

Regular Board Meeting Agenda
Monday, February 24th, 2020 – 1:00 p.m.

A – Action Items

A.1 Agenda	ENCLOSURE 1 ENCLOSURE 2 ENCLOSURE 3 ENCLOSURE 4
A.2 Minutes of Regular Board Meeting held Monday, January 27 th , 2020	
A.3 February 2020 Payment of Accounts Summary	
A.4 First reading of Policy EEAB – Bus Routes	
A.5 Three-Year Capital Plan	

D – Discussion Items

D.1 New Funding Framework	
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I - Information Items

I.1 Superintendent’s Report – Wilco Tymensen	ENCLOSURE 5
I.2 Trustee/Committee Reports	
I.2.1 ASBA Zone Meeting Report – Marie Logan	
I.2.2 Facilities Meeting Report – Bruce Francis	
I.2.3 Administrator’s Meeting – Bruce Francis	ENCLOSURE 6
I.3 Associate Superintendent of Finance and Operations Report – Phil Johansen	
I.4 Associate Superintendent of Learner Services Report – Amber Darroch	

C-Correspondence

C.1 Edmonton Journal – Public school board to ask ministry for full survey results	ENCLOSURE 7
C.2 Thank you letter to Minister Hunter	
C.3 Edmonton Journal – Edmonton Public Schools moves to save cash by cutting five school days	
C.4 75 th Anniversary of the Liberation of Europe, VE Day (Taber Legion)	
C.5 Legion Ceremony – 75 th Anniversary of the Liberation of Europe, VE Day	
C.6 News Release: Consultation open on local election rules	
C.7 News Release: Arbitration award: Minister Toews	
C.8 Summary of February 6, 2020 meeting with Transportation Minister McIver	
C.9 News Release: Budget 2020 to be tabled Feb. 27	
C.10 News Release: Transforming K-12 education funding	
C.11 Quebec passes education reforms abolishing school boards	
C.12 Quebec just killed its school boards after 175 years, but will students benefit?	
C.13 Taber Times – February 19, 2020 – Horizon passes fee policy	

Dates to Remember

• February 28 – APEX Awards Banquet
• March 1-3 – Alberta Rural Education Symposium - Edmonton
• March 6 – School Based PD Day
• March 9 – Division Wide PD Day – teaching staff

• March 10 – Administrator’s Meeting - Trustee Attending: Christa Runka
• March 11 – ATA Bargaining Meeting
• March 12-13 – CUPE Mediation
• March 23 – Board Meeting
• April 1 – Board School Visits (VES, VHS, HMAP, Hays, Copperfield)
• April 6 – Administrator’s Symposium
• April 8 – Science Olympics – D.A. Ferguson Middle School
• April 10 - Good Friday
• April 13 – Easter Monday
• April 14 – 17 – Easter Holidays
• April 24-25 – Alberta School Councils Annual General Meeting
• April 27 – Board Meeting
• April 29 - Council of School Council Meeting – Trustee Attending: Jennifer Crowson
• May 6 – Board School Visits (River Road, MRE, ERHS)
• May 8 – 75 th Anniversary of the Liberation of Europe – VE Day (Taber Legion)
• May 12 – Administrator’s Meeting – Trustee Attending: Blair Lowry
• May 20 – ASBA Meeting at Horizon School Division
• May 20 – Edwin Parr Awards Banquet
• May 27 – Board Meeting
• June 1-2 – ASBA Spring Meeting – Red Deer
• June 9 – Administrator’s Meeting – Trustee Attending: Marie Logan
• June 22 – Board Meeting

Horizon School Division

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The Board of Trustees of Horizon School Division No. 67 held its Regular Board meeting on Monday, January 27th, 2020 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Eric Johnson Room.

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

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

ACTION ITEMS

Jason Miller, Director of Finance, shared the Internal Financial Report for the period ending December 31, 2019 with the Board.

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| A.1 | Moved by Blair Lowry that the Board approve the agenda. | AGENDA
APPROVED |
| | Carried Unanimously | 01/20 |
| A.2 | Moved by Derek Baron that the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, held Monday, December 16th, 2019 as provided by Enclosure #1 of the agenda. | BOARD MEETING
MINUTES APPROVED |
| | Carried Unanimously | 02/20 |
| A.3 | Moved by Blair Lowry that the Board approve the January 2020 Payment of Accounts in the amount of \$2,221,100,00 as provided in Enclosure #2 of the agenda. | PAYMENT OF
ACCOUNT APPROVED |
| | Carried Unanimously | 03/20 |
| A.4 | Moved by Bruce Francis that the Board approve the second reading of Policy: HIAE – Fees as provided by Enclosure #3 of the agenda. | SECOND READING OF
POLICY HIAE
APPROVED |
| | Carried Unanimously | 04/20 |
| | Moved by Rick Anderson that the Board approve the final reading of Policy: HIAE – Fees as provided by Enclosure #3 of the agenda | FINAL READING OF
POLICY HIAE
APPROVED |
| | Carried Unanimously | 05/20 |
| A.5 | Move by Jennifer Crowson that the Board approved the renewal of the Locally Developed Course: Bible Studies for Kindergarten through Grade 9 as provided by Enclosure #4 of the agenda. | LOCALLY DEVELOPED
COURSE APPROVED |
| | Carried Unanimously | 06/20 |

DISCUSSION ITEMS

D.1 D.A. FERGUSON COMPLEX GRAND OPENING

The Grand Opening Ceremony of the D.A. Ferguson modernization has been set for Sept 15, 2020.

D.2 LOMOND COMMUNITY MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY BOOKINGS

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| A.6 | Moved by Bruce Francis that the Board delegate the ability to approve exceptions to <i>Policy JG: Community use of Facilities</i> as they relate to the Lomond Community Multi-Purpose Facility to senior administration with the expectation that senior administration provide the board with a summary of any such exceptions at the subsequent Board meeting. | DELEGATE USE OF LMPF TO SENIOR ADMINISTRATION APPROVED |
| | Carried Unanimously | 07/20 |

D.3 ASBA SPRING CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Board Chair, Marie Logan and Superintendent, Dr. Wilco Tymensen will be attending the ASBA Spring Conference to be held in Red Deer, May 31 – June 2, 2020.

D.4 APEX AWARDS BANQUET

Board Chair, Marie Logan, Vice-Chair, Bruce Francis and Trustee, Rick Anderson will be attending the APEX Youth Awards Banquet being held on Friday, February 28th, 2020.

D.5 RURAL EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM ATTENDANCE

Trustee, Christa Runka and Associate Superintendent, Amber Darroch will be attending the RES on March 1-3, 2020, in Edmonton.

D.6 SCIENCE OLYMPICS

Trustee Rick Anderson will be a judge at the Science Olympics to be held at D.A. Ferguson Middle School on Wednesday, April 8, 2020.

INFORMATION ITEMS

I.1 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Wilco Tymensen, Superintendent shared the following January 2020 Update 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; financial management; and instructional leadership. This month they also included: transportation, off-campus excursions, student and staff conduct and discipline, and guidance with regard to student and parental concerns.
- As the second vice president of the Collage of Alberta School Superintendents, January included a CASS executive meetings that included discussions with the Deputy Minister and Three Assistant Deputy Ministers. Meetings typically involve provincial education perspectives, discussions with the Ministry regarding future direction and sharing of perspectives. Discussions also included

dialogue around the funding framework/assurance review being undertaken by ADM Gene Williams.

