

Horizon School Division REGULAR BOARD MEETING Eric Johnson Meeting Room

Regular Board Meeting Agenda – 1:00 pm

Monday, April 25, 2022

Acknowledgement of the Land

Horizon is located on the traditional land of the Blackfoot Confederacy and on Treaty 7 territory and the home of the Métis Nation of Alberta Zone 3. We honor the Blackfoot people and the diverse Indigenous peoples whose ancestors have marked this territory for centuries, a place that has welcomed many peoples from around the world to make their home here. Together we call upon all our collective communities to build a stronger understanding of all peoples who dwell on this land we call home.

Zone 6 Presentation – Jennifer Crowson (chair) & Allison Purcell (vice-chair)

A – Action Item

A.1 Agenda		
A.2 Minutes of Regular Board Meeting held M	onday, March 28, 2022	ENCLOSURE 1
A.3 Minutes of Special Board Meeting held Tu	esday, April 6, 2022	ENCLOSURE 2
A.4 April 2022 Accounts Payable		ENCLOSURE 3

I - Discussion Items

D.1 School Visits	ENCLOSURE 4
D.2 Education Week (May 2-6, 2022)	
D.3 2023-24 DRAFT Jurisdiction Calendar	ENCLOSURE 5
D.4 Preliminary Budget 2022	

I - Information Items

I.1 Superintendent's Report – Wilco Tymensen	ENCLOSURE 6
I.2 Trustee/Committee Report	
I.2.1 Zone 6 Report – Marie Logan	
I.2.2 Facilities Meeting Report – Bruce Francis	
I.3 Associate Superintendent of Finance and Operations – Phil Johansen	
I.4 Associate Superintendent of Human Resources – Robbie Charlebois	ENCLOSURE 7
I.5 Associate Superintendent of Learner Services Report – Terri-Lynn Duncan	ENCLOSURE 8

<u>C-Correspondence</u>	ENCLOSURE 9
C.1 News Release: Three subjects of new curriculum ready for classrooms	
C.2 Learning Assessment	

Dates to Remember

- April 26 Council of School Councils Meeting Virtual Meeting (Mandy Court, Trustee)
- May 2 6 Education Week
- May 12 Science Olympics Barnwell School

May 10 – Administrator's Meeting
May 18 – Zone 6 General Meeting
May 18 – Edwin Parr Banquet & Awards
May 31 – Board Meeting
June 6-7 – ASBA Spring General Meeting (SGM)
June 15 – Administrator's Meeting
June 27 – Board Meeting
Julie El Boura Meeting

Horizon School Division

6302 – 56 Street Taber, Alberta T1G 1Z9

Phone: (403) 223-3547 1-800-215-2398 FAX: (403) 223-2999

www.horizon.ab.ca

The Board of Trustees of Horizon School Division held its Regular Board meeting on Monday, March 28, 2022 beginning at 1:00 p.m.

TRUSTEES IN ATTENDANCE: Marie Logan, Board Chair

Bruce Francis, Board Vice-Chair

Derek Baron, Jennifer Crowson, Blair Lowry, Maxwell Holst, Mandy Court

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

IN PERSON Dr. Wilco Tymensen, Superintendent of Schools

Phil Johansen, Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations Terri-Lynn Duncan, Associate Superintendent of Learner Services

Sheila Laqua, Recording Secretary

Cole Parkinson, Taber Times

REGRETS: Robbie Charlebois, Associate Superintendent of Human Services

ACTION ITEMS

A.1	Moved by Jennifer Crowson that the Board approve the agenda with the following additions:	AGENDA APPROVED
	A.7 – Erle Rivers High School Demolition	ATTROVED
	A.8 – 3-Year Capital Plan	
	Carried Unanimously	37/22
A.2	Moved by Derek Baron that the Board approve the Minutes of the	BOARD MEETING
	Regular Board Meeting held Monday, February 28, 2022, as provided by Enclosure #1 of the agenda.	MINUTES APPROVED
	Carried Unanimously	38/22
A.3	Moved by that Maxwell Holst the Board approve the March 2022	PAYMENT OF
	Payment of Accounts in the amount of \$4,398,846.46 as provided in Enclosure #2 of the agenda.	ACCOUNT APPROVED
	Carried Unanimously	39/22
A.4	Moved by Bruce Francis that the Board approve the Minutes of the	SPECIAL BOARD
	Special Board Meeting held Monday, March 14, 2022, as provided by	MEETING MINUTES
	Enclosure #3 of the agenda.	APPROVED
	Carried Unanimously	40/22
A.5	Moved by Jennifer Crowson that the Board approve Second Reading	SECOND READING
	of Policy EEACAA – Private Vehicles and Volunteer Drivers as provided	POLICY EEACAA
	in Enclosure #4 of the agenda.	APPROVED
	Carried Unanimously	41/22

