schools)
• September 11 – Administrator's Meeting
• September 18 – SIVA Refresher
• September 19 – ASBA Zone 6 Meeting
• September 19 – Warner School Grand Opening - 11:00am
• September 26 – Board Meeting
• September 28 – Planning for Student Support Day – Division Wide – no students
• September 28 – ISP Day
• October 9 – Administrator's Meeting

Horizon School Division No. 67

6302 – 56 Street Taber, Alberta T1G 1Z9
Phone: (403) 223-3547 1-800-215-2398 FAX: (403) 223-2999
www.horizon.ab.ca

The Board of Trustees of Horizon School Division No. 67 held its Regular Board meeting on Tuesday, May 15th, 2018 beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the Eric Johnson Room.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Marie Logan, Board Chair
Bruce Francis, Board Vice-Chair
Derek Baron, Blair Lowry, Rick Anderson, Jennifer Crowson, Christa Runka

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Wilco Tymensen, Superintendent of Schools
Phil Johansen, Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations
Amber Darroch, Associate Superintendent of Learning Services
Anita Richardson, Associate Superintendent of Programs and Human Services
Cole Parkinson, Taber Times
Sheila Laqua, Recording Secretary

ACTION ITEMS

- | | | | |
|-----|---|---------------------|-------|
| A.1 | Moved by Blair Lowry that the Board approve the agenda with the following additions:
A.4 – W.R. Myers Roofing Tender
A.5 – 2019 IMR | Carried Unanimously | 68/18 |
| A.2 | Moved by Jennifer Crowson that the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, held Tuesday, April 17th, 2018 as provided by Enclosure 1 of the agenda | Carried Unanimously | 69/18 |
| A.3 | Moved by Derek Baron that the Board approve the May 2018 Payment of Accounts in the amount of \$3,531,470.37 as provided in Enclosure 2 of the Agenda | Carried Unanimously | 70/18 |
| A.4 | Moved by Bruce Francis that the Board approve the W.R. Myers Roofing Project tender from Charlton & Hill. | Carried Unanimously | 71/18 |
| A.5 | Moved by Bruce Francis that the Board approve the second draft of the 2019 IMR funded project as the final IMR list for 2018-2019. | Carried Unanimously | 72/18 |

DISCUSSION ITEMS

D.1 ENCHANT POSTAL BOXES

The postal service through the Enchant store is being discontinued and outside postal boxes are being considered for the Enchant area. The potential new location for the postal boxes would be located near the Enchant School in the NE corner of the school property. Horizon School Division Board of Trustees discussed the matter no objection to the new site was noted.

D.2 JUNE 14TH, 2018 – COLONY VISIT

The Colony visit scheduled for June 14th, 2018 has been postponed. A new date to be decided at the August Board Meeting.

D.3 EMPLOYEE YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION

Trustees will be attending school staff meeting over the next month to present the jurisdiction's 'Employee Years of Service Recognition' awards. This recognition is presented to Horizon School Division employees who have reached 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, etc. years of service within the Division.

INFORMATION ITEMS

I.1 Superintendent's Report

Wilco Tymensen, Superintendent, shared the following May 2018 report with the Board:

Educational Leadership and Student Welfare

- Meetings and dialogue between schools and division office are ongoing. Conversations/topics typically focus on processes that ensure student safety, well-being, and conduct; teacher discipline; financial management; Grievances; and instructional leadership. This month they also included budgeting, staffing, custodial contract services, transportation, off-campus excursions, student supervision, and guidance with regard to student and parental concerns.
- School visits this month included: ACE Place, Chamberlain School, D.A. Ferguson Middle School, Dr. Hamman School, Lomond School, Vauxhall High School, and W.R. Myers High School.
- School visits with AB ED representation (Field Services and High School Redesign) were undertaken. Schools visited included: Lomond, Vauxhall High School, and W.R. Myers. Senior leadership also attended meetings at Erle Rivers and Warner School.
- Daily emergency control center teleconferences were incorporated in my schedule related to the M.D.'s local state of emergency for approximately two weeks.

Personnel Management

- Meetings and conversations have taken place with regard to teacher and support staff allocations, as well as the teacher transfer process.
- Teacher instructional and assignable time templates have also been created and share with schools.

Policy and Strategic Planning and Reporting

- Principal professional learning with regard to the new Leadership Quality Standard and how the competencies can be leveraged to achieve the goals within school three year plans has occurred.
- Attendance at CASS' superintendent leadership quality standard advisory committee meetings has taken place. Work is underway related to creating learning modules that are aligned with the competencies within the standard.

Fiscal Responsibility, Organizational Leadership and Management

- ATA Collective Bargaining regarding local table matters is ongoing. Meetings between the Ministry and all Alberta Superintendents were attended related to discussions around central vs local table matters for the upcoming round of bargaining.
- Attendance at provincial meetings have also occurred related to the Ministry's Superintendent Compensation review and CASS' Superintendent Compensation Advisory Committee. This includes dialogue with ADM Williams.
- The construction start-up meeting for the DAF/WRM modernization was attended.

Communications and Community Relations

- A number of meetings and celebrations were attended over the last month. These include but are not limited to
 - Administrator Meeting
 - Division Office staff meeting
 - Senior Administrative Leadership Team meeting
 - APEX Youth Awards
 - Council of School Councils
 - W.R. Myers staff meeting
 - Science Olympics
 - D.A. Ferguson student cyber safety presentation
 - Elmspring Colony grand opening ceremony

- Edwin Parr Banquet and outstanding new teacher celebration
- Vauxhall High School graduation ceremony

I.2.1 Zone 6 ASBA Report

Marie Logan shared the following Zone 6 Meeting update with the Board:

- Webinar - Tash Taylor, School Board Advisor with ASBA shared "Telling Your Story with Meaning: The importance of governance in our society, the relevance of elected school boards, ways to strengthen purpose and image of school board trustees and what lies ahead."
- Roy Taylor encourages everyone to fill out the Transportation Survey.
- ASBA Budget Presentation

I.2.2 Administrator's Meeting Report

Derek Baron, trustee, shared highlights from the May 2018 Administrator's Meeting.

