

Horizon School Division No. 67
Regular Board Meeting – Division Office
ERIC JOHNSON ROOM
Tuesday, October 21, 2014



Regular Board Meeting Agenda

A - Action Items

- A.1. Agenda
- A.2. Minutes of Regular Board Meeting held Tuesday, September 15, 2014 ENCLOSURE 1
- A.3. Payment of Accounts Report ENCLOSURE 2
- A.4. Lomond Community School Vice-Principal designation
- A.5. 2014-2015 Board Meeting Dates ENCLOSURE 3

D – Discussion Items

- D.1. Special Meeting Date for 2014-2015 Budget and 2014-2015/2016-2017 Education Plan

I- Information Items

- I.1 Superintendent's Progress Report – Wilco Tymensen ENCLOSURE 4
- I.2 Trustee/ Committee Reports:
- I.2.1 Zone 6 ASBA Report – Marie Logan
 - I.2.2 September Admin. Meeting Summary– Rick Anderson ENCLOSURE 5
 - I.2.3 Facilities Committee Report – Derek Baron ENCLOSURE 6
- I.5. Associate Superintendent of Finance and Operations Report – John Rakai
- I.7. Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Report – Erin Hurkett HANDOUT
- I.8. Correspondence:
- AB ED News Release re Alberta Students Excel in Science
 - AB Government re Phase 3 of New Schools/School Modernizations ENCLOSURE 7
 - From ERHS re Thank you to Board for School Library donation
 - AHS Article re nomination of George EPP
 - Horizon News Articles

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 Tuesday, September 16, 2014 beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the Eric Johnson Room

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

ALSO PRESENT: Wilco Tymensen, Superintendent of Schools
John Rakai, Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations
Erin Hurkett, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction
Barb McDonald, Recording Secretary
J.W. Schnarr, Taber Times

REGRETS: Terry Michaelis, Trustee
Clark Bosch, Associate Superintendent of Programs & Services/Human Resources

ACTION ITEMS

- A.1 Moved by Derek Baron that the Board approve the agenda as presented with the following addition:
- Under Action Items:**
- | | |
|---|--|
| A.4 Recommendation for revision to Policy FEF <i>Contract for Services</i>
Carried Unanimously | AGENDA
APPROVED
130/14 |
| A.2 Moved by Jennifer Crowson that the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held Tuesday, August 19, 2014 as provided in Enclosure 1 of the agenda.
Carried Unanimously | REGULAR BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
APPROVED
131/14 |
| A.3 Moved by Rick Anderson that the Board approve the August/September Payment of Accounts report in the amount of \$3,393,251.94 as provided in Enclosure 2 of the agenda.
Carried Unanimously | PAYMENT OF
ACCOUNTS REPORT
APPROVED
132/14 |
| A.4.1 Moved by Derek Baron that the Board approve the recommendation to revise Policy FEF <i>Contract for Services</i> to include a \$15,000 per year threshold after which contracting for long-term services must be tendered or re-tendered in accordance with the Policy..
Carried Unanimously | REVISION TO
POLICY FEF
APPROVED
133/14 |

INFORMATION ITEMS

I.1 Board School and Colony Tour Dates

The Horizon Board of Trustees as well as members of the Senior Administrative Leadership team will be touring and visiting schools and colonies throughout the 2014-2015 school year. The first two tours of the year will be taking place on October 28th at Delco and Kingsland Colonies, and on November 4th at Bluegrass, Sunnysite and Elmspring Colonies. The remaining school and colony tour dates will be scheduled at the October Board meeting.

I.2 Enrollment Update

Wilco Tymensen reported to the Board that enrollment numbers to date are up approximately 125 students from original projections for this school year, with 80 additional students in grades 1-12 and 45 additional students in Kindergarten. The Division is up approximately 70 students overall compared to last year's enrollment numbers.

I.3 Superintendent's Progress Report

Educational Leadership

- The Superintendent provided ongoing support and advise to principals on matters related to school operations including: new hires, leaves, parent council matters, teacher summative evaluations, conflict mediation, and other legal issues.
- The Superintendent toured Amber Darroch, the new Director of Learning around to a number of schools and was able to visit all schools excluding colonies. A schedule for board colony school tours is in the works.
- An orientation day was facilitated for seven new principals and Horizon's Director of Learning to acquaint them to our culture and practice.
- The Superintendent also had the opportunity to sit in on portions of the new teacher orientation, facilitated by the Associate Superintendent of Curriculum.

Fiscal Responsibility

- To ensure alignment of program breadth and fiscal responsibility, visits were made to neighboring jurisdictions to tour their mobile shop facilities.

Personnel Management

- Evaluation meetings were set up with the seven new principals undergoing evaluation

Policy

- In alignment with policy, new requests for transportation were processed by the Transportation coordinator; by the end of the first day of school 150 last minute transportation requests were processed. Decisions continue to be guided by precedent and past practice until decisions regarding upcoming changes are made. Expectations are that these decisions will be made this fall once Alberta Education regulations are released. Preliminary work on policy changes has already commenced.

Organizational Leadership and Management

- Barnwell and Warner Modernization meetings continue to be attended every two weeks
- As part of the school year start up Division Office staff met, fire drill processes were discussed and the fire alarm was sounded. Taber's Fire Chief Steve Munshaw was also in attendance to discuss the Division Office fire evacuation procedure.
- The first administrator meeting of the year was held on September 9th.