- Met with Taber Legion to discuss the proposed May 8 Legion ceremony to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII. I believe the May 8 date is connected to the liberation of the Netherlands.

Personnel Management

- 2020/2021 enrollment verification
- Participated in Division Office 7 Habits training

Policy and Strategic Planning and Reporting

- No policy meetings have occurred this month. However, review and revisions of Policy EEACB: Bus Route Contracts, EEAB: Bus Routes, EEA: Student Transportation, IC: School Attendance Areas is underway based on board feedback.
- Met with AB ED field services regarding the school division's 3YEP and AERR meeting

Fiscal Responsibility, Organizational Leadership and Management

- Collective bargaining with CUPE is ongoing

Communications and Community Relations

- A number of meetings and celebrations were attended over the last month. These include but are not limited to
 - Division Office staff meeting
 - Senior Administrative Leadership Team meeting
 - Christmas concerts
 - APEX Youth Awards planning
 - Colony Elders Meeting
 - CASS SLQS PD Committee
 - TCS Society meeting

AERR – Three Year Plan Update

Assistant Superintendent of Human Services Report – Robbie Charlebois

Indigenous Programming

- Planning in the new year at WR Myers making hand drums and having a drum group session for students planning stage this week.
- Attend Indigenous sharing network meetings monthly
- First Indigenous family feast night at WR Myers we had 60 RSVP and 43 showed up was a great success
- Making moccasins with Myers staff – Elder Cecilia Soto came from Milk River had a great conversations and laughter
- Theron Black at WR Myers yesterday, his presentation was on Healing through Art & Culture from addictions
- There is a mobile unit that comes to Lethbridge Location is White Eagle Wellness 1277-3rd ave. They come every 3 months. It's a first come first serve. You will need the kids long form birth

certificates with both parents' name and picture ID if 16 or older. If you need more information you can call 403-942-6991-helped get 5 students get treaty cards

- Help two gr.12 students from WR apply for College and University
- Dream catcher making at Central planning stage right now Feb, 2020
- Experiential learning week with Vauxhall map school planning stage land base, traditional games etc.... May 2020
- Working with U of L mentorship ladies, LCC indigenous recruiter
- Spirit Bear is another event we will be putting on it's still in the planning stage May 10th
- Continuing to create relationships with the Indigenous people in our community and surrounding.

Low German Mennonite Programming

- Assist with Locally Developed LGM Language and Culture course (German class) at Horizon MAP
 - Created lesson plans for "German teacher" and the teacher assigned to the class
 - Modeled teaching techniques and strategies for the "German teacher"
- Meeting with principal and vice principal
 - Met with the principal and vice principal to discuss some issues that had come up at the LGM Christmas concert. A plan was put in place that will be a win-win for all parties involved.
- Presented at SAKA meeting
 - One feedback comment after the presentation was:
"I have a better understanding of the context that exists behind specific behaviours. This enhanced understanding increases empathy and demystifies some of the cultural differences."

Career Counseling

- Experiential Learning Week - May 4 to 8
 - Assisting schools in planning their Experiential Learning Week
 - Completing interest surveys from students (and encouraging career research)
 - Organizing a student registration process and then applying for college seats
 - Developed a web site so students can explore their options
- EPIC Career Fair - Feb 12
 - Pre-register students
 - Register students
 - Assist with supervision and transportation
- One on One meetings with students, scholarships, transition planning, applying and decision making

Classroom presentations on CALM and Health topics and for ELW and EPIC

I.2 TRUSTEE/COMMITTEE REPORTS

I.2.1 ASBA Zone Meeting Report

Marie Logan, Zone Chair, provided the following summary of the December Zone 6 ASBA Meeting:

- Choices in Education
 - The Alberta School Board Association has sent out a link to a video to help raise awareness and promote the excellent opportunities, choice and programming that already exists in the Public, Catholic and Francophone School Boards. The video has been playing in the movie theatres. [Click here](#) to view the video.

- FACES (Facilitates Awareness, Character Building, and Experiences for Students)
 - There are 10 sessions over the summer for Grande 9 students going into Grade 10. The 12-day course is offered at the Gladstone Ranch or Goldeye and students receive 15 high school credits. April 1 is the online registrations as LRSC and usually fills in about 45 minutes. Course includes outdoor activities, hiking, rock climbing, canoeing, team building, leadership skills and personal development.
- February 19th, 2020 will be the next ASBA General Meeting with a presentation on lobbying.

I.2.1 Facilities Report

Bruce Francis, Facilities Committee Chair, provided a report to the Board on the work undertaken by the Maintenance Department for the month of January 2020:

- Capital Project - D.A. Ferguson/W.R. Myers
 - Final phase of the partial modernization is underway
- Acoustic tiles were installed in both DA Ferguson and WR Myers gymnasiums. The project was completed prior to the start of school, following the Christmas break. Over the course of the next month, a determination will be made as to whether or not additional baffles will be required.
- Gymnasium lighting upgrade is complete for Central school gymnasium. Existing fluorescent lights were removed and replaced with LED lights improving the lighting levels. Corridor light upgrade portion is set to start the next school break.
- Lomond school envelop improvements started over the break. Completion is expected over the course of winter as weather permits
- Barrier free access project at Dr. Hamman school is substantially complete. Finishing and painting is scheduled for the February break

I.3 ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT

Phil Johansen, Associate Superintendent of Finance and Operations shared the following January 2020 summary to the Board:

- Transportation review
- Reviewing OH&S structure
- Preparing to replace photocopier fleet due to contract ending
- Reviewing accounts and general ledger
- Meeting with colony Elders

I.4 ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT OF LEARNER SERVICES REPORT

Amber Darroch, Associate Superintendent of Learner Services, shared the following January 2020 report with the Board:

Learner Services lead team members:

Amber Darroch, Associate Superintendent
 Terri-Lynn Duncan, Assistant Superintendent
 Angela Miller, Clinical Team Lead
 Shea Mellow, Instructional Coach

KEY ACTION AREA #1:

Strong core instruction that develops student competencies

- Amber is in the process of meeting with all principals to discuss course offerings in the 2020-21 school year, supporting alignment with Alberta Education regulations and approved Programs of Study. Horizon schools go to great lengths to provide a broad and high-quality range of courses at all levels and are being supported in using innovative approaches to engage and inspire their students.
- A student leadership initiative is underway in partnership with Alberta Health Services (AHS) and our own Family Connections Wellness Coaches. Students are currently being recruited and will receive training to design anti-vaping (e-cigarette) campaigns for their own schools. Peer to peer communication on issues such as health is effective in helping youth make positive and informed choices.

