BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From October 14, 2014 Meeting　　　　For Immediate Release

Presentations to the Board

The Board of Trustees received three presentations at their October 14th, 2014 regular Board meeting:

Trades, Technology and Innovation Center:

Woodlands County Mayor, Jim Rennie, presented to the Board on a proposal for a Center for Innovation in the Whitecourt area. This project is intended to be a partnership between the Woodlands County, the Town of Whitecourt, NorQuest College, the local school systems and industry to promote creative, innovative and sustainable partnerships that will provide a state of the art facility in the area of career training, performing arts and adult learning. One of the key attractions to students in the school systems will be to access dual credit opportunities where high school students can earn post-secondary credits while completing high school programming. This will make the transition into the world of work easier with the additional benefit of having students' access employment opportunities in the local community.

Alberta Dual Credit (Provincial Dual Credit Strategy):

Debbie Vance, Dual Credit Administrator, College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS), The Government of Alberta has identified six priority initiatives, including education and entrepreneurship, as the cornerstones of a dynamic Alberta economy. The Provincial Dual Credit Strategy contributes to, and aligns with, the mandate and creates more opportunities for students to earn credits in high school and post-secondary institutions at the same time, as well as opportunities for preferred placement (post-secondary course exemption) and workplace certification.

The Provincial Dual Credit Strategy assists school jurisdictions, post-secondary institutions, and business and industry or community partners in expanding or creating dual credit opportunities that:
- engage students in their learning through pathways that open their possible futures
- motivate students to finish high school
- inspire students to learn, work and live in the local community

- give students the confidence to transition from high school to post-secondary and/or the workplace.

Student Learning Assessment (SLA)
Roger Lacey, Director of Learning Services/Lana Brand, Learning Services Coordinator

Administration provided an update on the Student Learning Assessment (SLA) pilot. Student Learning Assessments, or SLAs, are a new assessment tool the province is providing to help students with their learning. Parts of the assessments are digital (taken on a computer or tablet), while others can be finished using a pencil and paper. The SLA's are currently in pilot and will replace Provincial Achievement Tests over the next three years.

The SLAs are comprised of Literacy and Numeracy assessments. Each assessment has two parts: Digital and Performance Task.

This is a pilot project and feedback from parents and teachers as well as school administration will be gathered throughout the year.

More information regarding these assessments can be found at:
http://education.alberta.ca/department/ipr/curriculum/student-learning-assessments/parents.aspx

The Board also received a presentation on sample assessment questions:
https://public.education.alberta.ca/assessment/Home/

Annual Staff Appreciation Evening
Northern Gateway Public Schools 19th Annual Employee Recognition Evening was held on Friday, October 3rd, 2014. The theme of the night was adapted from, "Oh, the Places You'll Go", by Dr. Seuss. The evening was attended by approximately 190 staff and their families. Congratulations to all award receipients.

Next Meeting
The next Board meeting will take place Tuesday October 28th, 2014 commencing with the Organizational Meeting at 10:00 a.m., and with the regular Board meeting to follow at the Division Office in Whitcourt. Members of the public are welcome to attend the regular Board meeting. For more information, place call 780-778-2800 or 1-800-262-8674.

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