Highlights included:

- Assessment Demo
- Three-Year Educational Plan sharing
- Division Improvement and Instructional Model
- 2018-19 Professional Learning
- Library Software
- Diploma Rewrite Case Study
- 2019-2020 Jurisdictional Calendar
- New Dashboards in Atrieve
- Employment Standard Codes
- Acceptable Use for Students & Updated Policy HG
- iGen
- Role of the Low German Mennonite Consultant

I.2.3 Facilities Report

Bruce Francis, Facilities Committee Chair, provided a report to the Board on the work undertaken for the month of May 2018:

- Capital Project
 - D.A. Ferguson Middle School Modernization is underway, with Prime Contractor, Clark Builders
 - Warner School – Grounds work has begun
- Caretaking Contracts – Board Policy
- 2019 IMR – Second Draft

I.3 Associate Superintendent of Finance and Operations Report

Phil Johansen provided May 2018 update to the Board. Highlights as follows:

- Preparing for May 23rd, 2018 Budget Meeting
- Attended a FOIP Meeting in Calgary
- Attended the Annual ASBOA General Conference with discussions focused on transportation and budget

I.4 Associate Superintendent of Learner Services Report

Amber Darroch, Associate Superintendent of Learner Services, shared the following May 2018 report with the Board:
Report:

Learner Services lead team members:

Amber Darroch, Associate Superintendent
Terri-Lynn Duncan, Director of Learning (Curriculum & Instruction) Robbie Charlebois,
Director of Learning (Inclusive Education) Angela Miller, Clinical Team Lead

KEY ACTION AREA #1:

Strong core instruction that develops student competencies

- Terri-Lynn and Amber worked with first & second year elementary teachers during the Division Wide Professional Development day (Teachers Learning Through Collaboration). The focus of the first year group was best practice in literacy and the second year focussed on numeracy. These programs are part of our Horizon Induction Program to build a common instructional foundation as beginning teachers join the division.
- More advertising has been sent out and distributed around the community about Early Learning and Kindergarten registration. Communication includes both English and Low German.
- Representatives from all but two schools and members of the division Learner Services team attended a full day assessment event with Anne Davies and Brenda Augusta. These Canadian authors and speakers have been working in the area of assessment for over a decade and some of their research has formed the foundation for our approach to assessment in Horizon. It was an excellent day including actionable strategies for continuing to move this work forward with the division.
- Amber attended an Alberta Education meeting in Edmonton for all jurisdiction technology contacts on May 2nd. Sessions included updates on privacy matters, curriculum development, Alberta's new professional learning standards, and technology infrastructure.
- As co-chair of the executive for Southwest Regional Collaborative Service Delivery (RCSD), Amber attended a cross-ministry provincial event on April 25th. Amber helped to present a celebration of our region's collaboration toward improved mental health supports in schools and other cross-ministry successes were shared.
- Horizon's Low German Mennonite Consultant, Benita Peters, has visited almost all Horizon schools and is actively engaged with supporting the educational assistants involved with supporting the German Programs in select schools. Benita also joined some of the developmental check-up days held in schools where translation services were needed.

Learner Success Coach: Coral James

<i>Date</i>	<i>Drop-In Visit</i>	<i>Time with Teachers</i>	<i>Principal Meetings</i>	<i>Group Presentation</i>	<i>CRM's or PLC Meetings</i>
March	5	7	3	1	10
April	6	1	2	0	4

English Language Learning/Literacy Coach: Crystal MacGregor

<i>Date</i>	<i>Drop-In Visits</i>	<i>Teacher Meetings</i>	<i>Principal Meetings</i>	<i>Group Presentations</i>	<i>CRM Meetings</i>
March	4	6	3	2	2
April	2	7	2	0	0

Assessment Coach

<i>Date</i>	<i>Teacher Coaching</i>	<i>School & Parent Presentations</i>	<i>Principal Meetings</i>	<i>Other Meetings (IE Tech)</i>
March	21	6	4	
April	14	3	2	2

KEY ACTION AREA #2:

Response to Instruction and Intervention Framework to improve literacy and numeracy proficiency

- Terri- Lynn has been planning for the 2018-2019 school year with a number of schools for professional development with staff in terms of Levelled Literacy Instruction training and guided reading modelling with teachers and students.

- Robbie is spending time in a variety of schools for professional learning support for the collaborative response model, core story, trauma informed practices, and the changing role of Educational Assistants

KEY ACTION AREA #3:

Student success is a collective endeavour

- University professors Dr. Chris Mattatall and Dr. Jeffrey MacCormack and Terri-Lynn met to further discuss a possibility of grant funding from the University to work with K-3 teachers in terms of literacy and best practices.
- Thank you to Rick Anderson and Bruce Francis for attending and helping with the scoring of the events Below are some pictures of the teachers sharing some learning in the after lunch event. It was a great day and students built a judo-bot to compete against each other, worked in teams to build a ski jump out of paper and built a Mars Robot without talking.

LEADERSHIP PRACTICES

- Terri-Lynn attended the Curriculum Coordinators Meeting with Alberta Education. Topics of discussion were Provincial Achievement information on Grade 3 SLA's that can be used at the teachers discretion at any point during the year to assess Math or language arts progressions. Information was also provided about the PAT math numerical response portions for grades 6 and 9.
- Terri Lynn attended a Guided Math workshop that was offered through SAPDC with 5 other teachers from the school division. Information from the workshop was sent to numeracy leads in the district to share with other teachers.
- Ken Pon, Klaas Hoekstra, and Robbie attended the Collaborative Response Model Conference in Edmonton focused on improving school and jurisdictional intervention practices
- Angela, Robbie and several Horizon staff members attended a one day session on compassion fatigue. Valuable information will be shared in breakout sessions at our first division wide professional learning day
- in breakout sessions at our first division wide professional learning day on August 27.

I.5 Associate Superintendent of Programs and Human Services Report

Anita Richardson, Associate Superintendent of Programs and Human Services shared the following May 2018 report with the Board:

Human Resources

- Participating in local bargaining process ongoing.
- Spring staffing process is underway.
- 2019-2020 Calendar discussed at last admin meeting
- Probationary teacher evaluations finalized this week. 15 teachers and 3 admin under evaluation this year.

Leadership Practices

- Ongoing support for Principals with staffing concerns.
- Leadership Cohort – final meeting is May 28
- JSET (Jurisdiction Student Engagement Team) –
 - 34 students and 9 teachers representing each of our high schools participated in second session April 26 – We spent the morning finalizing our Terms of Reference and an inter-jurisdictional collaboration with Palliser and Livingstone Range to host a regional event for students and in the afternoon, the students had the opportunity to hear from and share with a panel of experts in regards to post-secondary connections, support and preparation.
 - Attending Regional Student Event planning meeting May 18
- Career Transitions – Currently the vice chair of the board. Supporting the Executive Director to address funding concerns has been a primary focus.
- High School Re-design –
 - Joined Dan Ferguson and Susan Poole from Alberta Education in visiting each of our high schools last week. The work occurring in each site on school improvement is impressive and individualized.