Communications and Community Relations

- The Superintendent had the opportunity to attend Hays School and share in a community engagement opportunity where Hays' seniors shared their childhood stories with the children of Hays School as part of a Social Studies project. A huge thank you to the seniors who attended. A great time was had by all.
- Meetings with outside agencies were attended. These include: University of Lethbridge (Leadership Cohort support), Alberta School Board Association (assessment workshop), Alberta Education (Zone Services).

Leadership Practices

- The Senior Administration Leadership Team including Directors met to discuss the jurisdiction's three year plan
- As part of the Jurisdiction's efforts to build leadership capacity, Horizon's leadership program had its first meeting.

- Lastly I am pleased to be able to communicate to the Board that I accepted the Deputy Minister's and Vauxhall High School's Vice Principal's ICE Bucket Challenge. A big thank you to Bert and Larry's for the copious amount of slush.

I.3.1 ASBA Zone 6 Report

Marie Logan, Zone 6 Representative reported on the Zone 6 meeting that took place on Wednesday, September 10th at the Lethbridge School District No. 51 Education Centre. Highlights of the meeting included the following:

- The annual FGM in Edmonton this November will focus on advocacy. Attendees will obtain a better understanding of the value of local autonomy. ASBA will be inviting the new Education Minister, along with several MLA's to attend.
- The ASBA reported that only 40 schools have Gay Straight Alliance(GSA) policies. It was noted that all school boards are encouraged to have such a policy in place.
- Colleen Deitz, Palliser Regional Division gave a presentation on a proposed model called "Strengthening the Voice". The purpose of this model is to give ASBA and school boards a stronger provincial voice in education.
- An informative presentation on Assessment was hosted by Dr. John Rymer.

I.3.2 Administrators' Meeting Report – Rick Anderson

The [September 9th Administrators' Meeting summary](#) was enclosed in the agenda and included some of the following highlights:

- Division Office Restructuring
- Policy Review
- Proposal of Automated Substitute Teacher Requests
- 2015-2016 School Year Draft Calendar
- Horizon Leadership/Mentorship Cohort Program
- Student Learning Assessment Pilots
- Instructional Support Plans
- Alberta Health Services Updates
- CASL (Canadian Anti-Spamming Legislation)
- School Three Year Plans and Professional Growth Planning
- Occupational Health & Safety
- Student Advisory Council and School Councils
- Cellular Mobility Plan Changes

I.3.2 Facilities Committee Report

Derek Baron, Facilities Committee Chair, provided an update on work undertaken during the past month within the Facilities Department. The [September Facilities report](#) was enclosed in the agenda and included the following information:

- The Vauxhall MAP Project will be complete by October 10, 2014
- 2014 IMR and Renewal Projects including:
 - W.R. Myers/D.A. Ferguson Playing Field
 - Barnwell School roofing project
 - Horizon MAP window replacements
- Taber Irrigation Metering
- Vauxhall Irrigation Repairs
- Various maintenance work completed during the months of August and September.

I.5. Associate Superintendent of Finance and Operations Report

John Rakai reported the following information:

- Participated in both the Barnwell and Warner Schools design team meetings that took place on August 21st on September 11th. The next meeting will take place on October 2, 2014.

- Waiting for architect feedback (for both Barnwell and Warner Schools re-modernizations) regarding the schematic design cost consultant's reports. Participated in the new Principal orientation session and also met with the seven new principals to review decentralized budgets.
- Met with both Warner Hockey School and W.R. Myers High School co-curricular and extra-curricular bus drivers where a review of the Safety Program and requirements regarding the operation of these vehicles was conducted.
- Mr. Rakai and Jake Heide (Facilities Manager) participated in a telephone conference workshop regarding procurement that was presented by Alberta Infrastructure and Alberta Education. The conference pertained mainly to proceedings of tendering and purchasing protocol for approved construction projects.

I.6. Associate Superintendent of Programs and Services Report

Mr. Bosch's report was distributed at the meeting and included updates and highlights in the following areas:

- Human Resources
- Early Learning/Inclusive Education
- Regional Collaborative Service Delivery
- Counselling Services and FNMI Education
- Kannadier Mennonite Program updates
- High School Redesign
- Hutterian Brethren Schools
- Teacher Evaluations

I.7. Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Report

Erin Hurkett's report was provided as Enclosure 8 of the agenda and included the following information:

Goal 1: All learners will finish school possessing 21st century learning competencies.

Key Action: Develop a common language and understanding of the following 21st century learning competencies and their relationship to innovation and entrepreneurialism: critical thinking, problem solving, and creative thinking. Support the professional capacity to integrate the competencies across grades and subjects.

- August 21 & 22nd: Facilitated the new teacher orientation for Horizon School Division.
- September 4th: Attended a Dual Credit meeting at Lethbridge College. Students taking the Health Care Aide program will receive 25 tier 3 credits. Because the funding is now at tier 3, school districts have been asked how they plan to spend the increased credit revenue (it was funded at tier 1 in the past).

Key Action: Support the professional capacity to understand and successfully implement early intervention and effective teaching strategies for literacy and numeracy to improve proficiency across the grades.

