

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

**Regular Board Meeting Agenda  
Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – 1:00 p.m.**

**A – Action Items**

<p>A.1 Agenda A.2 Minutes of Regular Board Meeting held Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 A.3 March 2019 Payment of Accounts Summary A.4 Solar Panels at D.A. Ferguson and W.R. Myers High School</p>	<p><b>ENCLOSURE 1 ENCLOSURE 2</b></p>
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**D – Discussion Items**

D.1 Rebranding - Logo	
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**I - Information Items**

<p>I.1 Superintendent's Report – Wilco Tymensen I.2 Trustee/Committee Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I.2.1 Zone 6 ASBA Report – Marie Logan</li> <li>• I.2.1 Facilities Meeting Report – Bruce Francis</li> </ul> I.3 Associate Superintendent of Finance and Operations Report – Phil Johansen I.4 Associate Superintendent of Learner Services Report – Amber Darroch I.5 Associate Superintendent of Programs and Human Services Report – Anita Richardson I.6 Barnwell National Coding Champion <a href="https://calgary.ctvnews.ca/mobile/ctv-lethbridge/video?clipId=1624613">https://calgary.ctvnews.ca/mobile/ctv-lethbridge/video?clipId=1624613</a></p>	
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**C-Correspondence**

<p>C.1 News Release: Deficit down, path to balance on track C.2 News Release: Alberta bans seclusion rooms C.3 Extended Expiry Dates for School Fees, Costs Regulation and School Transportation Regulation C.4 2019/20 School Board Budget Submission Extension C.5 Taber Times: Horizon examines work done in bomb scare C.6 Taber Times – Central fund examined C.7 Taber Times – Threat-assessment policy passed</p>	<p><b>ENCLOSURE 3</b></p>
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**Dates to Remember**

• March 29-30 – Google Summit
• April 4 - Mediation
• April 9 – Administrator's Meeting – Marie Logan attending
• April 18 – Board Meeting
• April 19 – Good Friday
• April 22 – Easter Monday
• April 26 – 28 – Alberta School Councils AGM - Edmonton
• April 30 – COSC Meeting
• April 30 – Science Olympics - Warner
• May 6 – Board School Tours – Fairlane, Prairiehome, Delco, Oaklane, Hillridge

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|--|
| • May 9 – Resiliency Celebration                 |
| • May 15 – ASBA Zone 6 Meeting (Horizon hosting) |
| • May 15 – Edwin Parr Awards Banquet             |
| • May 23 – Spark Fair                            |

# Horizon School Division No. 67

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The Board of Trustees of Horizon School Division No. 67 held its Regular Board meeting on Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the Eric Johnson Room.

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

Presentation – Benita Peters – Low German Mennonite Consultant

Presentation - 2018-2019 Interim Financial Report for the period ending January 31, 2019 – Jason Miller, Director of Finance

## ACTION ITEMS

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|-----|--|---|
| A.1 | Moved by Rick Anderson that the Board approve the agenda with the following addition:<br><br>Carried Unanimously   | AGENDA<br>APPROVED<br>168/19                        |
| A.2 | Moved by Blair Lowry that the Board approve the <a href="#">Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, held Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019</a> as provided by Enclosure 1 of the agenda.<br><br>Carried Unanimously | BOARD MEETING<br>MINUTES APPROVED<br>169/19         |
| A.3 | Moved by Jennifer Crowson that the Board approve the <a href="#">February 2019 Payment of Accounts</a> in the amount of \$2,426,682.48 was provided in Enclosure 3 of the Agenda.<br><br>Carried Unanimously             | PAYMENT OF ACCOUNT<br>APPROVED<br>170/19            |
| A.4 | Move by Bruce Francis that the Board approve the second reading of Policy IFCI – Threat Assessment as provided by Enclosure #3 of the agenda.<br><br>Carried Unanimously   | SECOND READING OF<br>POLICY IFCI APPROVED<br>171/19 |
|     | Move by Derek Baron that the Board approve the third and final reading of <a href="#">Policy IFCI – Threat Assessment</a> as provided by Enclosure #3 of the agenda.<br><br>Carried Unanimously                          | FINAL READING OF<br>POLICY IFCI APPROVED<br>172/19  |
| A.5 | Moved by Christa Runka that the Board delete <a href="#">Policy IFCJ – Weapons in Schools</a> as provided by Enclosure #4 of the agenda.<br><br>Carried Unanimously  | DELETE POLICY IFCJ<br>APPROVED<br>173/19            |
| A.6 | Moved by Rick Anderson that the Board delete <a href="#">Policy IFCL – School Violence</a> as provided by Enclosure #5 of the agenda.<br><br>Carried Unanimously   | DELETE POLICY IFCL<br>APPROVED<br>174/19            |