- Visited Mathew Halton High School in Pincher Creek and Lethbridge College with the high school principals last week to increase understanding and opportunity around hosting an experiential week in our schools and possibly in partnership with Livingstone and LCC.

Stakeholder Engagement

- Attended University of Lethbridge mini Career Fair for new graduates

First Nations, Metis, Inuit

- Indigenous Champions – concluded for this school year
- Indigenous Committee –
 - Met May 7 for final meeting this year
- Blanket Exercise
 - Have two more school Blanket Exercises scheduled prior to the end of the year
 - Barnwell School, May 11
 - Warner School, May 22
 - Second Community Blanket Exercise in the works, being led by Taber Police Services
- Attended a 'Train the Trainer' event to support the development of First Nations, Metis and Inuit Foundational Knowledge in our staff, May 14

I.6 News Release – Student Transportation

An online survey is now available to help determine potential changes to the distance criteria, the mandated service levels and what safety considerations should be included in the criteria. Albertans have two months to provide feedback on what changes should be made to the current student transportation eligibility criteria.

Click on the link to complete the survey: [Student Transportation Survey](#)

I.6 Letter to Minister Jansen

The Town of Taber sent a letter to The Honourable Minister Jansen expressing thanks to the Government of Alberta and the Ministry of Infrastructure for the upgrades to a number of schools in Taber. It was noted that a significant portion of the financial investment came from Alberta Education as opposed to Alberta Infrastructure. There was also a significant investment by the Board of Trustees using reserve funds.

Correspondence

No Discussion items came forward from the Correspondence as provided by Enclosure 10 of the agenda.

COMMITTEE ITEMS

Moved by Rick Anderson that the Board meet in Committee.	COMMITTEE
Carried Unanimously	73/18
Moved by Jennifer Crowson that the meeting reconvene.	RECONVENE
Carried Unanimously	74/18
Moved by Derek Baron that the meeting adjourn	MEETING ADJOURNED
Carried Unanimously	75/18

Marie Logan, Chair

Sheila Laqua, Executive Secretary

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ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Wilco Tymensen, Superintendent of Schools
Phil Johansen, Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations
Amber Darroch, Associate Superintendent of Learning Services
Anita Richardson, Associate Superintendent of Programs and Human Services
Cole Parkinson, Taber Times

ACTION ITEMS

- | | | | |
|-----|--|---------------------|-------|
| A.1 | Moved by Derek Baron that the Board approve the agenda with the following additions:
A.3 2018-19 Fee Schedule
A.4 2017-18 Fee Schedule Update
I.1 Alberta Education New Curriculum Update | Carried Unanimously | 76/18 |
| A.2 | Moved by Bruce Francis that the Board approve the 2018-19 Budget. | Carried Unanimously | 77/18 |
| A.3 | Moved by Derek Baron that the Board approve the 2018-19 Fee Schedule | Carried Unanimously | 78/18 |
| A.4 | Moved by Derek Baron that the Board approve the 2017-19 Fee Schedule Update | Carried Unanimously | 79/18 |

INFORMATION ITEM

I.1 ALBERTA EDUCATION NEW CURRICULUM UPDATE

Amber Darroch, Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction presented an overview of the New Alberta Education Curriculum which if being built as a concept-based program of studies.

COMMITTEE ITEMS

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|
| Moved by Jennifer Crowson that the Board meet in Committee. | Carried Unanimously | COMMITTEE
80/18 |
| Moved by Derek Baron that the meeting reconvene. | Carried Unanimously | RECONVENE
81/18 |
| Moved by Bruce Francis that the meeting adjourn | | MEETING ADJOURNED |

Marie Logan, Chair

Phil Johansen, Associate Superintendent of Finances & Operations

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS REPORT

Board Meeting June 19, 2018

U.S.	May 7/18		543.57
General	May 9/18		179470.06
General	May 15/18		368410.78
General	May 22/18		238408.68
U.S.	May 23/18		6092.02
General	May 28/18		1437400.60
General	May 29/18		625.00
General	June 5/18		192,404.01
U.S.	June 7/18		68.99
General	June 7/18		66,924.94
General	June 12/18		149,960.18
General	June 13/18		210.08
"A" Payroll	May 2018	Teachers	1,701,373.73
	May 2018	Support	551,508.97
"B" Payroll	May 2018	Casual	18,588.42
	May 2018	Subs	89,652.06
Total Accounts			2,771,316.38
Board Chair	_____		
PJ:dd			
June 13/18			

Horizon School Division April 2018 U.S. Accounts

	U.S. Funds	Canadian Fund
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Surpass Software LLC	415.00	543.57
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Total U.S. Accounts	415.00	543.57
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JM:dd
May 7, 2018

Horizon School Division May 2018 U.S. Accounts

	U.S. Funds	Canadian Fund
Smartest Edu. Inc.	4670.00	6092.02
Total U.S. Accounts	4670.00	6092.02

JM:dd
May 23, 2018

Horizon School Division June 2018 U.S. Accounts
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	U.S. Funds	Canadian Fund
Really Good Stuff	52.14	68.99
Total U.S. Accounts	52.14	68.99

JM:dd
June 7, 2018

2019-2020 (proposed)			
Erle Rivers Milk River Elem River Road Colony	Horizon MAP Vauxhall Elementary Vauxhall High School	Hays Cameron Farms Copperfield	
2018-2019 (proposed)			
Arden T. Litt Chamberlain School Barnwell School Evergreen Colony Midland Colony	Warner Sunnysite Kingsland	October 11, 2018 (?) Enchant School Lomond School Armada Colony Lomond Colony Enchant Colony	DA Ferguson WR Myers Central School
2017-2018			
June 14, 2018 – postponed (MOVE TO 2018-19) Delco Fairlane Hillridge Oaklane Prairie Home			
2016-2017			
Dec 5, 2016 Dr. Hamman LT Westlake Taber Christian Taber Mennonite ACE Place		June 12, 2017 Gold Spring Colony Miltow Colony Bluegrass Colony Elm Spring Colony	
2015-2016			
Nov 2, 2015 Chamberlain School Arden T Litt Oaklane Colony Hillridge Colony	Dec 2, 2015 Vauxhall Elementary Vauxhall High Horizon MAP Hays School	April 4 2016 Milk River Elementary Erle Rivers High School Warner School	
2014-2015			
Oct 28, 2014 Delco Colony Kingsland Colony		Nov 4, 2014 Bluegrass Colony Sunnysite Colony Elmspring Colony	
2013-2014			
NO TOUR DATES SCHEDULED FOR THE 2013 – 2014 SCHOOL YEAR DUE TO CONFLICTING SCHEDULES AND TIME COMMITMENT FROM THE BOARD DUE TO HORIZON'S TRANSPORTATION REVIEW			
2012-2013			
Nov 5, 2012 Armada Colony Lomond Colony Lomond School	Nov 26, 2012 Enchant colony Enchant school Cameron Farms Colony	Feb 27, 2013 Copperfield Colony DA Ferguson WR Myers	April 15, 2013

