



BOARD HIGH LIGHTS

Board Highlights for the East Central Francophone Meeting April 30, 2020

COVID-19

Our schools are continuing to offer programming to students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 according to the Minister of Education's directives. We are using different means of communication to connect with students in order to ensure that we are able to reach everyone. Schools have lent out approximately fifty laptop computers to elementary students in an effort to ensure that access to technology is not an obstacle to learning. Most students continue to engage in their learning but school principals and teachers urge parents to continue doing as much as they can to support learning at home. We invite all families who are experiencing difficulties or who have concerns to communicate with their child's teacher and with the principal of the school.

The Board is very appreciative of the spirit of collaboration underlying everyone's efforts in these unprecedented times.

The Education Minister imposed budget adjustments on all school authorities due to extra financial pressures brought on by the pandemic. School boards were told that the transportation budget would be cut by 51%

in April, May and June. A further 14% reduction was applied to the overall education budget resulting in staff cutbacks, layoffs, fewer hours of work and cuts in general operational expenses till August to complete the school year.

Trustees discussed the "2020-21 School Re-entry Plan" Discussion Guide at length and committed to provide personal responses to several questions so that a CSCE response could be crafted and provided to Alberta Education by the end of the day on May 1.

Directives Administratives 515 – Frais scolaires (School fees)

Trustees discussed principles underpinning the administrative policy on school fees which has been updated to reflect changes made in the Education Act. They agree that the practice of bulk purchasing of school materials for elementary school age students should continue since it seems to be well appreciated by parents and staff. However, the trustees asked that expenses be contained given the economic reality of the region and that recycling and reusing of past materials be strongly encouraged to prevent waste.



Budget 2020-2021

Central administration staff presented the basic elements to be used for the 2020-2021 CSCE budget. Points were presented for all budget areas: basic education and supports, board administration, operations and maintenance as well as transportation.

Next Board Meeting

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 4:00pm.

If you wish to secure a spot on the Agenda, either as a delegation or to make your issues known, please do so in writing or by telephone to the superintendent, one week before the meeting's date. For more information, please contact the Central office at (780) 645-3888.