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School Re-Entry Adjustments and COVID-19 Response Report

Given the most recent announcement of Alberta's public health emergency declared on September 15, 2021 from the Government of Alberta and the new measures announced to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19, Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools (RDCRS) will be making adjustments to the Division's School Re-Entry Plan. These adjustments reflect the new guidelines for schools and can be found in the following Superintendent Report [here](#).

The Superintendent also informed the Board of Trustees that four schools within the Division will be vaccination clinics. These schools include École Secondaire Notre Dame High School, St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School, St. Francis of Assisi Middle School and St. Joseph High School.

Additionally, the Superintendent highlighted that the provincial Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) is supporting the ongoing efforts for mandatory vaccinations for teachers. For more information, please click [here](#).

Information Items

Superintendent Report:

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at RDCRS

Associate Superintendent of Curriculum, Ryan Sawula, presented the Division's plans for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30. These plans have shifted slightly to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission and include several activities including a Treaty & Metis Flag Celebration that will live-streamed to schools throughout the Division. Additionally, a six-week initiative will be launched inviting all members of the RDCRS community to join our Division in a reconciliation challenge as our Division moves to continue our learning and focus on The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation beyond September 30.

Information will be provided through the RDCRS Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts on how to take part and will include an official reconciliation challenge hashtag. Following the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation activities, the Division will seek feedback from Indigenous families and community stakeholders about the event to help evaluate next steps moving forward that will be used for planning purposes in the future.

Literacy Grant

The Superintendent expressed sincere gratitude to Associate Superintendent of Curriculum, Ryan Sawula, and Division teachers for their concentrated work and effort on the Early Learning Literacy Grant.

Associate Superintendent of Curriculum, Ryan Sawula, shared with the Board of Trustees that Alberta Education announced up to \$45 million in funding will be distributed to school authorities on a per-student basis for targeted interventions to address COVID-19 learning disruptions. To access additional dollars for this funding, the Division will assess Grade 1 to 3 students and include this data in the Division's application for this grant, which is due by September 30, 2021. All funding will be assigned to school divisions based on need.

The Alberta Education Nutrition Grant

Associate Superintendent of Inclusive Learning, Jodi Smith, presented to the Board of Trustees, that the Alberta Education Nutrition Grant supported 17 schools throughout the past summer. In July, 145 families were supported (\$36,075), and in August, 108 families (\$23,900). She shared that Family School Enhancement Counselors played a vital role in the success of the summer program. For more information, please click [here](#).

Rapid Screening Program

Associate Superintendent of Personnel, Ryan Ledene, presented to the Board of Trustees preliminary plans regarding exploration into a potential rapid screening program for staff, given the current health emergency facing the province of Alberta. This plan has been presented to the provincial Alberta Teachers Association (ATA), and has their full support. Next steps include further exploration of additional rapid screening protocols and requirements.

Inclusive Education Support Report

Associate Superintendent of Inclusive Learning, Jodi Smith, shared with the Board of Trustees the Inclusive Education Support Report. This report focused on the strength of our Division's system that supports students in receiving assessments and ensuring inclusion for any student identified. This strong system ensures that students are met where they are at, and provided with the tools to meet their full potential. In the area of outside mental health supports, our Division continues to experience high wait times. However, our Division continues to work with the local community partners to find innovative ways to get help to our students. The Board of Trustees will send a letter to the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Mike Ellis, and Red Deer Catholic Regional School MLA's, regarding mental health support challenges within the Division. For more information about the Inclusive Education Support Report, please click [here](#).

Alberta Education Kindergarten-Grade 6 Curriculum Review

Associate Superintendent of Curriculum, Ryan Sawula, shared with the Board of Trustees that on March 29, 2021, the Alberta Government released the Draft Kindergarten to Grade 6 Curriculum and how RDCRS will utilize three tiers of feedback to review and analyze the subject matter of the new draft curriculum. Feedback is intended to address three main areas: scope of learning, age appropriateness, and the sequencing of learning. Highlighted was the work that had already begun last spring, in addition to next steps that will dig deeper with teachers, including a think tank, as well as how the Division will utilize the RDCRS Connects platform to engage parents and stakeholders in specific feedback on the draft curriculum. For more information, please click [here](#).

Preliminary Student Enrollment

The Secretary Treasurer highlighted to the Board of Trustees that our Division has a 0.5 per cent increase in student population growth. Currently, the total number of students is 10,372 for the 2021-2022 school year.

Capital Projects Report

The Secretary Treasurer presented the Capital Projects Report to the Board of Trustees and noted that the schematic design report for St. Lorenzo Ruiz Middle school was issued to Alberta Infrastructure over the summer and the Design Team has received feedback regarding it. Due to the delay of work in the summer, along with the extended delivery of certain items, it is anticipated that construction will begin in the spring of 2022. An official sod turning ceremony will take place on October 7.

Also noted, the St. Francis of Assisi Middle School shop renovation will begin in the spring of 2022 due to delays, and the work continues on the modulars for St. Gregory the Great Catholic School. As the modulars will likely not be received until November, students will not be able to move in until the new year. Currently, the school is adjusting space for at least the first semester of the year in order to accommodate students. For more information, please click [here](#).

The next board meeting is October 26, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.



Kim Pasula, Board Chair