Superintendents Progress Report

June, 2018

Educational Leadership and Student Welfare

- Meetings and dialogue between schools and division office are ongoing. Conversations/topics typically focus on processes that ensure student safety, well-being, and conduct; financial management; and instructional leadership. This month they also included budgeting, staffing, transportation, off-campus excursions, student conduct and discipline, and guidance with regard to student and parental concerns.
- School visits this month included: ACE Place, D.A. Ferguson Middle School, Milk River Elementary School, Erle Rivers Jr. Sr. High School, Warner School, Lomond Community School, and W.R. Myers High School.
- Meeting with AB ED representation (Field Services) occurred.
- Workshop regarding concept based curriculum
- First nations guided tour of the Majorville Medicine Wheel
- Provincial chief superintendent teleconference

Personnel Management

- Meetings and conversations have taken place with regard to teacher and support staff hiring, as well as the teacher transfer process.
- Teacher instructional and assignable time templates work is ongoing.
- Interviews for Lomond Community School and Taber Mennonite School principals have taken place.
- Teacher and assistant retirement acknowledgements/celebrations

Policy and Strategic Planning and Reporting

- CASS' superintendent leadership quality standard advisory committee meetings have taken place. Work is underway related to creating learning modules that are aligned with the competencies within the standard.

Fiscal Responsibility, Organizational Leadership and Management

- ATA Collective Bargaining. The Board met on May 31, 2019.
- Teachers' Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA) meeting
- Participation in several Minister's teleconferences related to the Ministry's Superintendent Compensation review
- Participation in several teleconferences related to CASS' Superintendent Compensation Advisory Committee.
- Alberta School Board Association's spring general meeting
- Taber Mennonite School/ D.A. Ferguson Middle School / W.R. Myer High School meeting regarding Taber Mennonite School relocation.

Communications and Community Relations

- A number of meetings and celebrations were attended over the last month. These include but are not limited to
 - Administrator Meeting
 - Division Office staff meeting
 - Senior Administrative Leadership Team meeting
 - APEX Youth Awards planning meeting
 - W.R. Myers High School graduation ceremony
 - Lomond Community School graduation ceremony
 - ACE Place graduation will also be attended in June
 - College of Alberta School Superintendent Zone Six meeting
 - Vauxhall Academy of Baseball (VAB) golf tournament

ASBA SGM 2018

SUMMARY

Establishing roots for our future
June 4 - 5, 2018, Red Deer

By the Numbers

Attendees

365 registered delegates
of whom **312** attended both days
11 invited guests
6 Indigenous Advisory Circle members

New Event App

403 users
18, 347 page views
78 average page views per user

Home page of the app



Survey Responses (from the app)

92%

"I liked how it was run and the voting. The parliamentary was awesome!"

OF RESPONDENTS WERE SATISFIED WITH THE WAY THE ASSOCIATION BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED.

88%

"Inspiring and engaging presentation. Very thought provoking!"

OF RESPONDENTS LIKED THE MONDAY EVENING PROGRAM.

50%

"I do believe this was very good but we were not allotted enough time to get the full emotional feeling and appreciation for the exercise. "

OF RESPONDENTS WERE IMPRESSED WITH THE 3 RS OF INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE PRESENTATION.

100%

"All the info is on the app, love the app by the way. "

OF RESPONDENTS WERE SATISFIED WITH THE ASBA SGM 2018.

Everyday Leadership



Drew Dudley

“We’ve made leadership about changing the world and there is no world. There are only six billion understandings of it. And if you change one person’s understanding of it, one person’s understanding of what they’re capable of, one person’s understanding of how much people care about them, one person’s understanding of how powerful an agent for change they can be in this world, you’ve changed the whole thing.”



It is always a pleasure having Education Minister Eggen take part in ASBA’s events; he provided remarks and opened the floor to answer trustees’ questions.

THE HONOURABLE
DAVID EGGEN,
MINISTER OF EDUCATION



Charlie Fox
Gerald Johnson
Valerie McDougall
Sharon Morin
Sykes Powderface
Theresa Strawberry

Indigenous Advisory Circle members

Members of ASBA’s Indigenous Advisory Circle joined trustees from all zones for a participatory and educational dialogue relating to the “**3 Rs of Indigenous Governance: Reconciliation, Recognition, and Respect**”. Drawing on the five pillars of governance, trustees discussed the impacts of colonial restraints and opportunities for the future, as they relate to the People, Land, Laws and Jurisdiction, Institutions and Resources. Positive and productive engagement in all sessions brought to light the realities of Indigenous governance that are just as relevant today as they have always been.

Guest Speakers and Sessions

Keynote - **Everyday Leadership** - *Drew Dudley*
Northland Schools

Nurturing Indigenous Culture & Language -
Maddy Daniels & Lorraine Cardinal-Roy

3 Rs of Indigenous Governance: Reconciliation, Recognition & Respect - *Indigenous Advisory Circle*

Transportation Consultation - *Wendy Boje*

Don't Let Your Drug and Alcohol Policies

Go Up in Smoke - *Jenelle Butler*

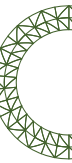
Who's the Boss? *Colin Fetter*

#MeToo - *Kirsten Hayne*

To download all **documents** from the SGM, [click here](#)



The 3 Rs of Indigenous Governance: Reconciliation, Recognition & Respect



On June 5, 2018 the members of the Alberta School Boards Association participated in an exercise entitled: *The 3 Rs of Indigenous Governance*. This exercise was borrowed from the ASBA March 7, 2018 Indigenous Governance Training presenters, Satsan and Chris Robertson.

Participants were asked what they thought life was like for Indigenous people pre and post European contact when considering the Five Pillars of Indigenous Inherent Right to Self-Governance: *The People, The Land, Laws & Jurisdictions, Institutions, and Resources*. The final question asked for ideas for committing to change within board or school authority practices.

Over the course of 75 minutes, representatives from all zones contributed 1,316 separate ideas and thoughts in response to the questions posed. The following are highlights from the resulting work completed by the representatives.