KEY ACTION AREA #2:

Response to Instruction and Intervention

- Schools have begun to schedule their second Individual Program Plan Meetings. Terri-Lynn is attending scheduled meetings for students' kindergarten to grade 12 and Andra Johnson is attending the Kindergarten and early learning scheduled meetings.
- Terri-Lynn has been attending Collaborative Response Meetings to provide support in areas of literacy, numeracy and suggestions for Alberta Health Services or the inclusive learning team members that may be able to support students in areas of difficulty.
- Horizon is part of a multi-district collaborative partnership facilitated by AHS to develop a clear, conceptual model of how schools and our partners can respond to middle/junior high school students at risk of chronic non-attendance. One school will be involved in helping create a clear intervention strategy for students with attendance concerns at the middle tier of our pyramid of intervention. Upon completion a year from now, the idea is to have a strategy which can be replicated in all of our schools and also applied to student concerns other than attendance. The slide that follows sums up the project:

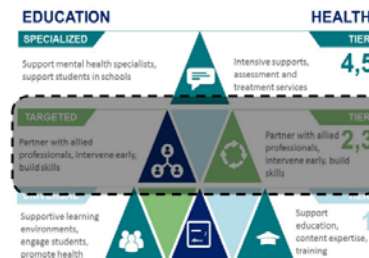
Project Objective

Vision

Children and youth in Alberta have access to **consistent and equitable, cross-sectoral, collaborative** addiction and mental health supports in school settings.

Project Objective

To co-design, implement, and evaluate model(s) of **cross-sectoral and collaborative services and support in the middle tier of intervention** through a collaborative learning approach (CLA).



LEADERSHIP PRACTICES

- Amber has facilitated training for division office staff and Chamberlain/ATL school staff on the “Seven Habits of Highly Effective People”.
- At the January session for all Horizon Early Learning Educators, Amber presented a session on how to best use effective leadership practices in an early learning context.
- Terri-Lynn recertified in SIVA (Supporting Individuals through Valued Attachments) Train the Trainer session with Glenn Jankowiak and Mandy Simmons so that the SIVA team can continue to provide training to administrators, teachers and educational assistants in the district.



Instructional Coach Update
Shea Mellow

December

Principal Meetings	Whole-Staff Coaching	Individual Teacher Coaching	Total School Visits	Additional PD Experiences
4	2	9	10	2

January

Principal Meetings	Whole-Staff Coaching	Individual Teacher Coaching	Total School Visits	Additional PD Experiences
2	1	27	13	2

Highlights

#1: Coaching Staff Cycles: Many Horizon schools have now arranged cycles of coaching for their staff and this is imperative support to achieve our ultimate goal of shifting and enhancing our practice as a collective - getting all teaching staff 'on the same page'. I see such potential for new strategies in conceptual learning to provide clear structures and processes to refine instruction and assessment for all classrooms, including multi-age classrooms, of which we have many in our division. Working with a whole staff allows for a collaborative approach within each school and essentially, throughout our division. This collective approach will empower our staff. ***Working smarter, not harder - an appropriate mantra to enrich the health of all teaching staff.***

#2: "They may as well have been speaking Russian..."

After our division-wide professional development day, a new teacher to the profession used this language to express to me how she was feeling overwhelmed with discussion on new pedagogy. Immediately, Amber and I were able to proceed by collaboratively planning a proactive approach to reach teachers who may be feeling stress with these new directions. In doing so, we created a visual reference to use at a universal level within our division. I have used this several times, with large groups as well as individual teachers - including the teacher who originally presented the "Speaking-Russian" reference. This teacher is now excited to proceed with renewed clarity and purpose. With excellent responses thus far, this tool is sure to provide clear direction to our entire administration and teaching staff. ***As the lead learners in the division, it is rewarding to problem-solve with colleagues and, ultimately, to be able to provide valuable support where it's truly needed.***

CORRESPONDENCE

No Discussion items came forward from the Correspondence as provided by Enclosure #6 of the agenda.

COMMITTEE ITEMS

Moved by Derek Baron that the Board meet in Committee. Carried Unanimously	COMMITTEE 08/20
Moved by Christa Runka that the meeting reconvene. Carried Unanimously	RECONVENE 09/20
Moved by Jennifer Crowson that the meeting adjourn. Carried Unanimously	MEETING ADJOURNED 10/20

Marie Logan, Chair

Sheila Laqua, Executive Secretary

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS REPORT
Board Meeting - February 24, 2020

General	January 28/20		1265316.03
General	February 5/20		184166.80
General	February 11/20		345212.52
"A" Payroll	January 2020	Teachers	1,658,296.34
		Support	515,328.69
"B" Payroll	January 2020	Casual	16,231.16
		Subs	49,633.36
Total Accounts			2,239,489.55
Board Chair _____			
PJ:dd			
February 13/20			

HORIZON SCHOOL DIVISION**POLICY HANDBOOK**

Policy Code: EEAB
Policy Title: Bus Routes
Cross Reference: EEA
Legal Reference: *Education Act, School Transportation Regulation*
Adoption Date: December 18, 1996
Amendment or Re-affirmation Date:

POLICY

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF HORIZON SCHOOL DIVISION SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ESTABLISHING AND REVIEWING BUS ROUTES WHICH WILL PROVIDE A SAFE AND EFFICIENT MEANS OF TRANSPORTING ALL ELIGIBLE STUDENTS TO AND FROM SCHOOL.

REGULATIONS

1. The Board retains ownership of all bus routes, and will endeavor in all cases to select qualified contractors who will meet the required standards.
2. The Board may contract routes to individuals and/or companies to provide the required service.
 - 2.1. Contractors will be required to enter into a transportation contract.
 - 2.2. The Transportation Contractor is responsible for the efficient and effective day-to-day operation of all student transportation within the division.
 - 2.3. The transportation contract shall not assign, transfer, or subcontract any of the contractors rights, burdens, duties, obligations, or responsibilities without the prior written consent of the Horizon School Division.
 - 2.4. The Transportation Contractor shall ensure school bus operations are in accordance with all relevant laws, regulations, rules, policies and administrative procedures.
3. While performing services, a contractor, and/or their employees, are not an officer, agent, or employee of the Horizon School Division.
4. It shall be the responsibility of division administration in consultation with the transportation contractor(s) to establish and maintain a system of bus routes that will be safe and time and cost efficient.
5. The division supports special transportation arrangements for students with special needs.
 - 5.1. The Transportation Coordinator is authorized to make such arrangements for students identified by the Assistant Superintendent of Learner Services.

Policy Code EEAB – Bus Routes – Continued

- 5.2. The Associate Superintendent (Learning Services) shall be responsible for informing the Transportation Coordinator, Contractor, and/or the bus driver or driver of the transporting vehicle as to the pertinent nature of the child’s disability and appropriate procedures for the management of the disability.
- 5.3. The responsibility for preparing a special needs pupil for transportation at the designated time lies with the parent and/or guardian.
6. Schedules shall be arranged, wherever possible, so that students arrive at school no earlier than 15 minutes before the start of school.
7. All bus routes shall terminate at the designated school(s) and students shall exit only at that point, subject to any transfers and feeder routes.
8. Division administration, in consultation with school principals and contractors, shall have the responsibility to determine the exact location of, and procedures for, the safe and efficient loading and unloading of students at each school site.
9. It is expected that in order for buses to continue to utilize private driveways/approach, owners must maintain their driveway/approach in good and passible condition.
10. It shall be the responsibility of the Transportation Coordinator to make recommendation to the Superintendent for addition or deletion of bus routes as per “Criteria for the Addition and Deletion of Bus Routes” (see Attachment A).
 - 10.1. Recommendations shall include all pertinent information such as a
 - 10.1.1. Map of the route(s),
 - 10.1.2. Student list(s),
 - 10.1.3. Pick-up and arrival times,
 - 10.1.4. Bus capacity, and
 - 10.1.5. Weighted load(s).
 - 10.2. Any addition or deletion to bus routes shall be made in conjunction with the terms of the contract for bus services.

