

March 2, 2022 Table Officer's Report - Kerri Williams, Vice President

Re: Teacher Board Advisory Meeting (TBAC) February 15, 2021

These meetings consist of updates from both the School Board and our local. It is also an opportunity to ask questions and discuss concerns brought forth by our members. In attendance from the School Board were Superintendent Shauna Boyce, Deputy Superintendent Mark Francis, and Board Trustees Paul McCann, Aileen Wagner and Jill Osborne.

Updates from the division included:

- 2022-2023 School Year Calendar
  - 4 non-instructional days in August, student's first day of school is August 30.
  - Fall Break - Nov. 14-18 (previous Friday is Remembrance Day)
  - Winter Break - Dec. 24-Jan. 8 (matches with EPSB)
  - Spring Break - Mar. 27-31 (previous Friday is a PD Day)
  - Student's Last Day June 29, Staff June 30
- Attendance Area Review
  - The report has been completed with recommendations, our division is currently exploring options and have started parent engagement evenings.
  - Mainly affects Spruce Grove and Stony Plain due to overcrowding at some schools. This change will not disrupt as much as the last attendance area review.
  - Changes are planned to be implemented in the 2023/24 school year.
- Learning Loss Grant
  - Money has been received from the grant application for grades 2/3
  - Division has now sent in data needed to apply for funding for grade 1
    - 886 students in grade 1, 468 need some sort of intervention
    - Literacy: 435 (avg. 8 mos behind) Numeracy: 223 (avg. 17 mos behind)
  - Division assumes they will receive the grant and will launch intervention.
  - Money is used towards teacher/sub support, assessments, PD

Updates from the local:

- High School Quarters vs Semesters
  - We are hearing from teachers that they prefer semesters
    - Teachers are burnt out, it's hard to balance preps in a quarter system
    - Rather than opening and closing two terms a year, they now have 4 terms
  - When will the decision be made for next year?
    - There was a meeting being held this week and the response should be announced afterwards.
  - Division noted that research shows that there's not a huge support of quarters but they are making sure that they go through the process before deciding. They are looking at all options and the possibility of a hybrid model.
- Masking
  - Note: this was put on the agenda before the government changed their policies

- Division has purchased 2000 masks for those who want them. Email will be sent out within the next couple days.
- We need to continue to support those who choose to wear masks and this will vary between communities.
- Trustee Osborne shared that she understands our concerns and wants members to know that we have been heard.
- Teacher Burn-out
  - Members have voiced that they are burnt-out. The workload is becoming too much and doesn't respect our time outside of school(ie. email re: computer training sent over Winter Break), We feel demoralized and attacked on all sides.
  - Superintendent Boyce apologized for the email sent over break. It was automated and set up by someone from Tech Support. She acknowledged that it was unacceptable and shouldn't have happened.
  - Suggestion of a joint venture between the ATA and the Board to look into how to relieve teacher stress and get us back to a "happier spot" This idea was well received on both sides.
- Substitute Teachers
  - 20 Floater subs had been hired to cover January's absences, but those have ended and they are now available to book as needed.
  - Sub requirements have dropped significantly over the last 2 weeks. At the height of absences there was an average of 110 absent teachers
  - We asked if messaging would come out regarding taking personal days, etc?
    - Hopefully soon. They are watching the numbers for a couple more weeks.
    - Trustee McCann shared that the board understands that this has been a sacrifice for teachers given all of the stressors we are currently facing.

Topics for Discussion - added to the agenda for April

- Future Considerations for Impassable Roads
  - Division is looking into options for days when it is not possible for staff to get to the school. This isn't just about poor driving conditions but situations where the highways are closed, etc.
  - Shifting the idea of what school looks like on days when staff can't physically get to the building but we can't close schools.
- Opening Day 2022
  - Division is asking "What should we do?"
    - In person vs Virtual, Bring in a speaker? Address from the Superintendent?

Next TBAC meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kerri Williams  
Vice President