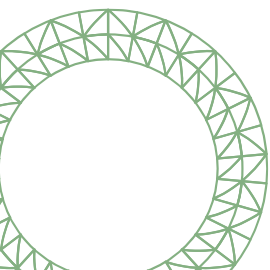
Pre-Contact Comments

There were 566 pre contact comments. These were typically positively associated words. The three words that occurred most frequently were:

Land (59) was associated with respect, living, connections, stewardship and belonging.

Respect (34) was associated with people, land, and resources.

Elders (32) was associated with traditions, education, storytellers, and law.





Commitments to Change

Participants as individuals and groups contributed 162 ideas and current practices on how Indigenous Governance could enhance board practices, and what steps can be taken toward reconciliation, recognition and respect for Indigenous people.

“Being intentional of including Indigenous culture in school celebrations”

“Develop curriculum that is appropriate to community”

“Engage FNMI community at governance level”

Common suggestions and current practices include acknowledging and practicing protocol; inviting Elders to visit board meetings; supporting Indigenous learning opportunities for board members, staff, teachers, students, and communities; sharing the knowledge learned with others to encourage understanding.

Post-Contact Comments

There were 588 post contact comments. These typically contained negatively associated words. The three words that occurred most frequently were:

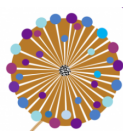
Limited (75) was associated with freedom, land, movement, and resources.

Loss (58) was associated with cultural practices, independence, tradition, and family.

Culture (35) was associated with diminishing, destroyed, change, lost, restricted, and taken away.



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Associate Superintendent, Learner Services
Report to the Board of Trustees – June 19, 2018

Learner Services lead team members:

Amber Darroch, Associate Superintendent
Terri-Lynn Duncan, Director of Learning (Curriculum & Instruction)
Robbie Charlebois, Director of Learning (Inclusive Education)
Angela Miller, Clinical Team Lead

Instructional Coaches: Sharon Skretting, Assessment
Crystal McGregor, Secondary Literacy & ELL
Coral James, Learner Success

KEY ACTION AREA #1:

Strong core instruction that develops student competencies

- In order to promote awareness of Alberta’s future curriculum and its fit with Horizon’s current practice, a Learner Services update was shared with all teacher. Amber wrote an article for the “Eye on Education” column of the Lethbridge Herald published on May 23rd on the upcoming curriculum. The same presentation shared with the Board of Trustees in May was shared with principals at the June 12 Administrators’ Committee meeting.
- Amber, Terri- Lynn and Cynthia Parr from Southern Alberta Professional Development consortia worked with Grade one teachers in the division using Mathology, Pearson’s math resources for Kindergarten - Gr 3. During the day teachers were able to spend time looking at planning, how they could incorporate Guided Math in small groups to enhance differentiation for students.
- Crystal has been following up with middle school and high school teachers using book clubs. Teacher feedback survey indicated that middle school and high school teachers would like more professional learning on assessment practices in book clubs - conversations, observations, reader's notebooks.
- Crystal worked with two schools to develop ELA scope and sequence for 2018-19 academic year (plans included book clubs, poetry bracket, balanced literacy daily & weekly schedule).
- In support of Learning Commons and all schools maximizing use of their library collections, a division-wide software program, “Destiny” by Follett, is being implemented in all schools. In the past, schools have had to choose the program they felt they could afford, resulting in a fractured approach, outdated software, and cumbersome collection management/distribution systems. Destiny will be in place for the start of the new school year.

KEY ACTION AREA #2:

Response to Instruction and Intervention Framework to improve literacy and numeracy proficiency

- Southwest Regional Collaborative Service Delivery (RCSA) held its year end meetings of Leadership and Executive Committee on June 14. Amber will take over the role of Executive Committee Chair in 2018-19 and Robbie will chair the region's Complex Case Committee.
- Crystal has been working with and supporting teachers and new English Language Learners at Taber Mennonite School which comprised of gathering phonics, sight words, early literacy resources. She spent time modelling vocabulary instruction using Levelled Literacy Instruction and developed a high school program plan with the school principal.
- During Taber Mennonites Professional development day Crystal worked with staff to analyze Levelled Literacy Instruction and Fountas and Pinnell results.
- Robbie spent a professional learning day with Hays school developing and planning their Collaborative Response Model for 2018-19
- Robbie spent a morning with LTW school talking about trauma and strategies for creating trauma sensitive classrooms
- Angela and Robbie presented to the leadership cohort focused on understanding and responding to student needs

KEY ACTION AREA #3:

Student success is a collective endeavour

- Terri-Lynn and Stephanie Whirl from Alberta Health Services were asked to come and discuss Comprehensive School Health and its benefits with the W.R Myers staff at their staff meeting. Stephanie Whirl also presented to the Colony staff on the same topic.
- High School and Middle School teachers are currently participating in a summer book club with Crystal and Terri-Lynn reading Penny Kittle and Kelly Gallagher's 180 Days as well as four novels. Discussions for this book club are taking place on Goodreads.
- Terri-Lynn attended an English as a Second Language Team Meeting with district lead teachers and district leads from across Alberta. The discussion was on best practices being used in different districts with plans to meet next year to develop common assessments and intake process if needed. Terri-Lynn also created a team Google drive where everyone can share resources to meet the needs of our English as a Second Language Learners.
- The last Learning Support Teacher meeting for the school year was at the end of May, with the Book Club meeting to follow. The focus of the meeting included a discussion on accountability and follow up from Psych-ed assessment recommendations, the CRM (Collaborative Response Model) module on Dossier for 2018-19, and moving forward with our Collaborative Response Models.

LEADERSHIP PRACTICES

- Horizon's system educator leaders attended the final College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) meeting of the year in Medicine Hat. This completes Amber's year as Zone Chair and she will be moving in to the role of Zone Director for CASSix for the next two years.

- The senior leadership team, including Directors of Learning attended CASSIX in Medicine Hat. Curriculum and Instruction leads met to discuss the Future Curriculum and did a book study together called *Transitioning to a Concept-Based Curriculum and Instruction. How to Bring Content and Process together* by Lynn Erickson and Lois Lanning.
 - On May 23, 2018 district leads from across Alberta met to discuss Literacy in each of our school divisions. Terri-Lynn joined these leads to share what is happening in Horizon and to
 - The senior leadership team, including Directors of Learning attended a professional development seminar on the book *Transitioning to a Concept-Based Curriculum and Instruction. How to Bring Content and Process together* by Lynn Erickson and Lois Lanning that was held in Lethbridge by Southern Alberta Professional Development Consortia. There is a 2-day workshop planned for the fall in October where one lead representative from every Elementary will attend with Terri-Lynn to prepare teachers and schools for the Future Curriculum.
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NEWS

Transportation issues continue discussion at Horizon division

By Cole Parkinson
Taber Times

cparkinson@tabertimes.com

With Alberta Education reviewing transportation in regard to schools, Horizon School Division board is preparing to make some changes to their policies.