A.7 Moved by Bruce Francis that the Board transfer \$2,235,000.00 from Board Reserves to Capital Reserves.

APPROVE TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO CAPITAL RESERVES

Carried Unanimously

175/19

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### D.1 Education Week

- The Board discussed Education Week which will be held the week of April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### INFORMATION ITEMS

#### I.1 Superintendent's Report

Wilco Tymensen, Superintendent, shared the following February 2019 updated 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 budgeting, staffing, transportation, off-campus excursions, student conduct and discipline, and guidance with regard to student and parental concerns.
- School visits since the last Board meeting included: ACE Place, Central School, D.A. Ferguson Middle School, Dr. Hamman Elementary School, Hays School, Horizon Mennonite Alternative Program, L.T. Westlake Fine Arts School, Vauxhall Elementary School, W.R. Myers High School
- The Superintendent attended an Alberta Education, Alberta Teachers Association, College of Alberta School Superintendent, Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard Advisory certification trainer in-service.
- Horizon senior leadership are organizing the College of Alberta School Superintendent and Alberta School Business Officials of Alberta summer conference in Waterton. Meetings are ongoing.
  - Administrator Leadership Symposium planning is ongoing
  - Conversations with schools about allergy aware practices have occurred
  - W.R. Myers and ACE Place student attendance collaborative response meeting was attended.
  - The superintendent dealt with the Friday February 8<sup>th</sup> Bomb threats made against L.T. Westlake School, D.A. Ferguson Middle School, W.R. Myers High School, and Central Elementary School

##### **Personnel Management**

- School staff were surveyed with regard to principal performance as part of principal evaluations
- The principals of Vauxhall Elementary School and D.A. Ferguson Middle School, as well as the vice principal of D.A. Ferguson Middle school have communicated their intention to retire at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. The recruitment process has begun and meetings with school staff and school councils have occurred to collect input in order to develop a profile of the ideal candidate.

##### **Policy and Strategic Planning and Reporting**

- Meetings are ongoing about ways to meet the needs of Taber Mennonite Students given the space constraints within their current context.
- The superintendent attended an Alberta Health Services in-service on Cannabis and the implications of school jurisdictions and student safety.

##### **Fiscal Responsibility, Organizational Leadership and Management**

- The associate Superintendent of Finance and Operations and the Superintendent attended an Alberta Education meeting regarding funding claw backs related to improper waiving of prerequisites and the 45 CEU cap.

##### **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
- CASSIX meeting
- APEX planning meetings were attended. A huge thank you goes out to the committee for all their hard work. This year twelve Horizon students were nominated.
- Hutterite Elders meeting
- Council of School Council meeting
- Hays tiny house fundraiser was attended

## **I.2 Trustee/Committee Reports**

### **I.2.1 Zone 6 ASBA Report**

Marie Logan shared the following update with the Board:

- No Report due to no meeting held in February

### **I.2.2 Facilities Report**

Bruce Francis, Facilities Committee Chair, provided a report to the Board on the work undertaken for the month of February 2019:

Capital Projects:

- W.R. Myers/D.A. Ferguson
  - Progress is continuing on a steady basis
  - Projected completion date will be the end of 2019
- 2018-2019 IMR Projects on in progress with completion for all projects expected to be by the end of summer 2019