	Moved by Bruce Francis that the Board approve Final Reading of Policy EEACAA – Private Vehicles and Volunteer Drivers as provided in Enclosure #4 of the agenda.	FINAL READING POLICY EEACAA APPROVED
	Carried Unanimously	42/22
A.6	Moved by Blair Lowry that the Board approve Second Reading of Policy GAB - Police Information Checks, as provided in Enclosure #5 of the agenda.	SECOND READING POLICY GAB APPROVED
	Carried Unanimously	43/22
	Moved by Mandy Court that the Board approve Final Reading of Policy GAB - Police Information Checks, as provided in Enclosure #5 of the agenda.	FINAL READING POLICY GAB APPROVED
	Carried Unanimously	44/22
A.7	Moved by Bruce Francis that the Board submit a letter to Alberta Education requesting a change in scope for the Milk River modernization so that Alberta Education's RFP process includes two quotes from contractors: (1) for complete demolition of Erle Rivers High School, and (2) selective demolition of Erle Rivers High School given the Town of Milk River's request for Horizon to retain the East portion of the building for community usage.	ERHS DEMOLITION LETTER APPROVED
	Carried Unanimously	45/22
A.8	Moved by Bruce Francis that the Board approve the 2022-23 Three-Year Capital Plan.	THREE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN APPROVED
	Carried Unanimously	46/22

DISCUSSION ITEMS

D.1 GRADUATION DATED

The Board and Sr. Administrator's discussed who will be attending Graduations throughout the Division.

INFORMATION ITEMS

I.1 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Wilco Tymensen, Superintendent, shared the following March 2022 report with the Board:

View March 2022 report here

I.2 TRUSTEE/COMMITTEE REPORT

I.2.1 Zone 6 Report

Marie Logan, Zone 6 Rep, provided that following March Zone 6 Report:

The March 23, 2022, meeting was hybrid with some attending in person and some by Zoom.

- ASBA President, Marilyn Dennis met with Minister of Education on March 7 and discussed with the Minister the desire for a curriculum delay and the need for implementation supports.
- ASBA President, Marilyn Dennis noted that CSBA (Canadian School Board Association) is meeting in Saskatchewan on July 6-8 and the theme of the conference is Local Voices, Local Choices.
- o ASBA is continuing to review and collect information on Charter Schools.
- o Dr. Abboud sent out a detailed summary of the provincial budget and indicated the ASBA budget will arrive on April 1 to be reviewed by the Zone 6 Board.
- Alberta Education Director, Ron Taylor, told Horizon School Division to "take a bow" over what Dr. Wilco Tymensen, Superintendent & CASS President has accomplished at CASS. CASS has taken big strides in co-operation, and everyone is willing to share great ideas. He also indicated it was a good that ASBA is gathering facts on Charter Schools, and he reminded them that the Alberta Bill of Rights needs to be considered for Charter Schools.
- A presentation by Jan Klakurka on System Thinking, which is advanced mind mapping was given. Following the presentation, groups were formed and challenged to use the system to show how organizations might address reconciliation.
- After two years of virtual Edwin Parr Awards evenings, Zone 6 is planning an in-person banquet at 6:15 on May 18, 2022. The General Meeting will start at noon.
- o A note of interest is that Chair, Jennifer Crowson and Vice-Chair Allison Purcell plan to visit all the Boards in Zone 6.

I.2.2 Facilities Report

Bruce Francis, Facilities Committee Chair, provided the following summary points to the Board on the work undertaken by the Maintenance Department for the month of March 2022:

- Milk River Capital Project
 - ERHS Demolition
 - Decanting Requirements
- Three-Year Capital Plan
- o 2022-2023 IMR First Draft

I.2.3 Administrator's Meeting Report

Maxwell Holst, trustee, provided the following summary points to the Board, on the March 2022 Administrator's Meeting:

- Discussion on Book Study "10 Mindframes for Leaders"
- Acknowledging staff/student life events
- Feedback on PD Day and potential changes for next year

I.3 ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Philip Johansen, Associate Superintendent of Human Services, shared the following March 2022 summary with the Board:

- Budget
- Financial Statement to Government

I.4 ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT OF HUMAN SERVICES REPORT

Robbie Charlebois, Associate Superintendent of Human Services, shared the following March 2022 report with the Board:

• View March 2022 report here.

I.5 ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT OF LEARNER SERVICES REPORT

Terri-Lynn Duncan, Associate Superintendent of Learner Services, shared the following March 2022 report with the Board:

• View March 2022 Report here

CORRESPONDENCE

Discussion Items

No discussion came forward from the Correspondence.

Moved by Maxwell Holst that the meeting adjourn.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Carried Unanimously 47/22

COMMITTEE ITEMS

Moved by Blair Lowry that the Board meet in Committee. COMMITTEE

Carried Unanimously 48/22

Moved by Jennifer Crowson that the meeting adjourn.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Carried Unanimously 49/22

Marie Logan, Chair Sheila Laqua, Executive Secretary

HORIZON SCHOOL DIVISION



6302 – 56 Street Taber, Alberta T1G 1Z9

The Board of Trustees of Horizon School Division held a Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 6, 2022 beginning at 8:15 a.m.