During the board's regular meeting on May 15, they had a chance to discuss what could potentially come down the pipe and how they could update their policies to reflect the changes made.

"Transportation has been a big one. As you know the province is reviewing the transportation regulation and reviewing everything from what the criteria are for busing to the distance and what the parameters are. We've had conversations with school councils, with administrators, certainly with yourselves as well," said Wilco Tymensen, superintendent of schools for Horizon.

While the board is now well aware that some of their policies will need to be updated, the process for updates around transportation have been in discussion for a number of years.

The changing of government from conservative-led to NDP has also slowed things down, but now with the NDP having several years under their belt, talks have once again picked up.

"We started the transportation review about five years ago with a number of open houses but it was put on hold because the government was updating the School Act. There was a change in government so it was put on hold as well and there were further changes made in the fall. Now the government is conducting feedback on changes to the regulation," continued Tymensen.

"My assumption is that if those changes come to be, that will happen this fall and at that point we probably need to review our policy and make sure it is in line with the provincial changes."

Expectations are that updates will be brought forward this fall, and the board will be making changes shortly after.

Tymensen expects they would look at October or November as the likely times to review their policies around transportation.

One of the biggest issues stemming from the discussions have been around busing distances set in the School Act.

Right now, when a student lives 2.4 kilometres or closer to their school, buses

aren't available to them and it's the parent's responsibility to get their child to and from the school.

There has been some push back to this portion from parents but Tymensen says that parents have to be aware of the transportation eligibility.

"Certainly there is conversations around the 2.4 kilometres. Right now, when a parent lives less than 2.4 from their designated school, it's their responsibility to get their child to school. You often hear parents say 'that it is a ridiculous distance for my little one to walk,' no one is saying it is walking distance. It's actually a parent responsibility distance," said Tymensen.

"If the parent feels it is too far for their children to walk, it would be their responsibility to drive their child."

Alberta Education states that the transportation eligibility is set at 2.4 kilometres because "This distance criteria has been long-established in the School Act, as well as through the former Student Transportation Regulation and the newly-established School Transportation Regulation.

This criteria is used to determine whether a board is responsible for providing transportation for the student or whether it is the parents' responsibility.

For students who are less than 2.4 kilometres, parents are responsible for determining how to get their child(ren) to school".

Another issue brought forward to the board was around student safety.

"Right now there is no requirements in the regulation around safety concerns, and safety concerns could be crossing a busy train track, on the highway, walking down a country road. None of those provisions are in the regulation. There is no ability right now to charge fees, that's all controlled through the province and certainly there are some jurisdictions that have historically done that but given the changes in ministerial direction around school fees, we cannot change or alter any in regard to that piece," said Tymensen.

Moving forward, Alberta Education is giving parents an opportunity to give feedback and make suggestions on what they would like to see.

Parents of Horizon students can access the Alberta Education transportation survey at education.alberta.ca/student-transportation.

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Indigenous foundation forming in area

POSTED ON MAY 31, 2018 BY VAUXHALL ADVANCE

By Greg Price

Vauxhall Advance

gprice@tabertimes.com

Every worthy endeavour starts with a first step.

That first step was on Tuesday, as a room full of citizens from all walks of life gathered in the Horizon School Division board room to discuss forming an Indigenous education, cultural, healing and friendship hub in the Taber area.

Elder Charlie Fox of the Blood Tribe started the session with a prayer before giving way to facilitator Heather Brantner.

“The hard part is, it is so broad, how do we try and narrow down a vision and explain what we see as the possibilities,” said Brantner to start the meeting that saw just over a dozen interested stakeholders attend from the Taber/Vauxhall area. “We feel that we can enhance not just Taber, but the Vauxhall area as well. We can all benefit from some Indigenous education, healing and friendship. It is part of our area and a part of our world and we want to explore that some more.”

Preliminary investigations have been made for a facility to start



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some education programs, be that language, arts, healing or culture.

“We also want to make sure that with everyone in our area, that we are not trying to take away from other programs, the library is doing some fabulous things,” said Brantner. “We want to make sure we have support from people in the community to move forward to create a foundation. The primary reason for the foundation would be for us to apply for some grants. That will help us kick start some programs, look at some facility rentals and pay some stuff.”

Offering traditional education programming for youth, cultural camps that get away from technology and back to nature, Indigenous healing initiatives for youth that are struggling, transportation supports, and improving relationships with partner organizations are just a few of many ideas that were spitballed at the beginning of the meeting in how the base of the foundation would look.

“There are great networks and great supports here. But sometimes the left hand doesn’t know what the right hand is doing. Building those relationships as opposed to everyone doing their own thing,” said Brantner. “We want to build capacity in the community for youth and families that are in need. I wish we could say these issues are rare, but they are not. We have homeless youth and things like that. It boils down to no facility, no resources, no support.”

People gathered in a circle and passed around a Talking Stone to ensure everyone got an equal chance to offer insights and suggestions for the burgeoning organization. A Talking Stone (or stick or feather) is an instrument of aboriginal democracy used by many tribes, especially those of indigenous peoples of the Northwest Coast in North America. The Talking Stone may be passed around a group, as multiple people speak in turn, or used only by leaders as a symbol of their authority and right to speak in public.

A tearful Lisa Sowinski, FNMI liaison worker for the Indigenous program at Horizon School Division, was thankful for the support shown in the room.

“I’ve worked with some families that really need some support in Taber. We have some good agencies here. I just feel like there’s nothing here when compared to places like Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Calgary, on the reserve. My passion has grown and grown and I really want to see something here in Taber,” said Sowinski. “It will bring people here. It is not just for the Indigenous families, it’s for everybody in our community. We live in a diverse community and it’s something we can learn about each other and open doors. I see this as something positive for everyone involved.”

Members from Horizon School Division, Safe Haven Women’s Shelter, the Taber Public Library, Town of Taber, M.D. of Taber, Taber Times/Vauxhall Advance, Taber Food Bank, Taber and District Chamber of Commerce, Blood Tribe and members at large from the Taber/Vauxhall/Lethbridge region were gathered at the start-up talks for the foundation.