- August 25th: Trained staff members from D.A. Ferguson, W.R. Myers, and Taber Mennonite School in the Fountas & Pinnell literacy benchmarks
- August 26th: Assisted Kacie Neamtu from Erle Rivers with training to use the Fountas & Pinnell literacy benchmarks
- August 26th: Provided professional development for colony teachers on using assessment to inform instruction – creating guided reading groups. Colony teachers were also given an update and information on the SLAs.
- September 2nd: Facilitated a grade 3 teacher SLA meeting. Almost all grade 3 teachers in the division were in attendance. Digital question examples were shown and the performance task was discussed. Questions from teachers were sent to Alberta Education for clarification.
- September 3rd: Attended an SLA VC meeting with Alberta Education to clarify any concerns before administration of the assessments. The period for SLA administration will be between September 29th and October 10th.

In addition to the above areas, I have been able to conference with all new teachers I will be evaluating this year.

I.8. Correspondence

No items of discussion came forward from Correspondence as provided in [Enclosure 8](#) of the agenda.

COMMITTEE ITEMS

Moved by Bruce Francis on that the Board meet in Committee.

Carried Unanimously

COMMITTEE
134/14

Moved by Derek Baron that the meeting reconvene.

Carried Unanimously

RECONVENE
135/14

Moved by Rick Anderson that the meeting adjourn

Carried Unanimously

MEETING
ADJOURNED
136/14

Marie Logan, Chair

Barb McDonald, Secretary

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS REPORT

Board Meeting - October 21, 2014

General	August 31/14		364,724.72
General	September 10/14		1,012,127.95
U.S. Funds	September 12/14		714.17
General	September 11/14		63,726.11
U.S. Funds	September 15/14		2,028.42
U.S. Funds	September 19/14		155.74
General	September 24/14		283,227.43
General	September 30/14		1,100.00
U.S. Funds	October 1/14		136.85
General	October 3/14		100.00
General	October 7/14		687,390.42

"A" Payroll	September 2014	Teachers	1,561,779.92
	September 2014	Support	421,996.06

"B" Payroll	August 2014	Casual	18,813.75
	September 2014	Casual	9,481.40
	September 2014	Subs	41,285.18

Total Accounts			4,468,788.12
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Board Chair _____
Associate Superintendent _____

PJ:dd
October 9/2014

Horizon School Division No. 67
2014 – 2015 Tentative Board Meeting Dates

2014 – 2015

August 19, 2014

September 16, 2014

October 21, 2014

NO NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

December 9, 2014

January 20, 2015

February 24, 2015

March 17, 2015

April 21, 2015

May 19, 2015

June 16, 2015

Superintendents Progress Report

October, 2014

Educational Leadership

- The Superintendent provided ongoing support and advice to principals on matters related to school operations including: new hires, leaves, parent council matters, teacher summative evaluations, conflict mediation, and other legal issues.
- Meetings with all principals occurred to discuss their Annual Education Results and Three Year Plans. Conversations about how the jurisdiction can support school's efforts to passionately engaged learners who confidently pursue continual improvement now and in the future as contributing global citizens also occurred.
- The first of several division wide Professional Development days came to fruition. Teachers spent the day working collaboratively on Individual Student Plans and professional learning communities.
- The Superintendent also had the opportunity to attend a Google Lunch n' Learn session put on by Amber Darroch, Horizon's Director of Learning.

Fiscal Responsibility

- With funding being based on September 30 enrollment numbers I am happy to report that the jurisdiction is up over 120 students above March 2013 projections. Based on new enrollment numbers staffing levels were reviewed and all school requests for staffing enhancements were approved.

Personnel Management

- Principal Professional Growth Planning meetings were conducted with the twelve continuing principals not undergoing evaluation. Evaluation observations and conversations and ongoing support occurred with the seven new principals undergoing evaluation.

Policy

- In alignment with policy, new requests for transportation were processed by the Transportation coordinator; by the end of the first day of school 150 last minute transportation requests were processed. Decisions continue to be guided by precedent and past practice until decisions regarding upcoming changes are made. Expectations are that these decisions will be made this fall once Alberta Education regulations are released. Preliminary work on policy changes has already commenced.

Organizational Leadership and Management

- Barnwell and Warner Modernization meetings continue to be attended every two weeks. A design plan has been submitted to Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure. The Barnwell community is continuing to fund raise and work collaboratively towards finalizing submissions of commitment letters regarding the project enhancements. Design plan schematics and pictures of both modernizations are available via the horizon website.
- The second administrator meeting of the year was held on October 14th.

- The Superintendent has been working with the Clinical Team Leader to create a Emergency Response Manual.
- The Alberta Teacher's Association New Teacher Induction Banquet was attended.
- Vauxhall High School's awards banquet was also attended.

Communications and Community Relations

- A welcome back BBQ was organized for all Division Office and Maintenance staff and their families. A huge thank you for all your efforts. Your dedication to service contributed to another amazing school year start.
- The Superintendent had the opportunity to attend Enchant School's welcome back BBQ and participate in the community Terry Fox run. A huge thank you to those who assisted in the BBQ. Enchant Colony's buns were amazing as was Enchant School's secret BBQ sauce. A great time was had by all.
- Meetings with outside agencies were attended. These include: Alberta School Board Association (provincial meeting with Minister Dirks), Alberta Education – home schooling (Zone Six Services), College of Alberta School Superintendents, and Xerox. Communication also occurred with individuals from Taber Adult Learning, Taber Community Against Drugs, and Taber Community Action and Prevention Society.
- A conversation with Kaitlyn Mills, Horizon's representative on the Minister's Student Advisory Council, and a Student Engagement Advisor from Alberta Education's Engagement Branch; Research, System Assurance and Engagement to discuss capturing student voice and enhancing student's engagement with regard to direction setting.