PRESENT: Marie Logan, Board Chair

Bruce Francis, Board Vice Chair

Derek Baron, Jennifer Crowson, Blair Lowry, Maxwell Holst, Mandy Court

Waiver of Notice of Special Meeting and Special Meeting Agenda Attached.

A.1	Move by Jennifer Crowson that in accordance with the provision of the Education Act and amendments thereto the Horizon Board waives notice of the April 6,2022 Special Meeting commencing at 8:15 am. Carried Unanimously	AGENDA APPROVED 50/22
A.2	Moved by Bruce Francis that the Board of Trustees of Horizon School Division request from Honourable Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education, permission to utilize Board operating reserves. The Board will reduce the operating reserves to the maximum cap by spending funds on the following three categories: curriculum and instruction, technology, and maintenance. Carried Unanimously	Board Reserve Request APPROVED. 51/22
A.3	Moved by Maxwell Holst that the meeting adjourn.	MEETING ADJOUNRED
	Carried Unanimously	52/22

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General	April 5/22		359961.27
General	April 12/22		199735.66
General	April 19/22		58350.24
"A" Payroll	March 2022	Teachers	1,708,085.00
		Support	615,717.85
"B" Payroll	March 2022	Casual	13,615.36
		Subs	69,611.52
Total Accounts			4,324,367.58
Board Chair			
PJ:dd			
April 20/2022			

Horizon School Division March 2022 U.S. Accounts

	U.S. Funds	Canadian Funds
Evan-Moor Educational Publisher	435.47	553.96
Total U.S. Accounts	435.47	553.96

KO:dd March 31/2022

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Jurisdiction Calendar - DRAFT

2023-2024 School Year Calendar



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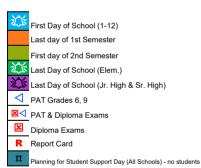
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	Sem. 1	Sem. 2	Total
Instructional Days	90	95	185
Non-Instructional Days	11	4	15
	Total	Days	200



Biology 30

Chemistry 30

Science 30

Ξ	Division Wide Holiday - no students, no staff
y	Division Wide Time Free From Instruction (TFFI) - no students
•	Division Wide Teacher PD Day - no students
ж	Division Wide Joint Horizon/ATA PD day - no students
*	Division Wide Unassigned Teacher Time - no students, no staff
7	School Based Time Free From Instruction (TFFI) - no students
•	School Based PD Day (All Schools) - no Students
0	School Based PD Day, 1/2 day - No Students
*	School Based Unassigned Teacher Time - no students, no staff
•	School Based Parent/Teacher Interviews - no students

School Based Parent/Teacher Interviews - after school

1st Sem.	M-TH 73	F 17	
2nd Sem.	M-TH 78	F 17	
Total Instructional Days	151	34	185
Elementary (enter manually):	M-TH	F	
Total Instructional Days			0

Date	Holidays & Observances
September 4, 2023	Labour Day
September 30, 2023	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation
October 9, 2023	Thanksgiving Day
November 5, 2023	Daylight Savings Ends
November 11, 2023	Remembrance Day
December 25, 2023	Christmas Day
December 26, 2023	Boxing Day
January 1, 2024	New Year's Day
January 6, 2024	Epiphany
February 19, 2024	Family Day (Alberta)
February 22-23, 2024	Teachers Convention
March 10, 2024	Daylight Savings Begins
March 29, 2024	Good Friday
April 1, 2024	Easter Monday
May 9, 2024	Ascension
May 20, 2024	Victoria Day
May 19, 2024	Pentecost
June 21, 2024	National Indigenous Peoples Day
July 1, 2024	Canada Day

DRAFT DATES

7 22

6 24 16 25

23 15 24

Gr. 12 Diploma Exams	Oct.	Nov.	Jan.	Apr.	Jun.	Achievement Exams	Gr. 9*	Gr. 6*
English LA 30-1 Pt. A	30		9	8	11	English Language Arts Part A		
English LA 30-2 Pt. A	30		9	8	11	English Language Arts Part B		
Social 30-1 Pt. A	31		10	9	12	Science		
Social 30-2 Pt. A	31		10	9	12	Social Studies		
English LA 30-1 Pt. B		3	18	11	18	Mathematics Part A		
English LA 30-2 Pt. B		3	18	11	18	Mathematics Part B		
Social 30-1 Pt.B		6	19	12	19	* Window periods approved by AB Education are draft.		
Social 30-2 Pt.B		6	19	12	19			
Math 30-1		2	17	10	17			
Math 30-2		2	17	10	17	1		