Policy Code EEAB – Bus Routes – Continued

Attachment: A Suggested Criteria for the Addition and Deletion of Bus Routes

1. Criteria to consider when splitting a bus route:
 - 1.1. Is the ride time excessive?
 - 1.1.1. The current route either covers such a great distance, or covers such a densely populated area that the time required to complete the route is unreasonable as determined by school division senior administration in relation to the distance the route covers and/or the number of students on the route.
 - 1.2. Has the transfer of students to nearby, routes to balance the weighted load and reduce operating times been considered?
 - 1.3. Would increasing the bus size (larger weighted load bus) be a better alternative?
 - 1.4. Are there non-designated students on the bus? If so, should they be removed?
 - 1.5. Is it
 - 1.5.1. safer,
 - 1.5.2. more efficient, or
 - 1.5.3. more cost effectiveto split the route?
2. Criteria to consider when deleting a bus route:
 - 2.1. The minimum capacity bus available is being utilized on the route in accordance with appropriate weighted load maximums.
 - 2.2. The number of students on the route is less than half the seating capacity of the bus, based on weighted load.
 - 2.3. There are other available nearby bus routes which could pick up the students without unduly affecting the students from either route.
 - 2.4. There are no known projected increases to the route in the following school year.
 - 2.5. A review of the route determines it would be safer, more efficient, or more cost effective if the route were consolidated with other area routes, and the total number of bus routes were reduced

HORIZON SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 67

THREE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN 2020 - 2023

TOTAL ACCUMULATED CAPITAL FUNDING				
\$35,732,960.00				
\$35,732,960.00			<p style="text-align: center;">3- LOMOND SCHOOL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$8,093,505</p> <p>LOMOND SCHOOL Preservation 2626 sq. m</p> <p>LOMOND SCHOOL Partial Demolition 540.6 sq. m</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Present Floor Area: 3,166 sq. m. Present Utilization: 30% FCI index: 10.83%</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Preservation of 1961 Section: 2,626 sq. m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Demolish 1956 Section: 540.6 sq. m.</p>
\$27,639,455		<p style="text-align: center;">2 - DAF / WRM Phase 2 \$15,751,022</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Modernization \$15,751,022 Preservation Full modernization of 1949,1965 1967,1996 Sections Demolition \$0</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FCI index: 8.92% Present Utilization: 63% 6,790.13 sq. m. Pres.Complex</p>	
\$11,888,433.00	<p style="text-align: center;">1 Milk River Elementary School and ERHS combination at MRE Site \$11,888,433</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Full modernization of MRE 1580 sq. m add a jr. and sn. High school wing 2000 sq. m Complete Demolition of ERHS 3979 HAZMAT Allowance \$300,000</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MRE Present Floor Area: 1,581 sq. m. FCI index 9.29%</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ERHS present floor area: 3,978 FCI index 22.64</p>		
	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	
	Est. Funding Appr. 2020/21 Est. Const. Start 2021	Est. Funding Appr. 2021/22 Est. Const. Start 2022	Est. Funding Appr. 2022/23 Est. Const. Start 2023	

Superintendents Progress Report

February, 2020

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: transportation, off-campus excursions, student and staff conduct and discipline, and guidance with regard to student and parental concerns.
- As the second vice president of the Collage of Alberta School Superintendents, February included a CASS executive meeting Meetings typically involve provincial education perspectives, discussions with the Ministry regarding future direction and sharing of perspectives. Discussions also included dialogue around the funding framework/assurance review being undertaken by ADM Gene Williams.
- Administrator Symposium planning committee meeting
- Completed a number of Alberta Education surveys including input into the *draft Ministerial Order on Student Learning* and the *Curriculum Advisory Panel's Recommendations on Direction for Curriculum*

Personnel Management

- Met with Robbie Charlebois, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources to lay out the timeline and process for enrollment verification and teacher transfers

Policy and Strategic Planning and Reporting

- No policy meetings have occurred this month. However, review and revisions of Policy EEA: Student Transpiration, and IC: School Attendance Areas is underway

Fiscal Responsibility, Organizational Leadership and Management

- Taber Mennonite School, D.A. Ferguson, W.R. Myers transition meeting
- There has been a number of communications between Alberta Health Services and school divisions related to the Coronavirus
- Met with Xerox regarding new management

Communications and Community Relations

- A number of meetings and celebrations were attended over the last month. These include but are not limited to
 - Division Office staff meeting
 - Senior Administrative Leadership Team meeting
 - PreCASS and CASSIX meeting
 - Administrator meeting
 - Council of School Council meeting which focused primarily on 10 advocacy resolutions:
 1. Provincial and Federal Legislation Related to Vaping Products
 2. Diploma Exam Weighting
 3. Consistent, Negotiated Price, and Bulk Purchase/ Distribution, of EpiPens
 4. Achieving Equitable Public Education
 5. Support for Addressing Class Size and Complex Classrooms
 6. Informed, Adequate Funding for Classrooms and Schools
 7. Access to Funding for Public Schools and Public School Fees
 8. Prioritizing Funding for Education in Areas of High Student Density

9. Mental Wellness Curriculum Incorporation
10. Student Education Advocacy

Associate Superintendent, Learner Services
Report to the Board of Trustees –February 24, 2020

Learner Services lead team members:

Amber Darroch, Associate Superintendent
Terri-Lynn Duncan, Assistant Superintendent
Angela Miller, Clinical Team Lead
Shea Mellow, Instructional Coach

KEY ACTION AREA #1:

Strong core instruction that develops student competencies

- A new Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Prairie College, creating a new dual credit opportunity for high school students to take two Outdoor Leadership college courses and earn ten CTS credits at the same time. The coursework is delivered on one Saturday and over a five day outdoor camp at Frontier Lodge in the Nordegg area. This course includes leadership, outdoor activities and Christian content, and four students from Arden T Litt Learning Centre are currently registered to attend in March 2020.
- Planning is underway for the third and final division-wide professional learning day of the school year, to be held on March 9th. All teachers will continue to engage in grade level or subject discipline groups as we continue our shared focus on teaching for conceptual understanding, while they also continue their collaborative work in their self-directed “Teachers Learning through Collaboration” (TLC) groups.