Leadership Practices

- The Senior Administration Leadership Team including Directors met to discuss the jurisdiction's three year plan

ADMINISTRATORS' MEETING

Tuesday, October 14, 2014
Division Office – Eric Johnson Room

MEETING CHAIR: Wilco Tymensen

BOARD MEMBER IN ATTENDANCE: Jennifer Crowson

ADMINISTRATORS IN ATTENDANCE:

Darlene Peckford, Gary Bradbury, Darryl Moser, Todd Ojala, Dale Cummings, Alyson Archibald, Kelly Schmidt, Dan Vanden Dungen, Kim Kerr, Murray Brown, Crystal McGregor, Brock Campbell, David LeGrandeur, Klaas Hoekstra, Travis Magierowski, Allan Rancier, Holly Godson, Sheldon Hoyt

DIVISION OFFICE STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Lynn Saler, Ann Muldoon, Daelynn Takasaki, Amber Darroch, John Rakai, Clark Bosch, Erin Hurkett, Wilco Tymensen

SUMMARY

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The morning portion of the meeting consisted of a Professional Development session for any staff wishing to work collaboratively on completing their three-year plans.

PRESENTATION: *Sexual Expression and Gender Identity*

Wilco presented an informative session regarding the implications of intolerance on our students. The presentation included a discussion on the needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and transgendered youth in our schools, with a strong focus on the division's mandate of safe, caring and inclusive learning environments. The Education Act indicates we must create a safe and welcoming environment for all students. A number of helpful resources and websites were included in the [presentation](#) (which can also be found in the Horizon Common – Admin. folder).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Policies

The following policies were reviewed and discussed with Administrators:

- Policy EBCD *Emergency School Closure*
- Policy HICA *Off-Site Activities*
- Policy IHCD *Medication to Students/Medical Conditions*

2. Emergency Response Manual

The draft of the new Emergency Response Manual will be sent out to all Administrators within the next two weeks. Please provide any feedback to Daelynn as soon as possible as it is the goal to have this new manual distributed before Christmas.

3. Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exam Results

Amber presented the 2014 PAT and Diploma exam results to Administrators. All results are saved in the Horizon Common Folder.

4. RCSD Mental Health Therapist

Daelynn introduced Cheryl Johnston, Mental Health Therapist. Cheryl is working with Horizon and the FSLC team to support students in a mental health capacity. Cheryl will conduct mental health assessments for students at the school level as well as consult with staff and parents. It was noted that individual counselling is available through the Taber Alberta Health Services office. Schools can contact Daelynn for additional information.

5. 2015 – 2016 School Year Calendar

Erin reviewed the latest draft of the 2015-2016 school year calendar with Administrators. This draft will be taken to the October 21st Board meeting for their review. Any additional feedback and rationale needs to be submitted to Erin by the end of October as it is anticipated that the calendar will be taken to the Board for final approval at the November Board meeting

6. Student Assessment and ISP Clarification

Gary raised questions about ISP's relating to assessment and achievement reporting. If regular grade level learner outcomes are not being extended to a student (i.e. adapted program), he felt that it should be indicated on the report card somewhere.

7. Decentralized Budgets

John reported that so far, enrollment numbers are accurate across various reporting systems. A document will be distributed to Administrators for finalization based on the most recent revenue and enrollment data. Student fees will not be counted as revenue in the instructional budget but will be added as a revenue source by Phil after the fact.

8. SLA Update

Ann will contact the Learning Support Teachers to get information on any students whom may have received accommodations for SLA's. Division approval is not required for accommodations, but the division would like to have this information relayed in order to see the trends and needs of students.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Lord's Prayer

Wilco reminded Administrators that if their school wishes to change their status in terms of the Lord's Prayer (either already saying the prayer and wanting to stop or wishing to begin), they must submit their request to the board for approval. The written opt-out for students to participate must be sent home annually.

2. Feedback from September 29th PD Day

Erin asked for feedback from Administrators in terms of the PD Day that was held on September 29th. It was noted that some staff felt that they did not have the full morning to attend to their ISP needs. Some teachers reported that they did not have a complete understanding of the ELL Benchmarking. Collaborative groups were well received in the afternoon portion of the PD Day. Some respondents did not realize they were joining a collaborative group for the whole year vs. a one-time meeting. Erin requested that if any staff feel they could benefit from further PD or support, to please contact her with suggestions.

The next PD date is set for Monday, October 27th. Wilco also agreed to check on parameters for mileage reimbursement on division PD Days in response to Dale Cumming's question.

3. Class Size Funding

11 schools requested additional teacher FTE for class size funded teachers and all requests were met

4. Personal Days

Clark shared a reference sheet for administrators regarding clarification of personal days. If you require any additional clarification regarding personal days, please contact Clark.