12 20

APPROVED: DATE ENTERED BY HORIZON

Superintendents Progress Report April 2022

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, conversations with the Minister of Education, the Deputy Minister of Education
 and Alberta. Conversations with administration also included discussions about student discipline and
 suspensions.
- As the President of the College of Alberta School Superintendent, there have been weekly meetings as a member of the Minister's Curriculum Implementation Advisory Committee
- As the president of the College of Alberta School Superintendents, there are ongoing dialogue with other partner groups. Meetings typically involve provincial education perspectives, discussions. There is also normally a four partners meeting (Association of School Business Officials of Alberta (ASBOA), Alberta School Council Association (ASCA), Alberta School Board Association (ASBA), and College of Alberta School Superintendents(CASS)). This month also included attending the Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard CASS PD committee meeting and sending greetings at the Alberta School Council Association AGM.
- Attended the Horizon administrator leadership symposium with all senior and school administration.
 Leadership focused on sharing instructional leadership practices and collaborative planning for the 2022-2023 school year.

Personnel Management

- Meetings were had with the staff and school council of Enchant School. Feedback was incorporated into
 the position profile. I am pleased to be able to share that Mr. Darryl Moser is the new principal of Enchant
 School.
- Meetings were had with the staff and school council of D.A. Ferguson School. Feedback was incorporated
 into the position profile and will be used for selection purposes. Interviews are scheduled in the coming
 weeks.
- Meetings with the seven principals being evaluated have taken place to discuss their achievement of the Leadership Quality Standard and accompanying competencies. Final evaluation reports have been created and shared with the administrators.
- I wish to publicly congratulate Jim Steed on his retirement and formally thank him for his years of service.

Policy and Strategic Planning and Reporting

• Horizon's own Assurance Surveys (parent, student, and staff) close May 30, 2022.

Fiscal Responsibility, Organizational Leadership and Management

- Regular meetings are taking place with Alberta Education regarding the Milk River modernization
- Meeting took place regarding naming of the Milk River Elementary School. The Board should expect a list of names and 2 recommendations to come to the May board meeting.
- Work continues on the budget.

Communications and Community Relations

- A number of meetings were attended over the last month. These include but are not limited to
 - O Senior Administrative Leadership Team (SALT) meeting
 - O Division Office staff meeting
 - O College of Alberta School Superintendent executive meeting
 - o SWCSS meeting



220425 Board Report

Associate Superintendent of Human Services

Human Resources

- Four surplus teachers have been successfully placed at other schools.
- Internal postings had very few or no applicants
- External teacher postings were able to go out on April 13 and 14. One week earlier than anticipated.
- Interviews for the DAF Principal position are scheduled for April 28.
- We have a 1.0 temporary FSLC position available (maternity leave) as well as a 1.0 regular CYCW position. Currently, we are running Psycho-educational groups to help support the schools until the positions can be filled. The Clinical Team Leader as well as other FSLC's have been assisting with coverage for high-risk students at Chamberlain, VES, and L.T. Westlake until we can fill the vacant positions

Horizon Induction Program

- Dayna Anwender from Barnwell School will be representing Horizon as our nominee at the banquet on May 18.
- The final HIP Learning Event will take place on May 13th @ 8:30 am at the Division office. Please let Robbie know if you are interested in attending.

Clinical Team Leader/FSLC/Wellness Coaches

- Postcard selection for our Resiliency campaign took place on March 28 at W.R. Myers.
 The Clinical Team Leader, Program Manager, and three of our FSLC chose 31
 postcards, 2-3 were chosen from each grade 5 class in our Horizon Schools. These
 postcards will be read out to the mentors by the students at our April 28 Resiliency
 Celebration Night at the Taber Auditorium. The remaining postcards will be mailed to the
 mentors by our Wellness Coaches.
- Our Family Connections team hosted a Parent PD session on April 12, by Laura Elliot on "Sleep".
- The Wellness Coaches will be packing Wellness Packs Apr 27, 2022 to hand out to all the grade 5-6 students transitioning either to middle school or another school. The Wellness packs highlight the importance of hygiene and healthy habits.
- Our FSL program finished hosting a Child and Youth Care practicum student from Lethbridge College. Melissa Duggen, the practicum student, lives in Taber and is in her first year of the Child and Youth Care Program.

- Registrations are going out for our annual Spark Fair being held May 12 at the Taber Agriplex. 13 schools are eligible to participate. We currently have 7 sending students.
- The following is a list of Spark Fair Champions:
 - Dance Images
 - Town of Taber Aquafun Center
 - FCSS Due Crew
 - Lost Paws Society
 - University of Lethbridge Pronghorns
 - Lisa Sowinski Moose Hide Campaign Indigenous Services
 - Taber Police
 - Town of Taber
 - Safe Haven
 - Taber Equality Alliance
 - Lethbridge College
 - Taber Public Library
 - Fire Department
 - Cadets
 - Bliss Beauty Bar
 - o 4H
 - Taber Food Bank Society
 - Brad Wall Pro Fighting Academy
- Our Family School Liaison Program free summer camp planning has been completed with activities, dates, and locations.