### **I.2.3 Administrator's Meeting Report**

Bruce Francis provided the following February 2019 Administrator's Meeting update to the Board. Topics discussed included:

- Policy GDN – Support Staff Evaluation
- Professional Growth Planning
- Cycling Courses and PAT Administration
- First Aiders in Schools
- Substitute Teacher Shortage
- Internet Access & Firewall Protections for iPads
- Taber Incident
- Bussing Options for Schools

## **I.3 Associate Superintendent of Finance and Operations Report**

Phil Johansen provided a February 2019 update to the Board:

- Update on finance sharing with parent councils
- Colony Meeting – Financial Statement
- Met with Administrators requesting 'funding pool' items
- Grant Writing Program
- Preliminary budget work for 2019-2020

## **I.4 Associate Superintendent of Learner Services Report**

Amber Darroch, Associate Superintendent of Learner Services, shared the following February 2019 update with the Board:

- Terri-Lynn Duncan, Director of Learning has been hosting a series of Friday afternoon sessions with teachers wanting to improve their math classes. There has been a great response from almost 20 teachers. Teachers have been sharing the lessons that they have tried with students and are excited to see how engaged students are during the math stretches or whole group instruction. Guided Math is a structure for teaching whereby a teacher supports each child's development of mathematical proficiency at increasing levels of difficulty, within the context of a small

group. Terri will now be extending these Friday afternoon sessions, called "Curriculum Coffeehouse", to teachers who would like to plan and create materials on concept based learning and the new curriculum.

- Robbie Charlebois, Director of Inclusive Learning, as part of her Professional Growth Plan, has been working in the community to involve parents in inclusive education. She has been involved with the formation of the Taber Parent Inclusion Committee (TPIC). The parent-driven group is just getting underway and will be supported by Horizon School Division as a partner. The group describes its mandate as: *"We work together with our local families, school division, community supports, and businesses to embrace an inclusive community for children with disabilities through awareness and education."*
- Horizon's Low German Mennonite Consultant, Benita Peters, continues to work actively with all schools and will be transitioned from three to five days per week by Easter break in order for her to meet the demand of support in schools for staff, students, and community partners.

### I.5 Associate Superintendent of Programs and Human Services Report

Anita Richardson, Associate Superintendent of Programs and Human Services shared the following February 2019 report with the Board:

#### **Building Effective Relationships**

- Participating in local bargaining process ongoing.
- Career Transitions – Chair of the board.
- Meeting with any staff interested in a change in role/position as indicated in the teacher intention form

#### **Modeling Commitment to Professional Learning**

- Attended 2-day Julie Stern Workshop on Concept Based Curriculum with a Horizon teacher
- Attending 2-day workshop to prepare for the National Knowledge Exam to receive CPHR designation.
- Participating in Cognitive Coaching 10-day course over this school year. Hosted by Holy Spirit Roman Catholic School Division
- Attend CASS Professional Learning Events
- Enrolled in Weaving Ways: Indigenous Ways of Knowing in Classrooms and Schools 5 part (8hr) Webinar series.
- Enrolled in 5 part ATA Webinar series, 'Teacher Talks' to develop First Nations, Metis and Inuit Foundational Knowledge with several Horizon teachers
- Completed the LQS training and LQS Instructor training in Edmonton, Feb. 7-9

#### **Visionary Leadership**

- Supporting school based planning for a Horizon Experiential Week in conjunction with LCC, Mount Royal University, University of Calgary, Livingstone Range, and Palliser School Division in May 2019.
- Attended Skills Exploration Day in Calgary to determine the quality of the opportunity for our students

#### **Leading Learning**

- Ongoing support for Principals with staffing concerns.
- Looking to facilitate a joint admin session with the Kainai Board of Education as well as a learning day at Kainai with our Indigenous Champions.
- Began instructing LQS training in Calgary Feb 21/22