KEY ACTION AREA #2:

Response to Instruction and Intervention

- Schools are finishing up their second Individual Program Plan Meetings. Terri-Lynn is attending scheduled meetings for students kindergarten to grade 12 for the month of February.
- Terri-Lynn continues to attend Collaborative Response Meetings in schools to provide support in areas of literacy, numeracy and suggestions for Alberta Health Services or the inclusive learning team members who may be able to support students in areas of difficulty.
- On an ongoing basis, a number of our Learner Services team members attend school meetings with staff to coordinate supports for specific students who are experiencing difficulty.
- February is National Inclusive Education month. To promote awareness, the Horizon website profiles a great Shelley Moore video ([click here for the news link](#)). Some shared sites and strategies which may be helpful for students will be shared out with staff and parents this

month.

LEADERSHIP PRACTICES

- Terri-Lynn is in the process of meeting with all Learning Support Teachers to discuss students in each school, needed professional development and answering any questions that they may have. She is also meeting with Principals to discuss their requests on learning support time and student priorities.
- Senior administrators who are CASS members attended the Zone 6 meetings at Prairie Rose School Division in Dunmore on February 6 & 7.
- Horizon school and system leaders will spend one day together on Monday, April 6th at the annual Leadership Symposium, condensed this year from two days to one. With the number of changes anticipated to come from Alberta Education, the symposium will focus on division values and priorities helping to provide the foundation for change and continuous improvement.



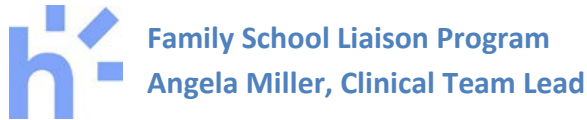
February

Principal Meetings	Whole-Staff Coaching	Individual Teacher Coaching	Total School Visits	Additional PD Experiences
5	1	29	-	3

Highlights

Providing Transfer for our Horizon Staff: The month began with participation in a two-day professional development session provided by Rachel French. Rachel works closely with many of the other international gurus of conceptual learning whom I've had the pleasure of learning from this year, and this session provided clear reinforcement of real classroom implementation strategies. Establishing classrooms where meaningful thinking occurs and transfer of learning is a priority is undoubtedly a priority for the future of education. How to provide support for teachers, who already have a lot on their plate, to make this shift is where things become tricky. Working within Horizon's learning services team, each month I see immense progress in this area as the teachers I work with embrace new strategies and ways of planning for transfer. This month, Rachel French provided several clear methods to help us continue the momentum of progress our division has seen. This month, I've had the pleasure of working with key administration and senior leadership to establish a clear plan for our March division-wide PD Day where

all teachers will be involved in collaborative activity and deep exploration of strategies for immediate use in their own classrooms. Our teaching staff has explored, read about, and discussed conceptual learning and are ready to dive in and we've established a breadth of resources to guide them in this practice.



Clinical Team Leader Meetings and Activities for January and February 2020

School Visits/Supervision of Staff Jan./Feb.	Jan./Feb. Case Consults	Jan./Feb. FSLP Full Day Staff Meetings	Community/Agency Meetings Taber Community and Prevention Society Multi Agency for At Risk Youth Meeting	RCSD Mental Health Meetings and Pilot Project Meetings
26	2	2	3	5

Due to the vacancy created by a resignation, Amber and Angela conducted FSLC interviews and hired Hollie Kimmins into the role of Family School Liaison Counsellor for LT Westlake and Vauxhall Elementary.

Angela Miller, Clinical Team Lead Activities for January and February

- Attended Lethbridge Meeting and Calgary Meeting for RCSD project on: Addressing Child and Youth
- Addiction and Mental Health – Middle Tier in School Settings. Our project will be “Preventing School Refusal Prior to Non-Engagement
- Attended U of C Social Work Thank You for taking a practicum student the evening of January 29
- Planned with Rylee Beland to start ADHD Group (evening) January 28
- Attended AHS Interviews for RCSD Mental Health Therapist
- Connecting to College Event – Information about transitioning high school students to post-secondary
- Meeting with FSLP staff around recruiting students for e-cigarette project and planning for ideas for monthly wellness themes and FSLP expectations. Recruited 10 Students.
- Feb. 5 and Feb. 24 Middle Tier planning meeting at Lethbridge AHS
- Feb. 14 Lethbridge CYCW College Panel to discuss interview questions and role expectations

- Eric and I met with Safe Haven about summer programming and will be working on policies and procedures for summer camp staff with Catherine Champagne Executive Director of Safe Haven
- Accepted two CYC Practicum students one for the South Schools from end of February to end of April and one at DAF for end of February to end of March
- Working on getting surveys out for FSLP program evaluation
- Observations and evaluations of new staff
- Inventory of resources for MHCBC
- Working with Rylee Beland on putting together a Drugs over Dinner conversation for March 31, 2020 at Luigis for Parents and Youth to discuss substance trends and resources for support
- Supervising two Master of Counselling students for the school year

Eric Burgess, Program Manager, Family Connections Activities for January and February 2020

- Ongoing contact with MHCBC about a 'variety of aspects of MHCBC delivery'
- Dissemination of knowledge about 'ongoing changes' regarding MHCBC parameters
- FOIP Training - requirement of MHCBC
- Health Information Act Training - requirement of MHCBC
- Applications to MHCBC regarding Professional Development approval for FCWCs
- Developed tentative Summer Program Plan
- MHCBC meeting - Review of aggregated statistics for the province and changing expectations for stats reporting for both regular program and enhancement programs.
- SAKA (LGM) Committee meeting at Taber Hospital.
- Submission of Summer Program Plan to MHCBC
- TCADS meetings - preparation for "Not My Kid" parent information night
- Arranged for translation services for "Not My Kid" night
- FCWC Observations and evaluations in multiple schools
- MHCBC Meeting - Equity and Inclusiveness in Schools
- Attended RCSD Mental Health Committee meeting with Angela @ Holy Spirit
- Developed Map of Agri-Plex facility (inside and outside) for mapping out space for Spark Champions
- TCADS - Not My Kid night
- Applied for and was awarded North & Co Community Initiative grant. Upcoming meeting with North & Co to learn about specifics.
- MHCBC Enhancement Program - Meeting to discuss changes in expectations and reporting of stats for Enhancement funded program.
- MHCBC Regular Program - Meeting to discuss changes in expectations and reporting of stats for Regular funded program
- Initial planning for Spark Fair 2020 includes recruiting Spark Champions, looking for the donation of a large event tent, and seeking donations
- Oversight of Resiliency Project progress
- Gathering numbers/counts for Wellness Pack Program

Family School Liaison Program Activities January and February 2020

Exam Stress Activities/Presentations	Mentorship	Resiliency Classroom Presentations for Celebrations	Kelso's Choice Presentations	Kimochis	Superflex
2 School Wide Resource Activities 4 CALM Classes	52 Mentors and Mentees	8 Class Presentations	4 Classes	3 Classes	2 Classes

Bell Let's Talk Activities:

Bell Let's Talk Day fell on exam week so we had signs/posters from the campaign hung up around the school and had the talk bubbles available to be filled out at the exam de-stress table. Information also provided for Facebook page, tv screens around the school and the Rebel Yell.

Spread kindness/Bell Let's talk- Headstrong students handed out granola bars with kind messages to every student k-9 and had each student write a kind message on a sticky note and put it on a bulletin board for the school to see.