<u>In-Town - All in Taber</u>

(All venues for in town camps will have two days at each location)

Week 1 July 4th to July 7th

Week 2 July 11th to 14th

Week 3 July 18th to 21st

Week 4 July 25th to July 28th

Week 5 August 2nd to August 4th

Week 6 August 8th to August 11th

Weekly Placements

Monday - Taber Spray Park/Confederation Park

Tuesday - Taber Spray Park/Confederation Park

Wednesday - MD of Taber

Thursday - MD of Taber

Out of Town

(All venues to be confirmed access)

Week 1 July 4th to July 7th - Milk River (In-town park/school/campground)

Week 2 July 11th to 14th - Lomond (School)

Week 3 July 18th to 21st - Vauxhall (In-town Park)

Week 4 July 25th to July 28th - Warner - (Campground)

Week 5 August 2nd to August 4th - Grassy Lake (Recreational park/school)

Week 6 August 8th to August 11th - Enchant - (School)

Activities/Themes

Day 1 - Mindfulness

- Tie-Dye T-Shirts/Socks
- Rock collecting and painting
- Spray park

Day 2 - Emotional Intelligence

- Morning: Water Olympics/games (no slip and slide) but water guns and such
- Afternoon: Swimming at community pool Taber

Day 3 - Emotional Regulation

- Calming jars Craft Project
- Yoga
- Stress balls Craft Project
- Planting seeds
- Hot dog roast/smores Wellness Coaches would make

Day 4 - Nature Assisted Wellness

- Build a bird feeder
- Scavenger hunt
- Trip down to the river for fishing

Indigenous Learning

- Steering Committee met on April 5
- Orange Shirt Logo Contest will begin on May 2. The contest is open to ALL Horizon School Division students. The contest will run until May 13
- The Indigenous Allies will meet on May 6. A portion of the meeting will be spent on follow-up activities from our meeting in December regarding Indigenous games. There will be an opportunity for collaboration and time spent with school principals working on annual Indigenous Learning Plan documents for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Administrators will communicate their school plans and activities for June 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day. Dates will vary as school calendars have different end dates.
- A list of dates and activities for all schools will be shared and communicated so that Board members have the opportunity to attend.

Low German Mennonite Programming

- Easter Concerts were a success. Many parents and family members gathered at our schools to attend.
- Planning is underway for German Educational Assistants to gather once again in August for professional development and programming with our Mennonite Coordinator, Tina Friesen. This time is spent developing skills, and planning German programming that is engaging and consistent across the division.

Workplace Health and Wellbeing

- The final planning meeting of the year is scheduled for June 2.
- The Horizon Health and Wellness Steering Committee will meet four times in 2022-23. We are looking for one board member to sit on the committee.

Student Leadership

 WR Myers, Warner, and Enchant schools have students participating in student leadership, mentorship, and wellness series offered by <u>SAPDC</u>

Horizon Leadership Development

• Early stages of planning staff leadership development cohort for the 2022-23 school year

Report completed by Robbie Charlebois, Associate Superintendent of Human Services

Associate Superintendent, Learner Services Report to the Board of Trustees – April 25, 2021

Learner Services lead team members:

Terri-Lynn Duncan, Associate Superintendent
Dave LeGrandeur, Director of Learner Services
Coral James, Coordinator of Learner Services/Instructional Coach
Amanda Cayford, Instructional Coach
Laura Elliott, Behaviour Consultant

KEY ACTION AREA #1:

Strong core instruction that develops student competencies

- The Learner Services team have completed Developmental Check-ups for the 2022-2023 school year. Follow-up assessments for speech and language as well as English Language Learners will be completed by mid-May.
- Coral, Amanda and Terri were able to observe two teachers at VES, team-teaching a math class based on numeracy work learned in their book study "Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics" by Peter Liljedahl. They were able to have some small conversations with Tammy Reiling and Kaitlyn Wolters about the lesson. The observation was putting reading and research into practice.
- South zone School Divisions worked together with Lethbridge College in creating Dual Credit
 Course code Applications. <u>Attached</u> is a tentative list of Dual Credit courses that our students will
 have the opportunity to apply for. All applications are received and thoroughly looked at with
 consideration if the student will be successful in completing the course and if students have
 room in their timetable.
- All Early Learning staff came into the division office for Professional Development with Coral and Laura, the focus was on sensory rooms and TAC PAC training. Tacpac is a sensory communication resource using touch and music to develop communication skills. It can also help those who have tactile defensiveness, learning difficulties, autism.
- Laura did a presentation on sleep for parents and staff through Zoom.