5. Halloween and Theme V Instruction in LGM Context

Administrators shared what their current practice is in their schools related to how to address Halloween in an LGM context as well as how sexual education occurs.

6. Change in Date for November Admin. Meeting

In order to accommodate the schedules of Drs. Richelle Marynowski and David Slomp (from the University of Lethbridge) to join Administrators next month, the November Administrator meeting date has been moved from Tuesday, November 25th to Monday, November 24th.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Admin. Meeting – Monday, November 24, 2014

HORIZON SCHOOL DIVISION NUMBER 67 - FACILITIES DEPARTMENT
Facilities Committee Report
Jake Heide

2013/14 Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR)

WR Myers / DA Ferguson Playing Field

- The WR Myers / DA Ferguson playing field is complete. Irrigation has been installed and will remain operational until approximately the middle of October. With heavy irrigation in progress, the field has been barricaded to prevent all access to the field permitting the newly placed sod to take root.

As part of the field development agreement, 347 loads of topsoil were donated by nine different enterprises in the Taber area. An estimated 4,871 cubic yards were delivered which included loading and transport. Total donated value was \$58,452.00.

Donation Contributors to the project were:

Lantic Inc	George Miller Excavating	Shimbashi Farms
Barry Clements	F. Miller Excavating	River Bend Rock Products
Prime Rentals	East End Iron	Chinook Carriers

Light use of the field will be permitted starting October 15, 2014.

Irrigation Winterization

- During early October, facilities crews have been isolating various irrigation systems and discharging standing water in the lines. All systems have been blown out a minimum of two times with the exception of the WR Myers / DA Ferguson field and the Vauxhall fields. WR Myers / DA Ferguson is scheduled to be cleared of water the week of October 20. Vauxhall fields will be done during the same time.

Maintenance Projects

- Erected a control room / Sound room for the performing arts performances at LT Westlake Elementary School. Funding for this project was through donation spearheaded by parent council.
- Preparations are underway for the design and build of a retaining wall on the North end of Taber Central School. The existing retaining wall has outlived its usefulness and is becoming a safety concern

Maintenance work During September and October

In addition to completing 70 service requests and 114 Preventative Maintenance Requests, the facilities crews undertook reactive work including email requests, phone calls and responding to request when

The following describes some of the service work performed during the past several weeks:

- Completed the parking in the front of Lomond School
- Ongoing lighting, electrical, plumbing and mechanical repairs
- Patch, repair and paint various classroom walls. Including a significant amount of repainting in Enchant School.
- Cut down and disposed of the tree in the fronting property at Vauxhall Elementary School. The existing tree starting showing signs of fatigue two years ago and did not recover. A replacement tree or ornament style has yet to be determined by school administration.
- Hang bulletin boards, tack boards and white boards throughout the division
- During this past winter, a considerable amount of concrete movement occurred throughout Horizon School Division Schools, a number of concrete sidewalks and pathways required repair or partial replacement. This process has begun and will continue for the next few months.

Facilities Administration

- The caretaking service re-tender process for Vauxhall Jr / Sr. high school has been postponed until spring 2015. Began preliminary work on upcoming caretaking renewals throughout the division.
- Prepared the PO&M budget for the 2014/15 school year.
- Continued work with the upcoming capital projects in Barnwell and Warner.
- Began compiling data collected throughout the year in regards to upcoming IMR projects. A request to all principals will be sent by the end of September inquiring about the needs they have identified. A significant portion of upcoming IMR funding will be directed towards roof recapping.
- Attended a one day Emeresco – Asset Planner workshop in Calgary. The workshop focused on capital planning, energy tracking, preventative maintenance as well as active maintenance tracking.
- Attended a health and safety workshop facilitated by the Alberta Education Health and Safety Association (AEHSA). Focus was on machine guarding, school emergency preparedness and personal development.

Alberta students continue to excel in Science

National and provincial tests reveal Alberta students are demonstrating a high level of achievement in science and performing strongly in other key subject areas.

According to the latest national results, Alberta students achieved the highest marks in the country in science, second highest in reading, and third highest in math. Provincial assessments also indicate more high school students have been achieving excellence in physics, chemistry, and biology over the past several years.

“We’re encouraged by the high level of achievement and interest our students are demonstrating in a core subject such as science. Scientific literacy is vital to ensuring our students are able to succeed in a knowledge-driven society.”

Gordon Dirks, Minister of Education

More high school students are also attaining the standard of excellence on English language arts 30-1 and 30-2 diploma exams. The number of students achieving excellence on Grade 6 and 9 English language arts increased slightly over last year. Excellence refers to students who demonstrate a mastery of the core subject material.

While five years of data are needed to determine provincial trends in math, national results indicate Alberta students are on par with the Canadian average and have improved their performance since 2010.

“Although the overall results are positive, we know that subjects such as math require ongoing attention. Strong numeracy and literacy skills are vital for young Albertans moving into post-secondary programs or the workplace, which is why we’re making these essential skills the foundation to every subject, at every grade level.”

Gordon Dirks, Minister of Education

Standardized tests are one way of assessing student learning and identifying strengths or areas needing improvement.

Alberta Education is currently piloting new digital Student Learning Assessments that will replace Provincial Achievement Tests. The new assessments will better identify student learning needs for teachers and parents at the start of the school year.