Tamara Miyanaga who brought many hats to the meeting as an M.D. of Taber councilor, Taber Food Bank board member and concerned mother, noted she has seen first hand how poverty has affected the family unit.

“For me, for the last 20-ish years, I have seen some people at their very darkest moments. It is awful to see them not have food for their kids or not have a place to live. (A lot of people in this room) have tried to help them get out of their cars and off the ledge. For our area, it’s time we put something together where we can build community and not have to fight for every dollar just to buy a can of soup,” said Miyanaga. “It’s getting really exhausting to watch families suffer and see that they need community. We need to have a place. You see kids that have no adult person in their life that cares for them. Their parents are not bad people, but they are barely hanging on and we need to find a way to build community. Whether

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it's an Indigenous centre that we build or whether it's the town building a wonderful rec facility, I'm not stuck on any one thing. I think we owe it to the people of the community to build something bigger. It's not just if you are a hockey player, or you happen to go to the right church with the right people for support, we have a lot of people in the community who need support as a whole."

Miyanaga is baffled at times of how community members have to beg for money for the poor, yet fundraising to send people off to exotic locales to go to hockey tournaments or excursions, and money flows freely.

"It is not glamorous to raise money for people who are poor. I ask that you keep that in mind as we work towards this. I see this as helping Indigenous people, but also so many more people in town," said Miyanaga. "I've heard people say, 'well, if they didn't gamble, they wouldn't have to go to the food bank.' Spend a day at the food bank and see for yourself exactly how many gamblers are there. See the look on a mom's face who has to phone to beg because her utilities have been shut off. I don't think people understand when we live in such a great community, there is still dire poverty and dire loneliness. We have a duty to build community and relationships."

M.D. of Taber Reeve Brian Brewin echoed Miyanaga's sentiments, noting these are issues that are all over the area, including the hamlets.

"It is ironic how we can fundraise to send someone to help someone in Mexico and yet someone three doors down there is someone who can't afford to eat," said Brewin. "We do need to have some sort of group to organize something. The willingness is there, we just need to organize and get together, and it will come."

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has made 94 calls to action, urging all levels of government from federal, provincial, territorial and aboriginal to work together to change policies and programs in a concerted effort to repair the harm caused by residential schools and move forward with reconciliation. Initiatives like Tuesday's meeting help with the process.

"Especially for non-Indigenous people to understand and learn the culture of our First Nations, especially through our communities. We have large reserves," said a social worker from Lethbridge. "What I've noticed working with youth is a lack of traditional language. When I hear youth say I speak more Blackfoot than they do, I don't want to hear that anymore. What the elders have taught me has been more significant than my own family has taught me. I have learned collectiveness through the Indigenous ways of knowing and targeting youth and learning Indigenous ways is something we can all be part of."

Taber Mayor Andrew Prokop added the pillars of a foundation are vision, dedication, organization and commitment.

"It's also about making noise in the right places. There are monies out there. It's all about the awareness in putting this together," said Prokop.

Aline Holmen, director of recreation for the Town of Taber, noted seeing lots of synergy that could be made between the town and the foundation if it were to get started.

"We see the bigger picture. We can bring the culture into some of our community events. Have a Cultural Day. I think about Canada Day. With summer programs, we could easily have a summer camp with our programs that falls around this culture, it's something we could do easily," said Holmen.

The call out to the brainstorming session was made to many different organizations and prominent individuals in the Taber/Vauxhall area. For anyone who did not attend the meeting and would like to offer input and support and become a board member or member at large for the initiative, they can e-mail Sowinski at lisa.sowinski@horizon.ab.ca.

NEWS

Dipping into reserves continuing for Horizon division

■ **Funds:** Nearly \$6 million in savings spent in three years

By Cole Parkinson

Taber Times

cparkinson@tabertimes.com

The Horizon School board has unanimously passed its budget for the 2018/19 school year.

While the board had approved a deficit for the past several years, there were hopes of coming out of it for this budget, but several factors played into why the next budget will see Horizon under the mark again.

For 2018, there is a projected deficit of \$895,491, with \$580,300 coming from schools' use of decentralized reserves and \$315,191 coming from the board fund.

"For the upcoming fiscal year, we are presenting a deficit of \$895,000. Of that budget, the schools are dipping into their reserves by \$580,000, leaving the board to fund a deficit of \$315,000. Of that deficit, we would like to request permission from the board to access a third year of the assessment coach as was the original plan. The transportation funding, as of now I have in the budget a deficit of \$130,000, that's very difficult to project. This one is the worst-case scenario I could come up with," said Phil Johansen, associate superintendent of finance and operations for Horizon at the board's budget meeting on May 23.

The assessment coach was a three-year plan with 2018/19 being the last, and the total going towards the budget is at \$110,000.

Starting in the 2016 school year, staffing changes were made within the division which was a reason for the start of deficits for the school board, though their reserves were able to carry most of the extra costs.

"In September 2016, Horizon School Division had an accumulated operating surplus of \$10,828,000. That year, we ran a significant deficit of just over \$1 million. One of the driving factors behind that deficit was we had changed our staffing approach and on top of that we had around 100 kids that didn't show up in the fall that had been projected to come. Because the board had reserves in place, we were able to carry the staffing commitments that had been made. The other issue is, of course, in the current climate the province has been questioning the level of savings school divisions have," said Johansen.

The deficit saw a total of \$1,172,450 in 2016 and climbed to \$2,303,329 the following year.

Meanwhile board reserves were at \$7,430,930 and \$4,504,600 for 2016 and 2017 respectively.

"The Auditor General recommends that we carry a one to five per cent of our annual operating budget in savings. At the start of the year (2016), we were closer to around 24 per cent of our annual operating budget in savings. There has been pressure from the government asking what the plans are for the money," said Johansen. "One of the plans was we figured we should put some money into maintaining our facilities and addressing any outstanding maintenance issues so we could get long-term benefit from that money."

While one to five per cent was recommended, Johansen sees some issues with only carrying that much.

"The danger of bringing the savings down that low is there is always two things that happen. If your savings are low and we get an event like in 2016 where 100 students don't show up and that funding for those students is just short of \$1 million, you have no ability to cushion. The other thing is, not all of the funding is received in equal installments throughout the year. We get our funding on the 15th of every month but sometimes it's a little higher or lower," he said.

In 2017, most of the money was put into school modernizations which included D.A. Ferguson and Barnwell School.

Schools have also seen a dip in their reserves as they were at \$1,686,448 in 2016 and \$1,634,677 in 2017.