#### **Supporting First Nations, Metis and Inuit Education for All Students**

- Indigenous Champions –
  - January session focused on Understanding the Social Implications of Indigenous Realities and selecting resources that accurately reflect and demonstrate the strength and diversity of First Nations, Metis and Inuit.
- Blanket Exercise
  - Scheduled Blanket Exercises:

- MD of Taber Office staff and Council - February 14, 2019 → looking to have all MD staff trained in the future
  - ERHS, March 8
  - Colony Teachers, May 30
- Completed in 11 schools
- Partnership with University of Lethbridge -> First Nations, Metis, Inuit Mentorship Program for high school and middle school students partnered with university students. Began last week.
- Eagle Spirit Nest Community Association (ESNCA).
  - Board of directors comprised of representatives from: The Blood Reserve, Town of Taber, MD of Taber, Horizon, Holy Spirit, Taber Special Needs, Taber Times, Taber Chamber of Commerce, and a Cree elder
  - Awaiting confirmation of our status as a registered society

### **Sustaining Effective Instructional Leadership**

- Hosting Horizon Induction Program Sessions this year
- Evaluation Process for Probationary Teachers – 19 this year under evaluation; I am completing 14

### **School Authority Operations and Resources**

- Meeting with all school principals to discuss initial enrollment projections and staffing requests – only 1 school left
- Draft 2020-2021 calendar developed. Will be shared online for feedback via a survey
- Powerschool's automated dispatch fully functional and undergoing tweaks
- Developing jurisdiction approach to Indigenous resource purchases and dispersion through heading a working committee.

### **I.6 Board Response to ASBA Questions**

- No discussion held

### **Correspondence**

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

### **COMMITTEE ITEMS**

Moved by Christa Runka that the Board meet in Committee.	Carried Unanimously	COMMITTEE 176/19
Moved by Bruce Francis that the meeting reconvene.	Carried Unanimously	RECONVENE 177/19
Moved by Rick Anderson that the meeting adjourn.	Carried Unanimously	MEETING ADJOURNED 178/19

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Marie Logan, Chair

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Sheila Laqua, Executive Secretary

**PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS REPORT**

**Board Meeting March 27, 2019**

<b>General</b>	<b>February 25/19</b>		<b>417350.94</b>
<b>General</b>	<b>February 27/19</b>		<b>1284244.81</b>
<b>General</b>	<b>March 7/19</b>		<b>84303.90</b>
<b>General</b>	<b>March 13/19</b>		<b>411218.03</b>
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>March 19/19</b>		<b>26207.03</b>
<b>General</b>	<b>March 19/19</b>		<b>277365.41</b>
<b>"A" Payroll</b>	<b>February 2019</b>	<b>Teachers</b>	<b>1,673,159.01</b>
	<b>February 2019</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>538,762.82</b>
<b>"B" Payroll</b>	<b>February 2019</b>	<b>Casual</b>	<b>5,959.03</b>
	<b>February 2019</b>	<b>Subs</b>	<b>43,405.44</b>
<b>Total Accounts</b>			<b>2,261,286.30</b>
<b>Board Chair</b>	_____		
<b>PJ:dd</b>			
<b>March 20, 2019</b>			



<b>Horizon School Division March 2019 U.S. Accounts</b>
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	<b>U.S. Funds</b>	<b>Canadian Fun</b>
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	<b>U.S. Funds</b>	<b>Canadian Fun</b>
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<b>PowerSchool</b>	<b>19301.10</b>	<b>26207.03</b>
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<b>PowerSchool</b>	<b>19301.10</b>	<b>26207.03</b>
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<b>PowerSchool</b>	<b>19301.10</b>	<b>26207.03</b>
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<b>Total U.S. Accounts</b>	<b>19301.10</b>	<b>26207.03</b>
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<b>Total U.S. Accounts</b>	<b>19301.10</b>	<b>26207.03</b>
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JM:dd

March 19/2019

## Deficit down, path to balance on track

February 27, 2019 [Media inquiries](#)

Alberta's deficit will drop below budget forecasts for the second year in a row as the province stays on track to balance in 2023-24 with the country's strongest balance sheet.

