

November 3, 2021 Table Officer's Report - Kerri Williams, Vice President

Re: Teacher Board Advisory Meeting (Nov. 2)

Yesterday our local representatives (Sarah Cresswell, Pam Arnason, Moe Teliani and myself) participated in the first TBAC meeting of the school year. 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, Trustee Paul McCann and newly elected Trustees Aileen Wagner and Jill Osborne.

Updates from the division included:

- New Board of Trustees
 - 3 new: Aileen Wagner (Ward 1), Aimee Hennig (Ward 3), Jill Osborne (Ward 5)
- PSD's Vaccination Protocol
 - Was in response to letters from Alberta Government and Minister of Education, private/public sector movement to similar protocols, staff survey
 - Comes into effect Nov.15, division will pay for tests until Dec.12 and there is a system in place for exemptions.
 - Only attestation forms will be kept on file, not vaccination forms, etc.
 - Member concern about chemicals in rapid tests was mentioned: AHS has indicated that frequent rapid tests are safe, and PSD recommends any concerned staff members contact AHS with any health related questions.
- PSD Curriculum Review for the Board
 - Division Principals (Mann and Bridgeman) are currently conducting curriculum review.
 - Survey was sent out to teachers of specific grades for feedback, then will be pulling smaller groups (specific grades/subject areas)
 - Formal report will be presented to the board for their review.
- Enrollment update
 - Up 3.7% from last year, 11944 students enrolled
 - Report is available on PSD Website
 - Funding model "weighted moving average" works best for divisions that are not seeing growth, for us it is affecting current funding because of increased enrollment. New students only receive 50% of normal funding for first year, +30% second year, +20% third year.
- Attendance Boundary review
 - Review was asked for by the previous year's board of trustees.
 - Report should be received by January which will guide any proposed changes. Public engagement would follow, along with time for transitions.
- School Calendar Survey
 - Some new questions were asked (ie. shortened days, etc.). This is to update current data to see if perspectives have changed. Not to indicate that this will be coming.

Updates from the local:

- Curriculum Feedback: Is the division receiving feedback from teachers?
 - Yes, and teachers are not holding back.

Topics for Discussion

- Staff Wellness and Increased Expectations / Administrative Burnout
 - Teachers/Admins feeling overwhelmed, “June Tired” already
 - Some of the expectations are out of the division’s control (ex. Assessments for funding, safety training, etc.)
 - Seeing a substantial increase in teacher absenteeism (Sept.-Nov)
 - Wellness initiatives need to include a wider range of activities (more than Yoga)
- Literacy Rollout and Expectations
 - Teachers frustrated with new programing mandates
 - Division has recognized significant gaps in gr.2/3 literacy and numeracy. Greater number not able to meet benchmarks. Division decided they had to implement intervention programs immediately.
 - Some schools were already using these benchmarks, so intention was to implement across schools.
 - PD will be coming.
- School Calendar: High School-Quarters
 - Will we be continuing Quarters in the fall?
 - No decision has been made yet. All options are being considered.
 - Currently working with Evergreen School Division to share research.

Next TBAC meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kerri Williams
Vice President