KEY ACTION AREA #2:

Response to Instruction and Intervention

- South West Regional Collaborative Services executive meeting occurred in early April. A general
 overview of the budget and proposed spending for next year was presented to senior leadership
 for the school divisions that pay into the collaborative in order to receive services for students
 with particular needs (Speech and Language, Occupational therapy, Physical therapy, Deaf and
 Hard of Hearing, Blind and Visually Impaired)
- Collaborating with the counselling team, Terri, Coral and Laura took part in the full day attendance

- meeting where principals brought forward students of concern. Ideas were shared around the collaborative response model that might support that student in increased attendance.
- Laura completed four observations and two classroom observations and provided subsequent reports on those observations. Laura also participated in various Developmental Checkups held throughout the Division.

TECHNOLOGY

• Dave will be collaborating with members from neighbouring school divisions on the Southern Alberta Computer Consortium to determine which bid for the new *Electronic Hardware and Services* contract to accept. We received proposals from several companies and have been reviewing bids from 2 vendors(TLD and Compugen).

LEADERSHIP PRACTICES

- Amanda and Terri-Lynn attended a numeracy committee meeting where division numeracy leads in Southern Alberta collaborated on strategies for planning with the new K-3 mathematics curriculum.
- Coral created a video/slide deck presentation that will be shared at Jigsaw's annual conference at the beginning of May. As a presenter, she will attend this conference virtually and gift a Learning Support Teacher with an additional registration that Jigsaw gave her as "payment" for presenting. The topic of the presentation was "Designing a Space for Collaborative Response," and will be placed in a shared folder for Horizon leaders to access.
- Amanda, Coral and Terri are taking a literacy course for beginning readers called "Shifting the Balance." This will be offered to K-3 teachers in the division in the 2022-2023 school year.

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

Date: Wed, Apr 13, 2022 at 11:48 AM

Subject: News Release: Three subjects of new curriculum ready for classrooms

Three subjects of new curriculum ready for classrooms | Trois matières du nouveau curriculum prêtes pour les salles de classe

April 13, 2022 Media inquiries

Alberta students and teachers will benefit from three updated K-6 subjects, with supporting learning and teaching resources, in classrooms this September.

As announced in March, all K-3 students will learn new Mathematics and English Language Arts and Literature curriculums, while all K-6 students will learn from new Physical Education and Wellness curriculum starting this September. This balanced and measured approach to implementing the new K-6 curriculum is based on insight and advice from the <u>Curriculum Implementation Advisory Group</u>.

"These three subjects in Alberta's new K-6 curriculum are critical starting points that will set students on the best path for success. We heard what Albertans and education system partners told us and, with their insight, we updated Mathematics and English Language Arts and Literature to make sure our youngest students have the literacy and numeracy skills essential for early years learning. The Physical Education and Wellness curriculum fulfils our platform commitments of ensuring all elementary school students learn the importance of obtaining and providing consent as well as fundamental financial literacy skills."

Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education

Content changes in the three final curriculums

Alberta's government has listened to all feedback from classroom piloting and engagement activities to make final updates to the kindergarten to Grade 6 English Language Arts and Literature, Mathematics and Physical Education and Wellness curriculums. The updated curriculums continue to align with top-performing jurisdictions, both within Canada and internationally, and those with knowledge-rich curriculums. Albertans can access the final curriculum and see what has changed at <u>alberta.ca/curriculum</u>.

"Taking part in piloting the draft curriculum has allowed us to have a voice in the process. We thank the government for listening to teachers' feedback and making related changes. I can't thank my teachers enough for all the hard work they put in and for what they have accomplished in the pandemic and during piloting."

Stefanie Brown, principal, Florence MacDougall Community School

"It took eight years of advocacy for me to see this. This is a very strong math curriculum. It is clear, concise, age-appropriate and well sequenced. It is a curriculum that sees and realizes our children's fullest potential. They will have the confidence and skills to pursue their dreams and succeed not only in the STEM fields, but also in life."

Dr. Nhung Tran-Davies, parent and advocate for strong math curriculum

"The revised K-6 Mathematics curriculum includes strengthened content that fosters core competencies in math. This included reinforcing basic fundamentals in a well-sequenced manner that will promote a student's understanding of math in a real-world context where calculations, measurements, statistical analyses, problem-solving and an applied knowledge of money and finances are required. This strong foundation in math will also help support the innovation and creativity needed to thrive in an increasingly technological society. I was pleased to see the flow of the curriculum aligns with other educational jurisdictions that have strong international reputations."

Martin Mrazik, full professor, department of educational psychology, University of Alberta and former teacher, Elk Island Public School Division

English Language Arts and Literature curriculum supported by world-class research

The English Language Arts and Literature curriculum was refined using feedback from Albertans and education system partners, as well as after reviewing world-class research on literacy in young learners. Pandemic-related learning disruptions makes it more important than ever to focus on foundational reading, writing and speaking skills for early learners.

This focus was underscored through a recent pilot project conducted by University of Alberta researchers and funded by Alberta Education. The results showed that 82 per cent of the students who were struggling to read saw significant improvements after small group intervention. Resources supported by this research will also be available for curriculum implementation and the researchers have continued to work closely with Alberta Education to advise on and support curriculum development.