- **Kathleen Range**
780-427-5010

Press Secretary, Education



© Oct 08, 2014

Prentice Government advances the schools Alberta needs now

The Prentice government announced Phase 3 of a consolidated advancement of education capital projects representing a 10-year capital build-out of new schools and school expansions.

This three-phase build-out will consist of 230 capital projects, consisting of both new schools and modernizations. This work will enable Alberta to catch-up to student enrollment growth. These three phases of work – essential to keep pace with 10 years of record growth - amounts to the largest school construction project in Canadian history.

The three phases and 230 projects are phased as follows:

- Phase 1 - announced in 2011, includes 35 schools, of which 31 are complete;
- Phase 2 - announced in 2013, includes 50 new schools and 70 modernizations, all but five of which will be ready to accept students in 2016; and
- Phase 3 - 55 new schools and 20 modernizations announced today.

“Alberta’s prosperous future has drawn young families from all over Canada and the world to our province. This government is listening to Albertans and acting quickly to deliver on the priorities of Alberta families and communities.”

- Jim Prentice, Premier of Alberta

New commitments in Phase 3 announcement today include \$43.2 million in funding to school boards this year to begin immediate planning for 55 new schools and 20 further modernizations. This immediate allocation will accelerate projects by up to one year. Communities where the schools will be located have already been identified.

The Prentice Government has also committed to full transparency with respect to all capital projects, including school projects. Albertans will be able to track all school builds and modernizations on a School Program Status report that will be available from the Department of Infrastructure today.

All activities related to this consolidated program will be fast-tracked through Cabinet to ensure sufficient resources are in place and school siting approval processes are streamlined. In addition, another \$100 million has been allocated to fast-track school maintenance projects.

"We are moving quickly to provide school boards that have high-growth enrolment with the predictability they need for longer-term infrastructure planning. I am pleased to equip them with the extra resources they need to meet this challenging situation now and in years to come."

- Gordon Dirks, Minister of Education

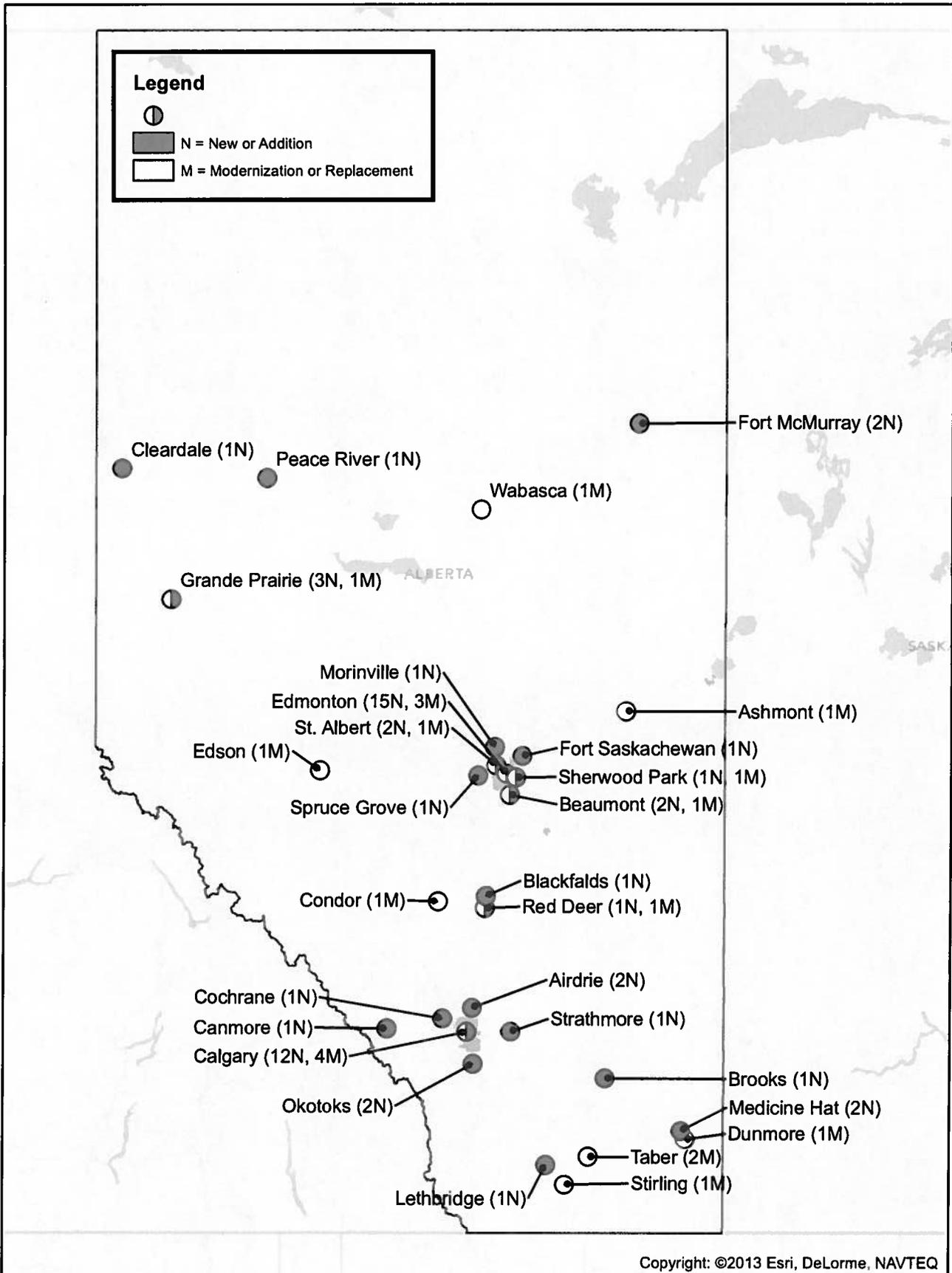
A four-member Cabinet committee, consisting of Minister of Infrastructure Manmeet Bhullar, Education Minister Gordon Dirks, Minister Diana McQueen and Minister Jeff Johnson, has been assigned to oversee the building of these schools to ensure opening targets are met. The committee will consult regularly with school boards, municipalities and the construction industry to expedite permitting and other approvals, and to strengthen the capacity to deliver these projects to Alberta students as quickly as possible.