The deficit remains well below projections with the third quarter forecast coming in at \$6.9 billion, a drop of \$1.9 billion below the Budget 2018 forecast.

Alberta's economy continued to recover in 2018, but faced challenges near the end of year. The government took decisive action to address the pipeline bottleneck, improving the value of Alberta's resources. While the ongoing impacts will continue to be felt in 2019, economic growth is expected to bounce back to 2.9 per cent in 2020 and remain solid over the medium term.

"The deficit is down and the path to balance is on track. Alberta has the strongest balance sheet in the country and that will not change. But there is more work to do. We will continue to fight for an economy that works for everyday families and protect the services they rely on. We will do that while carefully and prudently bringing the budget back to balance."

*Joe Ceci, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance*

Alberta employment grew by 1.9 per cent in 2018, adding almost 44,000 jobs, with unemployment dropping to 6.6 per cent.

### Updating Alberta's path to balance

Despite ongoing market access challenges, the government has made progress on balancing the budget by the 2023-24 fiscal year. The deficit has come down nearly \$4 billion since 2016-17.

Alberta's balance sheet was the strongest in the country before the recession and is expected to remain the strongest when the government reaches balance.

Looking to the medium term, government will take a number of actions to ensure growth continues and Alberta remains on a path to balance. This will focus on three key pillars:

- Enhancing market access and diversifying the economy
- Protecting core public services while containing costs
- Maintaining Alberta's tax advantage with no payroll tax, no sales tax and no health care premiums.

### Related information

- [2018-19 Third Quarter Fiscal Update and Economic Statement \(includes Path to Balance\)](#) (PDF)
- [Budget 2018](#)

[Economic Outlook](#)

# Alberta bans seclusion rooms

March 01, 2019 [Media inquiries](#)

## Education Minister David Eggen has issued a Ministerial Order to ban seclusion rooms in schools.

The order will come into effect for the upcoming 2019-20 school year. The ban will take effect on Sept. 1.

“As a parent and a former teacher, I’ve been disturbed by some of the incidents I’ve heard about involving seclusion rooms. Our government believes schools must be safe and caring places for all students to learn – especially the most vulnerable. I want to thank the members of the working group I appointed to advise me on this issue. They made it clear that new guidelines alone were not sufficient to limit the use of these rooms and their advocacy helped shape the decision to sign the order.”

*David Eggen, Minister of Education*

As a first step, local boards will be asked to submit a list of schools with a seclusion room. They will then require a declaration that these rooms be decommissioned by Aug. 30, 2019. Alberta Education will be performing on-site inspections and monitoring to ensure compliance.

The order permits school boards to apply to the minister for exemptions, but only if they can demonstrate support from parents.

### Background

- A seclusion room is a room, structure or enclosure in a school operated by a school authority. The primary purpose of a seclusion room is the involuntary confinement or isolation of a student where the student is prevented or incapable of evacuating without the assistance of another person because security measures are not under the student’s control.
- In October 2018, Minister Eggen appointed a working group of parents, teachers and experts to advise government on drafting new guidelines for the use of seclusion rooms in schools.
- The working group met for three days in late 2018 and again with a broad group of stakeholders before the holidays. Following these meetings, many advocates for people with disabilities and members of the working group reached out to Minister Eggen to express the view that guidelines alone were not sufficient.

### Related information

- [Seclusion room ban](#)



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **EDC Minister** <[Education.Minister@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Education.Minister@gov.ab.ca)>

Date: Tue, Mar 12, 2019 at 2:08 PM

Subject: Extended Expiry Dates for the School Fees and Costs Regulation and the School Transportation Regulation

I am writing to inform you that government has extended the expiry dates for the [School Fees and Costs Regulation](#) and the [School Transportation Regulation](#) to August 31, 2022 and September 1, 2022, respectively.

These regulations, enacted through *An Act to Reduce School Fees*, have reduced the burden on Alberta families. Government, school boards and Alberta families have worked diligently in partnership to implement them.