George Georgiou, who led this research and pilot project, was recently invited to participate in a Canadian Commission for UNESCO working group to further examine the impacts of the pandemic on the elementary and secondary school systems in Canada.

"Reading is undoubtedly the foundation of learning. The new English Language Arts and Literature curriculum is grounded in research and allows for explicit and systematic instruction in foundational skills such as phonological awareness, phonics, fluency and vocabulary. These skills set children up for success in comprehension and reading enjoyment."

George Georgiou, professor, department of educational psychology, faculty of education, University of Alberta

Supporting a successful curriculum implementation

Alberta's government remains committed to helping ensure elementary teachers are prepared to teach the new curriculum this fall. In 2022-23, \$59 million is being invested in teacher professional learning and learning and teaching resources to make sure teachers and students are equipped for the updated K-6 curriculum in classrooms. This funding is part of a \$191-million investment over three years to support curriculum implementation across the province.

The government is providing teachers across the province with the following supports and resources on new.LearnAlberta.ca so they can continue preparing for the upcoming school year:

- the final K-3 English Language Arts and Literature, K-3 Mathematics and K-6 Physical Education and Wellness curriculums
- the Provincial Resource Review Guide, with new guidelines for selecting learning and teaching resources aligned with the new curriculums
- additional comprehensive digital resources, such as Gizmos (Explore Learning) and Jump Math, have been procured for use in the classroom
 - o Gizmos supports student learning through 400 labs and interactive simulations
 - Jump Math provides access to research-supported, comprehensive mathematics resources including teacher resource guides and lesson slides
- bridging resources to assist with transitioning from the current curriculums to the new curriculums
- videos and support documents with an overview and orientation to the new curriculums
- planning tools, such as sample lesson plans
- functionality that allows for teacher planning, collaboration and sharing (boards)
- information about flexible professional learning opportunities that start in May

"The College of Alberta School Superintendents believes today's announcement will help provide clarity to many of the education system's questions regarding curriculum implementation. Today's release of the final updates to three curriculums and details about resources will allow school divisions to better support their teachers as they plan for student success using the new curriculum."

Wilco Tymensen, president, College of Alberta School Superintendents and member, Curriculum Implementation Advisory Group

"As a member of the Curriculum Implementation Advisory Group and a school division that piloted the three subjects that will be implemented this year, I am pleased to see the release of this revised curriculum and the resources that will support its implementation. This has been a collaborative process and I can see that all members' voices are being heard. It is critically important that we

continue moving forward and the implementation of these subjects and grades in September 2022 is the next step in doing that."

Michael McMann, superintendent, Fort Vermilion School Division and member, Curriculum Implementation Advisory Group

School authorities will receive more details directly from Alberta Education to facilitate planning and implementation for September. They will also continue to have flexibility to select resources to support curriculum implementation in their classrooms.

New details on implementation, piloting and engagement

As it is finalized, the new K-6 curriculum will be implemented in three phases, with Phase 1 beginning in the 2022-23 school year. By September 2024, it is anticipated that all K-6 grades and subjects will be implemented. More information on curriculum implementation, further piloting of some subjects and engagement will be on <u>alberta.ca/curriculum</u> as details become available.

Quick facts

- About 400,000 students will be the first to benefit from learning from the new K-3
 Mathematics, K-3 English Language Arts and Literature, and K-6 Physical Education and
 Wellness curriculums during the 2022-23 school year.
- Changes across the three K-6 subjects included updates to address instances of concern with content load, age appropriateness, wording clarity and First Nations, Métis and Inuit content.
 - In the English Language Arts and Literature content updates include strengthened content related to creative and critical thinking, and digital literacy.
 - Mathematics content was redistributed and strengthened to address fractions, measurement, operations (adding/subtracting, multiplying/dividing) and percentages to better develop number sense.
 - Enhancements to the Physical Education and Wellness content related to consent, mental health, nutrition, safety, physical fitness, foundations and confidence to value physical activities for life.
- In 2022-23, \$59 million has been allocated for the K-6 implementation process.
 - To support school authorities, about \$37.7 million will offer flexibility and support local decision making.
 - \$17.7 million, on a per student basis, to purchase additional curriculum resources to support implementation of new K-6 curriculum in three subject areas.
 - \$20 million for professional learning for teachers, allocated to school authorities on a per teacher basis.
 - To support resource purchasing, licensing and development, about \$14.8 million will be retained by Alberta Education to:

- Leverage economies of scale offered by provincial buying power.
- Provide equitable access across all school authorities through the availability of high-quality learning and teaching resources aligned to the new curriculum.
- Invest \$3.5 million in the procurement and development of French resources.
- To support classroom piloting, \$6.5 million in the form of release time to support the ability to plan and participation in feedback sessions.
- The 12-member <u>Curriculum Implementation Advisory Group</u> has balanced representation from across the education system to help ensure the best interests of the entire education system inform the group's advice and recommendations.