"This approach to building schools will get children into new classrooms sooner and protect existing schools so they are safe and comfortable for students. Our committee will provide senior-level oversight, help streamline processes, and ensure these schools open on time as promised."

- Manmeet S. Bhullar, Minister of Infrastructure

55 New Schools or Additions, 20 Modernizations or Replacements

*Specific site locations not yet finalized.





Erle Rivers High School

PO Box 358, 205 - 3 Ave. NE
Milk River, AB T0K 1M0
Ph: 403-647-3665 Fx: 403-647-2054
<http://erlerrivers.horizon.ab.ca>

September 15, 2014

Horizon School Division Trustees

Taber, Alberta

Dear Trustees:

On behalf of the students and staff of Erle Rivers High School I would like to send a thank you to the HSD Trustees for the kind donation to our school library.

With the ever-increasing prevalence of technology, it is still so important to continue to encourage the use and love of books. It's always wonderful to increase our collection of youth fiction. Riordan books are hugely popular right now and the Maze Runner Series are hot items as well.

Once again, thank you so much for the great donation to our school library. Your support of our school is greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,

Rita Lodermeier,

Acting librarian, Erle Rivers High School

Praising Passion

Our Praising Passion column, formerly known as Passion for Health, celebrates inspiring Albertans who are committed to improving the health and well-being of people in their communities.

You can vote for the Praising Passion nominee you'd like see featured in the next issue of Apple by emailing apple.mag@albertahealthservices.ca or calling 403-943-1993. Comments are welcome and voting is open until Oct. 10, 2014.

Nominees for the Winter 2015 issue are:

Bev Parks

As the executive director of the Norwood Child & Family Resource Centre, Bev loves helping others see the good in the world. She lives every day according to her motto "live, love, laugh," and wants to make Alberta a place where everyone is respected and accepted.



Cathy Payne

By day, Cathy manages the medicine unit at the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre. Away from work, she has invested hundreds of hours volunteering at the Northern Lights Health Foundation. She believes in the importance of volunteering and is a dedicated fundraising leader for the foundation.



Christene Gordon

The director of client services and programs with Alzheimer Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories, Christene has worked for more than 20 years to change how we think about dementia and to promote innovation in dementia care.



George Epp

For the past 13 years, George has worked for Horizon School Division in Taber as a Low German Mennonite liaison worker, and is also the manager of the Taber Mennonite Central Committee Services for Newcomers program. His goal: for everyone to have the opportunity to live a meaningful and productive life in Alberta.



Lynn Berry-Barsaloux

Lynn is a registered social worker at Alberta Health Services' Child and Youth Mental Health Clinic in Grande Prairie, where she's worked for 40 years. She believes in empowering young women and nearly 30 years ago was part of a committee that started the Pregnant and Parenting Teen Program.



Mark Rowed

A volunteer and original founding member of the Okotoks Network, Mark works to increase the quality of life in neighbourhoods by creating social connections. The network is currently working to bring people together through shared interests and activities so they can get to know their neighbours.



You can also call us at 403-943-1993 or email us at apple.mag@albertahealthservices.ca to nominate someone working in health that you'd like to praise.

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TIMES PHOTO BY J.W. SCHNARR

SCHOOL'S IN: Barnwell School principal Sheldon Hoyt said the biggest change coming for Barnwell School will be the start of the massive modernization project beginning in the 2014-2015 school year.

Barnwell School holding open house

By J.W. Schnarr
Taber Times

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Of all the schools that are looking forward to exciting new changes, Barnwell School could be the largest yet. The school is working toward their planned modernization beginning this year. The project, announced by the province earlier this year, will cost an estimated \$11 to \$12 million and is slated for completion by September 2016.

"It's supposed to start between March and April," said school principal Sheldon Hoyt. "We're actually in the design phase."

The school was originally built in pieces with decades between expansion. On the way out is the 1917 section of the building, but while upgrades and renovations are being completed in other areas first, students will actually be housed in that portion. They will then be moved out of the area altogether so it can be removed and rebuilt.

"We will struggle with the loss of the gym," said Hoyt. "Our school is very athletics-oriented. It will be a real challenge for us."

look at different ways of making up for that lost space, whether it be options in the community or even possibly bussing students to Taber to make use of facilities there.