"One of the unique things about this board is you allow schools to carry over large amounts of money year to year. One of the nice things about that system is it doesn't create this end of year panic that you see in organizations where they start spending every penny they've got because they will lose it. It allowed schools to accumulate, at the end of 2016, just about \$1.7 million of funds that were controlled at a school level," added Johansen. "We've given principals that discretion. We trust in their professional judgement."

The amount of money spent out of reserves is a big concern for Horizon staff.

With another deficit for the coming school year, they stressed the need to correct their current path.

"Over the course of three years, the board has spent about \$6 million in savings. At that rate, we will be out of money completely in two years," said Johansen.

A lack of past grants has also hurt Horizon as \$1.72 million has ceased due to the grants not being available anymore.

Several schools within the division have seen declines in the number of students in their traditional English speaking schools.

Based on full-time equivalent (FTE), their regular schools excluding Taber Christian School are down 511.5 FTE over the past 10 years while their Mennonite schools have seen steady growth.

"Our mainstream English schools are down in the last 10 years by about 500 kids. Our outreach programs, especially our Mennonite outreach programs and our colony schools, our enrollment is growing. Taber Christian School is growing," explained Johansen.

Changes in regard to teaching staff has seen the FTE for certificated staff projected to shrink slightly after it was at 217.79 in 2016/17, 216.01 in 2017/18 and it is projected to be at 209.26 for 2018/19.

Last year saw a lot more staff absences than expected and they had to correct it for the newest budget.

"Another item that is a significant impact on this budget is absenteeism. Historically, teachers in Horizon miss about five days of work due to illness in a year. This year it spiked, it looks like it will average out to about 7.5 to eight," said Johansen. "Maternity leaves were quite high this year as well."

With schools expected to use some of their savings for the 2018/19 school season, Johansen expects most of the money to go towards added support staff

time.

"Schools are planning on dipping into their savings by an amount of \$580,000 this year. That will leave them savings around \$700,000 or \$800,000 at the end of this year. One of the big things schools use to purchase with their money is to buy extra support staff time and so this current year, with their reduced allocations, schools purchased 32,306 hours of support staff time," he said.

Assistants for students with complex needs are also being supplemented with more hours for 2018/19.

After 54,361.66 hours and 49.24 FTE in 2016/17, 53,147.58 hours and 48.14 in 2017/18, Horizon is projecting a total of 55,895.7 hours and 50.22 FTE for 2018/19.

While the board had hoped to see the budgets return to the positive side for the coming school year, they realize they can't cut essential services in order to do so.

"We started down this road three years ago, we told administrators that in three years we'd like to be there as a balanced budget without us having to supplement with reserves. We aren't there, however I think it's as harsh as we could possibly go. What the future holds, I don't know where that's going to go," said vice-chair Bruce Francis.

A motion was made to approve the 2018/19 budget and was passed unanimously by the board.

NEWS

Classroom Improvement Fund continues

■ **Funds:** School division stresses funds will not be given out arbitrarily through CIF

By Cole Parkinson

Taber Times

cparkinson@tabertimes.com

With the Alberta government's announcement that the Classroom Improvement Fund will be back for another year, Horizon School Division has some options on how the money will be used.

When the fund was originally introduced it allowed school divisions to hire additional staff and provide more supports to students.

During the board's budget meeting on May 23, Horizon staff highlighted what the fund would do for them come next school year.

"The reality is, we have a new reality and we have to work with it. The province has given us a Band-Aid for one year. On May 11, the government announced they were approving the Classroom Improvement Fund for one more year. It's a one time allocation and we don't have to come to an agreement with the ATA (Alberta Teachers' Association) on how it's spent this time. We've done some preliminary surveys with our principals and our plan is to not allocate this arbitrarily. The government is insistent that it needs to be spent on staffing but our approach is going to be identifying areas of pressure," said Phil Johansen, associate superintendent of finance and operations for Horizon.

With this year's fund able to be spent on whatever the board needs, it brings plenty of different options for the board moving forward though the government has encouraged school boards to use the funds to retain staff hired through 2017/18 funding as well as to consider new supports for students with complex needs.

The biggest problem they see with another year of the program is there is no guarantee it will be back again the year after.

If the fund is shutdown after this year, Horizon

"We need to remember the province passed a deficit budget this year of \$8.8 billion."

— Phil Johansen

may need to make hefty changes to how they operate.

"It will allow you to provide enhanced services this year that you will then look at next year and go 'how come they deserved it this year and not next year' and that's the dilemma. What that means is if this fund does not come back next year, you'll be in a position saying 'these are the students who have needs, how many do we have and how do we provide?' The challenge becomes as school's say 'the money left over from operating day to day is not enough' and if that's what we hear then the answer is what do we give you less of? Do you need less teacher time? Do we need to make classes bigger? Do we give you less support staff?" said Wilco Tymensen, superintendent of schools.

For the 2018/19 school year, the fund will be dispersed throughout the schools but so far they haven't figured out exactly how much each school will get. With each school being different, the funds won't be distributed evenly but more on the needs of the students within each facility.

"Phil did mention it is a one time piece, it's arbitrary. It's not everyone gets an equal amount but what's important to remember about this piece is schools have been told what their staffing is in terms of teacher time, they've been told what their level of high needs assistance is and what their decentralized budgets are for next year. That Classroom Improvement Fund, no principal is aware of how

much will be allocated to them, we're in the planning stages of looking at what those needs are. Part of the requirement there is we have to submit it to Alberta Education for approval and the deadline for that is September 30," continued Tymensen.

With this school year quickly approaching the finish line, the board will begin shifting focus to how they will split up the money.

Once that is figured out, they will need it to be approved before moving forward and the board would hope to have the funds in place for the first day of school in 2018.

"Once they approve it, then you receive the fund and can allocate it. In the past year we were approved fairly quickly and we were able to move forward in an expedited way but we also know that there were jurisdictions that got denied," said Tymensen. "Ideally you want to have those in place on the first day of school. We're looking at moving forward quickly. We may not get approval until July which suddenly means some of those positions may not be put into place until the very end of August or early September."

Looking at the provincial budget that was recently passed earlier this year, Horizon staff expects more changes to come fairly quickly.

With how the budget shaped up, Johansen highlighted some of the financials.

"As we look at provincial finances, I would suggest we have more changes coming. We need to remember the province passed a deficit budget this year of \$8.8 billion. That number is so large, we can't really even comprehend the size of it. Alberta Education, the entire system in the whole province, their share of the budget is \$8.4 billion," he said. "If you laid off every teacher, assistant, principal, deputy minister, bus driver and boarded up the buildings, you would not rectify the province's deficit."