



Re-entry Update & Superintendent's Report: Alberta Health Services (AHS) recently provided updated isolation requirements which have been reflected in the Division daily checklist. A revised flow chart from AHS for isolation requirements for core and non core symptoms has been shared on our [Division website](#).

The Division is experiencing a substitute teacher shortage and an announcement was shared on social media on September 28, 2020 in regards to accessing Educational Assistants to cover classes when a certified sub is not available.

[For more information see the Division website.](#)

The Division has recently completed an analysis of technology and its ability to move to Scenario 3 if required. This work will also look at one-to-one instruction in the long term.

The Division will be permitting some of the annual school fundraising activities as well as Halloween activities with health measures in place.

Orange Shirt Day was observed Division wide during the week of September 28 to October 2, 2020 with a variety of Orange Shirt Day learning activities, such as participating in an online youth event sponsored by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, making miniature orange shirt beaded keychains, creating Orange Shirt Day posters, looking at Orange Shirt Day videos, or reading related children's stories. Staff and students in many Division schools also wore an orange shirt or an orange non-medical face mask to mark this day.

Post-Secondary Night was held virtually this year and was quite successful. Thank you to our Career Counselor Team for a fantastic night.

Enrolment Update: September 30 is the official count day across the province and that is how school divisions are funded. This count does not include the Outreach students as they are funded differently depending on their learning arrangement. Overall the Division is down 16 students from September 30 of last year, however, there are only three students less than projected by principals in the spring. This means that the budget is on track at this point, however, with the new funding framework, current year enrolment is not as significant due to the implementation of a three year weighted moving average (see Financial Report below). For Outreach students, the Myrnam Outreach ad Home Education Centre projected 26 students but is up to 62, Elk Point Outreach projected 12 and is at 12, and St. Paul Alternate Education Centre projected 73 and has 70 students. All told, including Outreach students, the Division has 17 more students than last year at the same time. Many students from neighboring First Nations began on Oct 5, 2020 due to busing delays associated with the pandemic, and some are currently enrolled in at-home education. There are currently 611 Division students enrolled in At-Home Learning.

Number of Trustees: There are currently seven trustees on the board. Trustees passed a motion to change the number of trustees to six. This process will require approval by the Minister of Education. Subject to approval, the Board's intent is to redesign its ward structure for the October 2021 election.

Board Awards: AP 370 Student Awards and Scholarships. Due to the pandemic, diploma exams in April and June were not written. Provincial Achievement Tests in May and June were also not completed. Regardless of these tests not being written, trustees wish to acknowledge the hard work put in by Division students and approved a recommendation to go ahead with the Board Awards. Each school will be required to set and share individual school criteria for this year's awards.

Capital Maintenance Renewal Phase II Submission: Trustees approved a list of recommended improvement projects for submission to the province. The top priorities include a partial new roof at New Myrnam School, windows at Elk Point Elementary, an upgrade to the air handling unit at St. Paul Regional High School, and paving of the parking lot at St. Paul Elementary. Other smaller projects include LED lighting retrofits in a number of schools. None of these projects will proceed until there is approval from the province.

Policy Review Schedule: The Board Policy Advisory committee completed a compilation of policy review from the last three years and proposed to focus on those that require the most immediate attention.



Bags for Breakfast: In keeping with their commitment to making life better in our communities, Cornerstone Co-op Implemented a Bags for Breakfast Program. For every shopping bag a member reuses at their local Cornerstone Co-op food store, the Co-op donates 3 cents to school breakfast programs. This year's donation totalled \$13,846. Trustees expressed appreciation for the support.

Financial Report

- Under the new funding framework, school authorities are funded on a three-year weighted moving average. This means that enrollment changes are spread out over three years according to this formula: 20% previous year, 30% current and 50% next year projection.
- An update was provided for the allocation of Federal Covid education assistance. \$956,750 of the \$1,088,150 is now committed with \$131,400 in contingency as it is still early into the year. 3.75 new teachers and 9 EAs have been added with this funding.
- Administration pointed out that while some costs went up last spring due to the pandemic, other costs, such as travel related expenses, went down due to reduced travel expenses associated with virtual meetings.
- Auditors will be presenting on November 25, 2020. In person or virtual to be determined.

Capital Projects

- Trustees reviewed a Letter from the Minister of Infrastructure in response to the letter the Board had written about the parking lot at Ashmont School. The Province has now turned over completion of the project to the Division. Completion will be weather dependent.

Correspondence

- Alberta School Boards Association Fall General Meeting will be held virtually on November 16, 2020.
- A request from the chair of the Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards to extend two executive positions for another year. Trustees approved this request.
- Letters from two other school authorities voicing their concerns about enrolment, funding, and the ongoing availability of personal protective equipment and sanitization supplies.
- An announcement from Alberta Education that the Diploma exams in November are now optional as the COVID 19 pandemic has created many situations where education has been interrupted. The decision to write November 2020 diploma exams resides with students and their parents. Schools will work with students to determine who will write the exams in November 2020.