These regulations have served Albertans well, and I am pleased to extend them to provide continued stability for Alberta families.

Sincerely,

David Eggen  
Minister of Education

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **EDC Minister** <[Education.Minister@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Education.Minister@gov.ab.ca)>

Date: Thu, Mar 14, 2019 at 12:31 PM

Subject: 2019/20 School Board Budget Submission Extension

I recently signed a ministerial order authorizing an extension to the deadline for school boards to submit their 2019/20 school year budgets to Education. The new deadline is **June 30, 2019**. This extension applies to the 2019/20 budget submissions only.

I recognize that due to the upcoming spring election, all school authorities may require additional time to accurately prepare 2019/20 budget submissions.

The June 30, 2019 deadline is also applicable to the updated school fee policy and fee schedule, as required for my review and approval by the *School Fees and Costs Regulation*.

If you have any questions regarding the extension of the deadline to submit school authority budgets, school fee policies and fee schedules, please feel free to contact my office.

Thank you for your contributions to the education of Alberta's students. The ministry values your support and input as we work together to help students meet their learning needs and to prepare them for a bright future.

Sincerely,

David Eggen

Minister of Education

# NEWS

## Horizon examines work done in bomb scare

By Cole Parkinson  
Vauxhall Advance

cparkinson@tabertimes.com

With Horizon School Division one of the main focuses in last month's bomb threats made in the town of Taber, the board and administration are thankful for the emergency service's quick response.

During the HSD board's regular meeting on Feb. 27, they highlighted the work done during the bomb threats in early February.

"Most people were aware that we did have that incident within a couple of our schools in regard to an individual in the U.S. making a bomb threat. Of course, we can't appreciate the police enough in terms of their speediness," said Wilco Tymensen, superintendent of schools for Horizon.

Following the bomb threats made over the span of three days, a 36-year-old male was arrested in Elkville,

Illinois and was charged with 11 counts of felony disorderly conduct.

Schools affected were Central School, W.R. Myers High School, D.A. Ferguson Middle School and L.T. Westlake Fine Arts Elementary School.

"Obviously, the number one priority for our schools at that period was the safety of students and we had a large number of families and parents communicating how happy they were that their children were the top priority and kids were kept safe," continued Tymensen.

Heading into the weekend no arrest had been made so Horizon administration was fully prepared for there to be further threats made.

"Lots of planning was going on behind the scenes over the weekend because we were fully expecting that if they didn't capture that person, more threats were probably coming Monday morning. We were certainly pleased

that late Saturday that the police had appre-

hended the individual," added Tymensen.

# Central fund examined

By Cole Parkinson  
Taber Times

cparkinson@tabertimes.com

Schools within Horizon Division are collaborating for how best to distribute money from their centralized funding pool.

At the board's regular meeting on Feb. 27 during the associate superintendent of finance and operations report, the trustees were given an update from the meetings revolving around the centralized fund.

"After the last admin meeting, we met with a group of administrators who had submitted requests for furniture and equipment items from the centralized funding pool. Some adjustments we made in the budgets were we created a \$100,000 pool for larger items that school's used to have to fund themselves but can't really afford it given the new budget allocations. We would always ask why they would be saving all this money and they would say 'we are saving it for lockers, or saving it for P.A. systems, or buses'. So we generated a centralized pool fund that could be used for those types of things," said Phil Johansen, associate superintendent of finance and operations.

"We hadn't really developed the processes of how that would be allocated out but what we thought we could do is have everybody make their submission. We had schools do a survey where they answered what they were wanting, how much it was going to cost, how they were getting by without it at this point, why it was needed and how much money they had in their decentralized carryovers. We brought that whole list to the whole group and everyone who submitted was to be here to make their case."

With a meeting planned to bring in the schools to figure out how to split the money up, administration wasn't entirely sure how things would shape up.

Hoping for the best in collaboration between all sides, administration was happy with how things were handled.

