

School Trustee Report: Eleanor Hall School

February 26, 2020

School board sets 2020-2021 busing fees for In-Town, School of Choice and Alternate Sites

After four years with no increase to busing fees, the school board has approved a \$10 per year increase for in-town and school of choice busing fees.

- In-town busing fees will increase from \$350 to \$360 per student per year
- Rural busing fees for students leaving their attendance area to attend a school of choice will increase from \$450 to \$460 per student per year
- The fee for alternate site requests will remain unchanged at \$50 per student per year

R.F. Staples student nominated for Indigenous Student Award

The school board is pleased to announce the nomination of R.F. Staples Secondary School student Ty White for the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award. First Nations, Métis and Inuit Liaison Audrey Degner nominated Ty for the award. Congratulations Ty!

Electoral Ward Review Report released

Based on the input trustees received through school council meetings and the online survey, a 'What We Heard' report has been published on the website. The board has created a fourth option based on the feedback, with six (6) wards and six (6) trustees:

- Pembina Hills East, Ward 1- Area includes Busby School and Eleanor Hall School
- Pembina Hills East, Ward 2- Area includes Pembina North Community School and the Colony Schools
- Town of Westlock- Area includes R.F. Staples Secondary School, Westlock Outreach and École Westlock Elementary School
- Pembina Hills West, Ward 1- Area includes Neerlandia Public Christian School and Dunstable School

- Pembina Hills West, Ward 2- Area includes Fort Assiniboine School and Swan Hills School
- Town of Barrhead- Area includes Barrhead Composite High School, Barrhead Outreach and École Barrhead Elementary School

Although specific schools are located within each ward, it's important to note that trustees do not represent any one school or community. They make decisions based on the entire needs of the division.

Trustees will be attending school council meetings in March and April to seek input on this new option.

Alternate school calendars approved

The board approved the 2020-2021 alternate school calendars for Busby, Colony Schools, Dunstable, Eleanor Hall, Fort Assiniboine, Neerlandia Public Christian, Pembina North, and Swan Hills. These are available to view and print on the School Calendars page of the division website.

School board cancels R.F. Staples trip to Italy

The school board made a decision to cancel the R.F. Staples Secondary School international field trip to Italy next month. The trip was scheduled to take place from March 19-29, 2020 and included stops in Milan, Venice, Florence, Siena and Rome. The board's decision to cancel the trip was based on the recent spike in cases of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in regions of northern Italy, where the cities of Milan and Venice are located.

Citizenship Award Reminder

Nominations for PHPS Citizenship Awards are accepted until May 10th for this school year. Fill out your nomination form online or print and send in a paper copy. Anyone can nominate a student whom they feel is deserving.

Provincial News

The second session of the 30th Legislature is underway. Some of the highlights regarding education In the Speech from the Throne included the introduction of the Choice in Education Act; reaffirming that parents have primary responsibility for their children's education. Implementation on the recommendations from the Curriculum Review Committee including a refocus on teaching core competencies, depoliticizing the curriculum and standardized testing. Lastly, the new funding model for k-12 education will be released when the provincial budget is tabled on February 27th.

School Board Meetings

The public is welcome to attend our school board meetings. The next school board meeting is March 18th, 2020 at the Regional Office in Barrhead beginning at 9:00 a.m.

I invite you to contact me with any questions, comments, concerns or good news stories you may have!

Please remember to enter your email address on our division website to stay current on all announcements and information from Pembina Hills School Division!

Jackie Carson

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