VES-Bell Let's Talk each class did their own random act of kindness

Some classes cleaned the playground, wrote letters to teachers, left sticky notes on lockers for other students, wrote letters to students

Pink Shirt Day/Kindness Activities:

Shirt Day/Kindness Activities (in collaboration with the Headstrong Group)

- Kindness Colouring Contest
- Kindness Board Challenge
- Positive Post-It Notes
- Collaborative Kindness Art Piece

Healthy Relationships Presentation (Handout for Teachers)

This week at Central our focus is pink shirt day. The theme is filling out complements on rockets for other students and bring a non-perishable food item for the food bank

Other Various Activities in Schools:

Boys recess group - once per week

Making Connection/movements break with student - once or twice per week

General kindness theme at Dr. Hamman

Girls Friendship Group 1 (Grade 6/7)

Girls Friendship Group 2 (Grade 6/7)

Girls Friendship Group 3 (Grade 8/9)

Teen Dating Violence Photo Booth (with Safe Haven)

ADHD Group Started January 28 and has run every Tuesday evening for parents and students from 5:30-7:30. Information provided to parents around ADHD and resources on how to support those with ADHD.

Family School Liaison Program Statistics				
January 6 to February 14, 2020				
	Jan 6-31 2020		Feb 3-14 2020	
	FSLC	CYC	FSLC	CYC
# of students on current caseload	215	14	115	16
Total number of student contacts this month	871	242	313	132
# of students served in presentations	70	0	0	31
# of total students served this month via client sessions, drop-in, small groups	455	83	257	66
# of staff served in presentations/consultations	209	16	39	14
# of suicide risk assessments completed	9	1	7	0
# of VTRAs/worrisome behaviour completed	8	0	3	0

January 28, 2020

The Honourable Grant Hunter
Associate Minister of Red Tape Reduction
Taber – Warner
Legislative Branch
5402 – 50 Avenue
Taber, AB T1G 1T9

Dear Minister Hunter,

On behalf of the Horizon School Division Board of Trustees, I would like to thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to meet with us.

We appreciate the open and transparent dialogue on the topics that were discussed.

We look forward to continuing our conversations and appreciate your contribution to the Taber – Warner area.

Should you have any questions feel free to reach out to Marie Logan, Board Chair (403-485-8585) or Dr. Wilco Tymensen, Superintendent (403-630-7008).

Sincerely,

Marie Logan
Board Chair

Arbitration awards: Minister Toews

January 31, 2020 [Media inquiries](#)

Finance Minister Travis Toews issued the following statement on three arbitration decisions involving the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE).

"Today, a provincial board of arbitration awarded no increase to Auxiliary Nursing Care workers, a one per cent increase to Alberta Public Service workers and a one per cent increase to health care workers in General Support Services.

"This binding arbitration process agreed to by the previous government resulted in public sector wage decisions that further challenge the urgent need to fix Alberta's overspending problem while ensuring the long-term sustainability of high quality public services Albertans rely on.

"These increases - while much less than the 6.5 per cent to nearly eight per cent increases the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees was seeking - will mean an additional \$35 million annual expenditure for public sector compensation. As indicated in the last budget, there is no new money for public sector raises over the course of our fiscal plan.

"As a result of these decisions government will need to consider additional steps to balance our budget and get our fiscal house in order. These unfortunately include the potential for adjustments to workforce levels, as well as finding efficiencies in program service delivery.

"As the MacKinnon panel identified, public sector compensation makes up more than half of government expenses and in many cases wages are substantially higher than other large provinces.

"We remain steadfast. We will not ask Alberta taxpayers to further fund public sector raises when far too many workers in the private sector have lost their jobs or have seen significant cuts in their wages.

"Wage restraint will be of paramount importance as we enter into new collective bargaining negotiations in 2020.

"We have a great deal of respect and admiration for Alberta's public sector workers who deliver so many of the vital services Albertans rely on. The need for restraint does not diminish our recognition of the hard work they do for Albertans, but government is expected to be responsible stewards of the public's tax dollars and get our province's finances under control."



Royal Canadian Legion Branch # 20
5205 – 48th Ave.
Taber, Ab.
T1G 1S8
Phone 403-223-3822
Fax 403-223-1115

Horizon School Division Taber
6302 56 St
Taber, Ab. T1G 1Z9

January 22, 2020

Dear Horizon School Division Taber

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Europe, VE Day. The Royal Canadian Legion Taber will be celebrating this on May 8, 2020.

You are invited along with ALL your Taber schools to join the celebration at the Civic Centre at 9:00am. There will be a Parade from the Civic parking lot to the Cenotaph where a Commemorative Ceremony will take place. At the end of the Ceremony the Parade will return to the Civic Centre. Following the Ceremony there will be a lite lunch and refreshments served at the Civic Centre.

To also commemorate this occasion, the Taber Legion will be selling “Memorial Candles” for \$5.00 each which can be laid at the Cenotaph during the Ceremony. These candles will be available to purchase at the Legion starting April 1, 2020.

Please RSVP to Chris Nguyen @ christopher.nguyen@live.ca no later than March 15, 2020.

Sincerely

MaryAnn Smith

Chairperson Liberation 75 Committee





**Royal Canadian Legion
Taber
Celebrates
“Victory At Last”**



Anyone wishing to pay tribute to the sacrifices of WWII, can do so by purchasing a \$5.00 Memorial Candle. Branch #20 Taber, will begin selling these candles which you can personalize, on April 1, 2020. To purchase the candle call the Legion office in Taber at (403) 223-3822 or in person at the Legion office/lounge, Monday to Friday between 10:00 A.M. to close. You can also pre-order the candle starting today by calling the above number. These candles are for placement at our May 8th Memorial Service at the Taber Cenotaph.

From: <alberta.news@gov.ab.ca>

Date: Tue, Feb 4, 2020 at 4:03 PM

Subject: News Release: Consultation opens on local election rules

Consultation opens on local election rules

February 04, 2020 [Media inquiries](#)

Government has opened consultation on the rules that govern municipal and school board elections in order to ensure they meet the needs and expectations of Albertans.

While the *Local Authorities Election Act* was reviewed and revised following local elections in 2017, government continues to receive feedback suggesting gaps exist in the legislation. As a result, government wants to hear from Albertans – including voters, elected officials, community advocacy groups and campaign volunteers – on how the rules can be improved to enhance transparency and participation in local elections.

“Albertans expect local elections to be fair, transparent and inclusive. This consultation will determine if and how we, as a government, can better meet these goals. While this will not be a wholesale review like the one in 2018, we are looking to Albertans for feedback on areas that can be improved before the next round of municipal and school board elections.”

Kaycee Madu, Minister of Municipal Affairs

Take the survey online

From Feb. 4 to March 4, Albertans can provide their feedback online at [Alberta.ca](https://alberta.ca) about:

- the length of campaign period
- nomination process
- campaign finances
- third-party advertising
- recall of municipally elected officials

Government will also hold focused discussions with representatives from municipalities and community advocacy groups.

Feedback may be used to inform potential changes to the legislation, which could be brought forward in a future session of the legislature.

Quick facts

- The *Local Authorities Election Act* governs elections for cities, towns, villages, summer villages, municipal districts, counties, specialized municipalities and school boards.
- Metis Settlements and irrigation districts also use the act to conduct their elections. This review, however, does not include parts of the legislation that pertain to Metis Settlements and irrigation districts.