"I was a little nervous to see how that would go, if it would just be everyone petitioning for themselves or what the dynamic would be. I would say I was pleasantly surprised with just how collaborative and co-operative everyone worked together on discussing that. They did not allocate the full \$100,000, they didn't say 'it's there, so let's spend it'. We presented a notion that if there was some left over, we would want to carry it over to next year," continued Johansen.

While asks across the Horizon schools varied, some were in similar thinking for what they wanted to improve their facilities.

"Hays wanted some new lockers because the lockers they have are falling apart and they got them from the (Hays) community centre. I think it was Horizon MAP who wanted some lockers as well," said Johansen.

"We also talked about with TMS (Taber Mennonite School) transitioning into Myers, there would be lockers there."

Even with the money available, they

were happy schools were open to exploring all options available to them

"They were very good about evaluating the requests and the validity of them and looking for alternatives," added Johansen.

With just \$100,000 in the pool, schools would have limited funds available which would mean it would be hard to split things equally.

"How do you decide which school gets what?" asked vice-chair Bruce Francis.

"The way that we've funnelled it this year is that everybody who was involved was a part of that discussion. There were schools who said 'we're looking for this but I'll pitch in 75 per cent through my decentralized budget and will only ask for 25 per cent because I know I have savings'. We talked about how important these pieces are," answered Wilco Tymensen, Horizon superintendent of schools.

"It was a co-operative and collaborative dialogue and there were some schools that said 'I didn't put anything in because I didn't actually need anything and I know there are other schools in the jurisdiction that need more than I do'."

While some schools would hold off on spending, the board was aware eventually they would come back to the table and need some financial help for additions.

"There is going to come a time when that school that didn't need anything now, as soon as they need something, when they come to the table they expect they get higher priority," said Francis.

That being a possibility, administration wasn't that worried about it as they believe schools in the division realize which buildings need more help.

"I don't believe they will because, at that point, our principals are aware that not all the schools are equal at this point in terms of equality. Look at Barnwell as an example, it is a brand new school. They probably shouldn't be asking for anything for quite a few years. When they finally need something, there is still another school that could be in worse shape, as an example. I would say it was a very systemic approach, it wasn't about 'my school need this', it was about these are all Horizon kids so let's make a good decision for Horizon," explained Tymensen.

The finance and operations report also touched on a board instruction around school and parent council consultations.

While in the works, progress is still ongoing as schools have been seeking help from the division.

"The board gave a directive a couple of months ago for schools to share their individual generated funds, reserves and balances with their parent councils. That is not complete yet but it is progressing, there are schools that have done that and some have come in and asked for help to get their stuff cleaned up and prepared to actually present that in a meaningful way for the parent councils," said Johansen.



# Threat-assessment policy passed

**By Cole Parkinson**

**Taber Times**

[cparkinson@tabertimes.com](mailto:cparkinson@tabertimes.com)

The Horizon School Division board has passed final reading for a policy around suicide and threat assessment.

After passing first reading last October, Policy IFCI Suicide and Threat Assessment Protocols was brought back to the board for second and final reading during their regular meeting on February 27.

One of the bigger additions to the policy was adding wording around suicide assessment.

"As you know, the policy was updated to include suicide assessment as well within that policy and we are planning on incorporating the weapons in school violence piece, which is why the two deletions are there. The policy itself as provided has no changes from first reading. However, in dialogue with Amber (Darroch, associate superintendent of learner services) and Angela (Miller,

clinical team leader for the Family School Liaison Program), there are some changes in VTRA (Violence Threat Risk Assessment). The biggest changes are we have included the definition of VTRA," explained Wilco Tymensen, superintendent of schools.

The policy states "The board of trustees of Horizon School Division is committed to creating and maintaining an environment in schools where students, staff, parents, and visitors feel safe. To this end, the board shall establish a protocol for responding to weapons on school property, threats, and high-risk behaviours."

Another change within the policy revolves around some wording with the Young Criminal Justice Act.

"There is another change where it references the Young Offenders Act and it should actually be the Young Criminal Justice Act. The last piece that is changing is we are adding one more item under number six which basically says at least one follow up meeting should be held."