



Board Highlights

December 8, 2021

Board of Trustees

(From left to right)

Nicole Buchanan, Chair
Jim Watters, Trustee
Dianne Macaulay, Trustee
Bev Manning, Trustee
Cathy Peacocke, Vice Chair
Angela Sommers, Trustee
Matt Gould, Trustee

Board meetings take place the second Wednesday of every month at Central Services (4747 53 St. Red Deer) starting at 1:00 p.m.

The public is welcome to attend.

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For more information, contact Bruce Buruma, Director of Community Relations at 403-352-2827

Student Attendance Protocol

Cooperative efforts between parents, students, staff, and the community will help to ensure that students attend school regularly and punctually. There is a high correlation between regular attendance and punctuality with student success and achievement. Based on current research, the new Division attendance protocol addresses absenteeism for students who miss 10% or more of the school year, for any reason.

Using this data, the Division has created an attendance model to identify, track, and remediate chronic absenteeism by applying strategies to support and re-engage students who are absent more than 10% of the time. The focus on chronic absenteeism continues with all students who meet the criteria of absences greater than 10%, that are either excused or unexcused.

Five strategies to address attendance concerns include:

- Tracking progress so students have the supports they need
- Engaging students and helping them to feel connected and included in their school community
- Ensuring successful transitions for all students from grade to grade, school to school, and beyond
- Working with community partners on programs and supports
- Maintaining and creating positive connections between school staff, students, families, and the community.

Tribute to Dr. Darren E. Lund

The Board of Trustees recognized Dr. Darren Lund, who passed away in Calgary last month. Darren was a well-respected English teacher at Lindsay Thurber High School from 1986-2002. During the 1999/2000 school year, Darren started the province's first Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA). Darren was passionate about and invested time into students who didn't feel like they belonged or had a place to be.



Financial Services Report

The Board of Trustees received the financial statement for the first quarter of the year ending November 30, 2021. Red Deer Public's budget totals \$125 million. Revenues and expenditures are currently in line with budget projections from the spring 2021/2022 budget that was approved by the Board. However, one challenge continues to be the province's Weighted Moving Average funding model, which will result in a reduction in funding due to enrolment being lower than what was projected. Other budget-related items include the provincial government committing to \$45 million in new funding for school divisions to jump-start targeted programming in 2021/2022 school year for students in Grades 1-3 who are struggling as a result of COVID-19-related learning disruptions. As well, the Alberta School Council Engagement grant will provide each school council with \$500 to improve communication and engagement with local parents. **REPORT**



More news to share...

Learning Services Report

The Learning Services Department supports teaching and learning across the curriculum with a focus on student achievement and the provision of equitable learning opportunities. While there are a number of initiatives currently occurring, the following items may be of particular interest to the Board of Trustees. Prior to September 2021, the Board set aside \$1 million to assist in COVID-19 recovery.

- For numeracy these funds were used to:
 - Purchase Zorbits for all K-6 classrooms.
 - Provide a monthly sub day to one math lead from elementary and middle school.
 - Support Financial Literacy in our classrooms.
- For literacy, the primary focus is implementing strategies to lessen the gap in literacy skills created by the pandemic. As a result, a Literacy Recovery Team was created to support students in Grades 1-7. These six literacy recovery teachers are from within our Division and have been providing intervention for students using the Levelled Literacy Intervention Systems in all of our elementary and middle schools.
- As well, to prepare for the expected release of the final curriculum in April, Learning Services is identifying areas of priority for implementation.

The Board also heard reports regarding International Languages and English as a Second Language and Early Learning. [REPORT](#)

Long Service Awards

Red Deer Public Schools, the Board of Trustees and Senior Administration are celebrating 165 employees for their years of service to our students, families and community. Number of years of service being recognized range from 10-55 years.

Trustee Liaisons, Superintendent Chad Erickson and Senior Administration are visiting the classrooms and offices of each employee celebrating a milestone in terms of years of service and presenting them with a gift.