Related information

• K-6 curriculum renewal

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

Subject: News Release: Learning assessments key to student success in early years

Learning assessments key to student success in early years

April 20, 2022 Media inquiries

Students in grades 1 to 3 will benefit from literacy and numeracy screening assessments to help those struggling get back on track.

Mandatory screening assessments

In response to the learning loss identified in a pilot during the 2021-22 school year and the <u>Child and Youth Well-being Review Panel recommendations</u>, school authorities will now be required to administer literacy and numeracy screening assessments, selected from an <u>approved list</u>, starting in September 2022.

"Assessing students in the critical early years of their education is key for ensuring long-term learning success and ensuring early interventions are in place to prevent future learning challenges. Parents can be confident their young children are learning the literacy and numeracy foundational skills they need for success in their future education goals. These assessments and interventions will continue to position Alberta as a global leader in kindergarten to Grade 12 education for years to come."

Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education

The implementation of language and math assessments for students in grades 1 to 3 was one of the Alberta government's key platform commitments. Fulfilling this commitment, while also addressing COVID-19-related learning loss, will ensure both parents and teachers understand and assess progress in the critical early years to help struggling learners. Many other provinces already collect assessment information about students at this age.

Additionally, Alberta's government will continue to provide updated provincial norms, intervention resources and reports for school authorities that choose to continue using the government-provided screening assessment tools released this school year. The LeNS and CC3 screening tools have been developed in both English and French by world-class researchers and have been successfully used in the last year to accurately identify children in need of additional support.

"These assessments are necessary because they provide important information about student learning, which allows our teachers to apply ongoing research-based instruction as well as literacy and numeracy intervention that enhances learning for all students and brings those who struggle significantly closer to grade-level expectations. Students are motivated because they are experiencing success daily."

Pamela Guilbault, superintendent, Lakeland Catholic School Division

These screening tools, along with the EMA@School numeracy tools and all associated learning resources provided by the government, are free for school authorities to use. School authorities have the flexibility and autonomy to choose other government-approved screening assessments on the approved list at their own expense.

This builds on the work undertaken this school year to identify struggling learners and provide interventions and support. Alberta's government has provided \$45 million to help address pandemic-related learning disruptions for Grade 1-3 students.

Additionally, evidence from University of Alberta professor George Georgiou's intervention project with Grade 2 and 3 struggling readers in four school divisions in Alberta has shown that 82 per cent of students improved by 1.5 grade levels in five months' time. The new requirement for consistent use of early years assessments to identify struggling learners is also timely as the new kindergarten to Grade 3 curriculum is implemented for English Language Arts and Mathematics beginning in September.

"Decoding Dyslexia Alberta applauds the literacy initiatives that commenced in the 2020-21 school year. We support the use of reliable reading assessments and interventions for all students in grades 1-3 starting in September. These assessments will help teachers accurately identify children at risk for reading difficulties and provide timely and targeted support."

Sarah Sarich, president, Decoding Dyslexia Alberta

In 2021, the College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS), on behalf of Alberta Education, engaged school authorities regarding existing practices for early years assessments. This work informed Alberta Education's planning and implementation of the assessments. It was noted during this engagement work that none of the assessments are comprehensive and cover the breadth of the curriculum. Anecdotal evidence also suggested that some of the standardized assessments are

sometimes used for purposes that they are not designed for. A report detailing this engagement work is available on alberta.ca.

"Since Alberta's school authorities utilize literacy and numeracy student assessments for early intervention, CASS is appreciative of the government's offer of free intervention resources. The flexibility and autonomy of assessment choice as the government moves to fulfil its platform commitments is appreciated. CASS is open to working collaboratively with the ministry regarding future government-approved screening assessments and best practices related to data usage."

Wilco Tymensen, president, College of Alberta School Superintendents

Quick facts

- Screening assessments will be phased in, beginning with grades 2 and 3 students in September 2022 followed by Grade 1 students in January 2023.
- Alberta Education will establish beginning, middle and end-of-year provincial norms for the government-provided screening assessments to help identify students who may require additional supports.
- The assessments will continue annually until students are finished Grade 3. School authorities will also reassess at-risk students at the end of the school year to measure their progress. School authorities will submit a summary of their screening results in their Annual Education Results Reports (AERR). This approach helps the province, school authorities and schools track successes and continuously improve the quality of education for students and supports a transparent, accountable and responsive education system.
- Information from these screening assessments will provide critical information for school authorities to consider for their long-range planning and to inform classroom instruction.
- Mandatory screening assessments are separate from student learning assessments (SLAs),
 which are digital tests administered at the beginning of the school year in Grade 3 to
 assess outcomes related to literacy and numeracy in language arts and mathematics in
 the current Grade 2 provincial programs of study. SLAs will remain optional.

Related information

Early Years Assessments