

# Horizon Highlights

**Next Board Meeting:**  
Friday, February 18, 2011  
1:00 pm  
Division Office Board Room  
The public is always welcome.

**Next Administrator's Meeting**  
Tuesday, March 8, 2011  
10:00 am  
Horizon Learning Centre  
Chair: Darryl Moser  
Trustee: Terry Michaelis

## **Class Size Initiative**

The provincial survey for class size was completed by all schools. The report will go into the Division Education Plan that will be submitted at the end of November. Final class size averages were well within provincial recommendations at 17.1 for K-3; 20.1 for grades 4-6; 19.5 for grades 7-9; and 18.1 for high school.



Audrey Krizsan  
Board Chair  
Ward 3



Audrey Krizsan  
Board Chair  
Ward 3



Marie Logan  
Trustee  
Ward 1



Jennifer Crowson  
Trustee  
Ward 2



Bruce Francis  
Trustee  
Ward 3



Sharon Holtman  
Trustee  
Ward 3



Terry Michaelis  
Trustee  
Ward 5

## **Happenings from the November 29, 2010 Board Meeting**

### **Council of School Councils sub-Committee**

Representatives of the Division Council of School Councils met to draft "Issues for Change" to submit for the Alberta School Council Association AGM. The draft Issues for Change will be distributed to all Horizon School Councils for feedback prior to submission to the provincial School Council Association. Parents representing all of the Horizon School Councils will attend the provincial ASCA AGM in the spring to present Horizon parents' Issues for Change.

### **Budget**

John Rakai, Associate Superintendent of Finance and Operations presented the 2010-2011 Horizon School Division budget with the projection of a \$152,143.00 shortfall in the 2010-11 provincial funding. The Board agreed to cover this shortfall with Board reserves. Phil Johansen, Finance Director, reviewed the 2009-10 Audited Financial Statements as prepared by YPM. The statement of revenue and expenses for the year report a Deficiency of Revenues over Expenses of \$232,855.00. In comparison to the projected 2009-10 budget deficit of \$1,370,399 a much improved position however, this is as a result of unspent funds from grants and carry-over of funds in AISI and decentralized school budgets being deferred or carried-over into the 2010-11 operating year.

## **Happenings from the January 18, 2011 Board Meeting**

### **South Grow Awards**

Warner Hockey School, Horizon School Division and the Village of Warner were the proud recipients of the Award for Excellence in Collaboration or Partnership at the South Grow Recognition Dinner held January 12. The high performance women's hockey program has been successful both for the athletes from across the world as well as for high school viability. Realization of the idea was the result of many hours of volunteerism on the part of the community and staff, hard work and commitment of all the partners.

### **Village of Coutts Assumes Ownership of Coutts School Facility**

On January 14, the Village of Coutts took possession of the Coutts School facility. Following Ministerial approval and a \$1.00 sale and transfer of property agreement, the community will be able to move forward with their plans to provide community recreation and services and work with businesses for space opportunities.

### **Revisiting the 2010-2011 Calendar**

Cheryl Gilmore referred to the memo that was sent out by Wilco earlier to put calendars on hold due to the tripartite discussions that were taking place. Since then, the discussions have ceased and schools can now move forward with the 2011/2012 school year calendar. However, it is apparent that there seems to be more time in the next school year due to a leap year. It was suggested that the calendar be re-visited prior to going to the Board for approval. The 3-4-5 day start-up was something that was voiced very strongly by a number of schools. Discussions regarding both the pros and cons of a 3-4-5 start-up were held with the consensus being to stay with the 3-4-5 day startup. The first day of school for students as Wednesday, August 31, 2011. August 29th and August 30th will be teacher prep days. The calendar will now go to the February 18th Board Meeting for Board approval.

### **VC French**

Hays School is looking to offer French via video conferencing next school year for grades 4-7. The school is looking for a teacher that would like the opportunity to get involved with this style of teaching. This could also extend into the junior high level. If any administrators know of a teacher who may be interested, please contact Gill at Hays.

### **Education Week**

Cheryl reminded administrators that Education Week this year will take place from May 2nd – May 6th. The theme for Education week this year is Education: The Heart of our Communities – Engaged, Ethical, Entrepreneurial. Education week provides all Albertans with the opportunity to highlight the important role that education plays in shaping the future of our province. Please refer to <http://education.alberta.ca/department/events/educationweek.aspx> for additional information on education week.

### **Grade Nine Immunization Program**

Alberta Health and Wellness will be offering a meningococcal conjugate immunization program for Grade 9 students beginning February 1, 2011. This vaccine will prevent four types (groups A, C, W-135 and Y) of meningococcal disease. This immunization will be offered to all Grade 9 students at the same time as the diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis (dTdap) or the human papilloma virus vaccines currently provided. Please refer to the attached document for additional information regarding this new immunization program.

### **Advancing Adolescent Reading Survey**

Cheryl referred to an email received from Ron Taylor regarding the Advancing Adolescent Reading Initiative. This is a four-year research and capacity building initiative funded by Alberta Education to support Alberta teachers and the goals of the Ministry's High School Completion Strategic Framework.

### **APEX Youth Awards**

The annual APEX Youth Awards will take place on Thursday, April 14th at the Taber Civic Centre. Administrators were reminded and encouraged to nominate youth from their schools/communities that may be actively involved in a worthwhile community service, have performed acts of heroism, or are contributing to their communities and schools while living with a physical or psychological limitation. For additional information please contact Colleen Campbell at the Taber Times (403-223-2266). Online nomination forms are available at [www.tabertimes.com](http://www.tabertimes.com). The deadline for nominations is February 28, 2011. Once you have completed the nomination form you can either email it to Colleen Campbell ([ccampbell@tabertimes.com](mailto:ccampbell@tabertimes.com)) or send it along with any additional support material to:

The APEX Youth Awards  
c/o The Taber Times  
4822 – 53 Street  
Taber, AB T1G 1W4

### **Accountability Pillar Surveys**

Cheryl reviewed with Administrators the percentage of students and staff that have participated to date in the Accountability Pillar Surveys. Cheryl will follow up with an email to clarify with schools as to the exact numbers of participants.

### **Government Survey**

Bob Peters shared with Administrators a survey that has been put out by Alberta Education regarding charter schools and the importance of their role in supporting research and innovation in education in Alberta. Alberta Education has put out this survey with the intent of finding out what members of the public think about a number of ideas that have been proposed for the future role and purpose of charter schools in this province. The deadline to complete this survey is February 18th and the link to complete this survey is as follows: <http://education.alberta.ca/department/ipr/chargerschools.aspx>