Related information

- [Local election rules engagement](#)

From: <alberta.news@gov.ab.ca>
Date: Wed, Feb 5, 2020 at 9:03 AM
Subject: News Release: Arbitration award: Minister Toews
To: <wilco.tymensen@horizon.ab.ca>

Arbitration award: Minister Toews

February 05, 2020 [Media inquiries](#)

President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance Travis Toews issued the following statement about the arbitration decision involving the Health Sciences Association of Alberta.

"This independent public sector wage arbitration outcome of zero increase reflects the current economic realities in the province. This decision helps keep government on track with our commitment to Albertans to prioritize service delivery over salary increases for public sector workers.

"It is also respectful of the economic challenges so many other Albertans have recently faced – seeing their wages decrease or disappear altogether.

"Public sector compensation accounts for more than half of all government expenses and in many cases public sector workers in Alberta earn significantly more than peers in other provinces.

"Sustaining high quality services requires common sense collective agreements that over time bring Alberta's spending on public sector wages in line with other provinces.

"This fiscal restraint and discipline must continue as we enter into new collective bargaining negotiations in 2020. The need for wage restraint does not diminish our recognition for the hard work public sector workers do for Albertans.

"Our goal as we move forward with upcoming negotiations is to do so cooperatively, not combatively."

Summary of February 6, 2020 meeting with Transportation Minister McIver

On Thursday afternoon, February 6, Dr. Abboud and I had a productive meeting with the Minister of Transportation and additional Government of Alberta staff, and addressed the following:

Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) and Transportation

- We explained to the Minister the work of ASBA in representing the 61 locally-elected public, catholic, and francophone school boards, and the work of school boards and trustees in supporting effective governance and an excellent education system.
- We explained to the Minister the pressure on the budget and the limitations that MELT is causing school boards, while reiterating that students safety is a priority for all boards.
- The Minister indicated that at this time, the Government of Alberta would not be providing funding to support the implementation of MELT, but expressed the desire to continue working in partnership with our school boards.
- We had an open dialogue about the implications of MELT on member boards, and how school boards and government can work together to support effective implementation of MELT, understanding that there is no additional funding to be provided to boards.
- ASBA shared all of the position statements that relate to transportation with the Minister of Transportation:

11.10. School Bus Speed Limits

- That the Minister of Transportation establish that school buses may operate at the same speed as the posted speed limit, as prescribed by law. (FGM2019)

12.10. Standards of competency for bus drivers

- The Province of Alberta should establish province-wide tests and standards of competency for bus drivers.

20.4. Transportation safety

- The provincial government should return to the use of front license plates on vehicles to assist in the identification and prosecution of offenders who pass school buses while loading or unloading.

20.5. Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT)

- That ASBA urges Alberta Education to provide funding to support the upcoming Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) program.
- That ASBA urges Alberta Transportation to allow current S-Endorsement instructors, including those employed by school boards, the opportunity to become certified Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) instructors and that the S-Endorsement be combined with the

- MELT program to consolidate and streamline the program to avoid repetitive subject matter being instructed. (2018)
- The Alberta School Boards Association advocates to the provincial government for the exemption of all school bus drivers from the increased requirements of Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT). (12/SGM2019)

20.6. External cameras on school buses

- That the Alberta Government require that, and allocate additional funds for, all Alberta school buses to be outfitted with external cameras in order to identify and help convict motorists that dangerously disregard the red flashing lights on our school buses. (2018)
- Minister McIver is open to consideration of some of the items, including exploring school buses operating at the same speed as the posted speed limit, as prescribed by law. However, he made no commitments.
- The Minister's staff suggested that MELT training could be, or continue to be, provided by member boards to offset some of the costs.
- The Minister's staff alluded to many resources and tools that are available to support boards with MELT on their website. Dr. Abboud will share these resources as soon as we receive them.

We thanked the Minister for the meeting and reiterated that we look forward to working together moving forward on these items and other committee work he is involved in.

From: <alberta.news@gov.ab.ca>

Date: Tue, Feb 11, 2020 at 11:17 AM

Subject: News Release: Budget 2020 to be tabled Feb. 27

Budget 2020 to be tabled Feb. 27

February 11, 2020 [Media inquiries](#)

Travis Toews, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, will table Budget 2020 on Feb. 27.

Budget 2020 will provide an update on the government's fiscal and capital plans.

"I have listened to the comments that thousands of Albertans have shared with me and I hear your concerns about the need to continue to create jobs and grow the economy. Budget 2020 will report on our actions to date and our continued efforts to get Albertans back to work."

Travis Toews, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance

To prepare for Budget 2020, government consulted with more than 30,000 Albertans through two telephone town halls. Ministers and MLAs have been meeting with their constituents and Albertans have shared their views through an [online survey](#). More than 26,000 people provided feedback before the survey closed on Feb. 7.

The budget date allows sufficient time for government to debate and pass a budget before the end of the fiscal year and provides organizations that rely on government funding the time to make informed decisions about their own budgets.

"Budget 2020 is a continuation of our commitment to Albertans and the plan set forward in Budget 2019. We are focused on transforming government programs to eliminate duplication and ensuring realized savings are reinvested into services. I look forward to sharing our plan later this month."

Travis Toews, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance

Related information

[Alberta Budget](#)

From: <alberta.news@gov.ab.ca>

Date: Tue, Feb 18, 2020 at 1:03 PM

Subject: News Release: Transforming K-12 education funding

Transforming K-12 education funding

February 18, 2020 [Media inquiries](#)

A new way to fund Alberta's K-12 education system will drive more dollars to the classroom where they can deliver the best outcomes for students.

The new model streamlines operations and directs more dollars to each school division. In the 2020-21 school year, every single division will see an increase in operational funding.

The model also provides more predictability in funding by changing from one-year enrolment counts to a moving three-year average, minimizing the need for mid-year adjustments to school budgets. The move will help school divisions plan their finances well in advance of the start of the school year.

“Alberta will continue to have one of the best-funded education systems in the country. This new model will drive more money to our school divisions for use in the classroom and provides them with the flexibility they need to meet the unique needs of their students. These changes will ensure our divisions continue to be equipped to provide our students with a world-class, high quality education.”

Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education

The new model also reduces red tape and gives more flexibility to school divisions to determine how to best invest taxpayer dollars. By simplifying the number of grants to 15 from the current 36, while still maintaining education funding, school divisions will have reduced reporting obligations and more leeway to direct funding to support the needs of students.

“This government is committed to cutting unnecessary red tape by one-third to reduce costs, speed up approvals and make life better for Albertans. I am thrilled that we are updating and streamlining the K-12 funding model, while maintaining robust

measures to ensure money is being directed to the classroom. School boards can now spend less time on unnecessary reporting and administration work and more time focusing on students.”