In addition to athletic facilities, the school library is going to be expanded and merged with Barnwell's community library. This partnership will allow for the expansion of services offered in both the community and classroom settings, with the added bonus of allowing both the students and community to make full use of the Chinook Arch Regional Library System.

"The village will help support the cost of the library," said Hoyt, noting a portion of municipal taxes are used to pay for library service.

Hoyt said there is no new staff or teachers this year, and is forging ahead with an aggressive reading and early literacy campaign.

"The (school) division is really targeting early numeracy and literacy," said Hoyt. "We're going to try to do that as well."

An open house has been scheduled for tonight in the Barnwell School gym from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in order to reveal the decision to the community.

Chamberlain encouraging engaged thinkers

By Trevor Busch
 Taber Times

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Students and staff at Chamberlain School in Grassy Lake are already knee deep in another school year, while new government initiatives on the educational front take centre stage for 2014-2015.

"A couple of the things that we're working on this year obviously are centered on the new ministerial order that's been proposed by the government," said principal Alyson Archibald. "So we're doing a lot of activities that encourage engaged thinking, ethical citizenship, and entrepreneurial spirit. This year, we've scheduled time on Fridays for collaborative learning environments to happen, and a lot of focus on numeracy, literacy and wellness. We're also doing some project-based learning for our junior high students, in the way of developing skills for those three 'E's that I've mentioned, and then the 21st century learning competencies. Those are kind of all new things for us."

Chamberlain students are also taking part in a health care related program through a southern Alberta post-secondary institution.

"We have two more students enrolled in the health care aid program, which is a dual credit program with Lethbridge College for high school students," said Archibald.

New staff at Chamberlain includes Erin Bettcher (Grades 1, 5 and 7), Terryn Gutfriend (part-time Grade 1), and Maree Koeler (Middle Years Science and Phys Ed).

"We do have a bit of an increase to our high school enrollment — we have 12 more kids than we projected," said Archibald.

Fridays will be a special focus for the school in 2014-2015, with an increasing emphasis on parental participation.

"We really want to increase our parental involvement, so in the afternoons we've scheduled the types of activities that we think parents would like to join us for, and we think kids will be excited to have parents around for," said Archibald.

"For example, our Terry Fox Run is coming up on Friday afternoon (12:30 p.m.). The types of things that we would schedule throughout the week during the year, we've made sure those are Friday afternoons this year."



TIMES PHOTO SUBMITTED

HAVING THEIR KICKS: Grade 5 students participate in a soccer skills event last Friday afternoon in Grassy Lake.

Chamberlain School is also joining the online universe with the creation of a new Twitter account.

"We've started a school Twitter account as well. The feed is on our website for it. It's @chamberlainatl is the handle on it. We're trying to put pictures out of what kids are doing," said Archibald.

Standardized testing is also taking a bit of leap in Horizon School Division for the school year, according to Archibald.

"We're very creative with everything that we do here at Chamberlain. Certainly, there's some new government initiatives, and some new programs that we're certainly learning and looking through, and getting to know. One of the things that we've been talking about recently is that our Grade 3s are going to be taking the SLA test this year as opposed to the former PATs. So we're just getting all of the technical issues worked out with that. It really will be a mindshift — the end of the year focus on how students did, to a focus on developing the best instructional plan possible for students in the Grade 3 classroom, so we're piloting that this year along with all the other schools in the division."

Horizon rising in enrollment

By J.W. Schnarr

Taber Times

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Enrollment in Horizon School Division is up over expected numbers for the 2014-2015 school year.

That was the message from School Superintendent Wilco Tymensen during the school board's regular meeting on Sept. 16 when he provided a verbal update to the board in regards to enrollment numbers for the year.

"We have a fairly good start to the school year," he said. "We're up about 125 students."

Tymensen said numbers aren't finalized until the end of September due to the large amount of fluctuation happening at the beginning of the school year.

Those fluctuations include students who have registered, but may be busy working and can't attend, to students transferring from one school to another or out of the division entirely.

Of the 125 new students, Tymensen said close to 80 are in the Grade 1 to Grade 12 range, with the remaining 45 or so coming into the division as Kindergarten students.

"Kindergarten has always been difficult to predict," said Tymensen. "We hold the registration in May or April, but parents don't usually think about registering their child until the summer."

"We're quite pleased with those numbers," he added.

While exact numbers on each school were unavailable, Tymensen said Enchant School and D.A. Ferguson Middle School were both lower-than-expected for enrollment, for a variety of reasons. He noted Taber Christian School, Taber Mennonite School, Chamberlain School, and Arden T. Litt School's all had higher-than-expected numbers.

Many of the schools remained stable for the year, hitting close to their projections, though it doesn't mean they remained with the same number of children.

Projections can be made with increases or decreases in them, meaning if a school projected to lose 20 students and lost 20 students, for an example, they would hit their projected number while having a declining enrollment at the same time.

So while up from projected numbers by 125, the division is in fact only up by around 70 actual students, according to Tymensen.

One bright spot came from Milk River School, which Tymensen said has broke the 100 mark for students for the first time in eight years.

Tymensen said the trend for the division is more students are finding their way to HSD schools.

"Looking at the numbers, parents are making the choice to send their children to Horizon schools," he said.

"Overall, we're very happy with these numbers."