Grant Hunter, Associate Minister of Red Tape Reduction

Highlights of the new model include:

- **Ensuring funds are directed to classrooms** by providing a targeted grant for system administration, instead of a percentage of overall funding. This will standardize administrative and governance spending to within a reasonable range and maximize dollars intended for classrooms. The new model will also simplify grants to reduce red-tape for school authorities.
- **Protecting our most vulnerable students** by providing funding intended to support specialized learning needs or groups of students who may require additional supports from school authorities, including Program Unit Funding, funding for English as a Second Language students, French as a Second Language students, refugee students and First Nations, Métis and Inuit students.
- **Better managing system growth**, specifically enrolment growth and associated costs. Instead of funding based on a student count each year calculated in the fall, the new model will adopt a weighted, moving three-year average when calculating enrolment for funding. Using a weighted moving average means school boards will no longer have to wait until they have a confirmed number of students — typically at the end of September when the school year is already underway — to determine how much funding they will have for the year. This should minimize school authorities having to adjust their revenue forecasts and/or staffing levels throughout the school year.
- **Providing funding predictability** for school authorities by confirming their funding commitments from the province by the end of March each year, instead of the end of September when the school year has already begun. This will minimize the need for mid-year adjustments to budgets and staffing, create better alignment between the school year and the government’s fiscal year, and provide boards with more predictability in their planning and budgeting processes. A move to a block-funding model for small rural schools will also ensure the long-term viability of these schools where per-student funding does not provide adequate resources to properly deliver programs and services.

- **Enhancing system accountability** for school jurisdictions. The new model will include new accountability measures keeping school boards accountable for student outcomes, community engagement and continuous improvement.

“Our new funding model gives schools more of what they want – flexibility, stability and predictability. Flexibility to invest provincial dollars in areas that make the most sense for their communities. Stability in the number of grants and what the province expects for reporting. And predictability in their funding envelope to allow for better planning well ahead of each school year.”

Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education

The funding model for K-12 education has not changed in more than 15 years. The province met with each public, separate and Francophone school division, along with other system partners, in the fall of 2019 to discuss improvements to the way funding flows to school divisions. Overall, divisions wanted more predictability in their funding so they could better plan for each school year, more flexibility in how they spend provincial dollars based on their own needs in their communities, and reductions in provincial red tape.

Specific details for each grant and each school division’s funding will be available in Budget 2020, and will take effect for the 2020-21 school year.

“The College of Alberta School Superintendents recognizes the significant efforts Minister LaGrange has taken to engage with individual school authorities, the CASS Board and other education partners in the development of this new funding framework. The Minister’s willingness to listen and incorporate this feedback is clear as the new funding framework reflects a return to increased autonomy for local board decision making coupled with a reduction in the red tape school authorities have been challenged with in recent years. Finally, while we certainly recognize the fiscal challenges our province is currently experiencing, we are gratified to hear the Minister’s commitment in this budget to an increase in overall projected budget for every Alberta school authority over the previous year’s funding.”

Bevan Daverne, president, College of Alberta School Superintendents

“We appreciate that the government considered input from the education system as they developed the new funding model. This new model will reduce some of the red tape associated with accessing certain grants. It will also give school boards the ability

to better predict the amount of funding they will receive in future years within the new, simplified model.”

Rod Steeves, president, Association of School Business Officials of Alberta

“Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) is pleased that government consulted with us on the new assurance and funding framework. We appreciate that government has released the funding framework, as ASBA requested, in advance of the budget. This allows boards time to review and understand the implications within the context of their local realities. ASBA will work closely with school boards and government to support implementation upon release of the budget.”

Lorrie Jess, president, Alberta School Boards Association

“We appreciate that Minister LaGrange has listened to our concerns and demonstrated her confidence and trust in the local autonomy of school boards to make decisions that are in the best interests of their students. While this is a complex matter that will take time for us to determine the impact on the classroom, we are optimistic that these changes will bring opportunity for our district. The reduction of red tape afforded by the new model will help reduce the complexity and workload involved in providing extensive and repetitious data, which in turn, will allow our teachers to focus on what is most important — our students.”

Mary Martin, board chair, Calgary Catholic School District

“Allowing important education funding decisions at a local level is a great step forward for parents’ choice in education and the ability of local school divisions — working with parents — to ensure key priorities are met. This new funding model will provide flexibility on how school divisions provide a precise and quality education to meet the needs of the students and the communities they serve.”

Clark McAskile, board chair, Fort Vermilion School Division

“We are pleased to see that Minister LaGrange has been responsive to our concerns for less red tape as well as targeted supports for small rural schools. We are also pleased to see her continued support for local board autonomy and the flexibility for our board to manage those decisions that most impact our students. We look forward to the release of the full budget details and are hopeful, even in difficult economic times, this new framework will continue to support our board as we provide high quality public education to our students.”

Laurie Huntley, board chair, Golden Hills School Division

“We are pleased to see the government trust locally elected boards to make the right decisions for their students by providing us flexibility within our funding envelopes. The increased flexibility afforded by this new funding model will help us better allocate resources to address the unique needs of our students, while also cutting down on the significant red tape that was tied to the previous funding structure. We are looking forward to working with the government as this model rolls out for the 2020-21 school year.”

John Lehnert, board chair, Grande Prairie Public School Division

Related information

- [New K-12 funding model](#)

Multimedia

- [Watch the news conference](#)

Horizon passes fee policy

By Cole Parkinson

Taber Times

cparkinson@tabertimes.com

Horizon School Division has approved a policy and renewed a locally developed course as part of their early 2020 work.

Policy HIAE — Fees, which had first reading passed during the Horizon board of trustee's meeting in November, was back for second and third reading. The policy states "the board of trustees of the Horizon School Division believes that parents and independent students have shared responsibility for costs in respect to any matter provided for under the education act and regulations. The board authorizes schools to levy school fees and costs as per this policy."

It was explained only minor changes had been made overall.

"The board has, through motion, talked about a review of transportation. Part of that would be school fees as it relates to transportation. This policy was updated and the first reading was passed (in November). It has two small changes. One of those changes is board policy allows the board to charge for transportation fees if the board chooses. School fees are set to a schedule and there is an ability for schools to charge for transportation if the board gives that directive. The second one is it removes the reference that all school fee schedules need to be approved by the minister. Legislation has changed and it is allowed to be approved by the board. There has been no comments or feed-

explained Wilco Tymensen, superintendent of schools at the board's January meeting.

As far as the locally developed course goes, it was explained to the board that it is was one used at Taber Christian School. Bible Studies for Kindergarten through Grade 9 is a course revolving around 'Biblical Studies for Kindergarten through Grade 9 (including) the study of the Holy Bible and the application of its messages to life today. It is a complementary course designed to expose students to concepts not a part of Alberta Education's course offerings.'

"This is a course that whenever we have a locally developed course for high school, Grade 10 and up, it goes through Alberta Education," said Amber Darroch, associate superintendent of learner services. "There is a lengthy process. Here, you have the authority to designate a locally developed course for Grade 9 and under. So this Bible Studies course is a renewal of the exact same program Taber Christian School has offered previously. The course is good for three years so you approved it in December 2016 and it's ready for renewal. They do wish to change it in the future but at this time they are leaving it the same as it is."

The board questioned if any other schools are using the course.

"It is original to Horizon and only used here. A couple of schools have looked at it but it is predominantly designed for Taber Christian School," answered Darroch.

The board unanimously approved to