

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From March 15, 2016 Meeting

For Immediate Release

Three Year Capital Plan

The Board ratified the 2017-2020 Capital Plan submission to Alberta Education with its top priority being a new K-12 School in Valleyview.

Each year, all 64 school jurisdictions and 13 charter schools submit their three-year Capital Plans to the department, which are updated annually. The proposed projects in these plans – new and replace schools, modernizations and additions – are examined. From that Alberta Education will determine the most pressing needs as identified by the school boards. Alberta Education prioritizes these project requests by first considering school board priorities and then other criteria. The criteria include health and safety of students and staff, enrolment projects, current utilization, facility conditions and capacity for program delivery.

Budget

Finance Minister Joe Ceci says Alberta's 2016-2017 budget will come down on April 14, 2016.

Locally Developed Courses

The Board reauthorized the use of the following Locally Developed Courses at the March 15, 2016:

Class V Driver Training 35 (3 credits), Band 15 (3 credits), Band 15 (5 credits), Band 25 (3 credits), Band 25 (5 credits), Band 35 (3 credits), Band 35 (5 credits), Chamber Ensemble 15 (3 credits), Chamber Ensemble 15 (5 credits), Chamber Ensemble 25 (3 credits), Chamber Ensemble 25 (5 credits), Chamber Ensemble 35 (3 credits), Chamber Ensemble 35 (5 credits), Reading 15 (3 credits), Reading 15 (5 credits), Reading 25 (3 credits), and Reading 25 (5 credits), Forensic Science Studies 35 (5 credits) and Calculus (AP) 35 (3 credits).



Alberta Rural Education Symposium

A small group of NGPS staff, consisting of school principals, division administration and trustees, attended the 5th Annual Alberta Rural Education Symposium, held from March 6 to March 8. The symposium is about partnerships among provincial and local government, business, rural communities and educators who are interested in working together to explore practices and policies that help create vibrant, sustainable schools and communities throughout rural Alberta.

"Ad Hoc" Committee Report

Trustees received recommendations from an "ad hoc" committee of the Board established to review the possibility of supporting outdoor infrastructure, including playgrounds, on school sites. After much discussion, the Board determined that any outdoor infrastructure not supported by Alberta Education funding, like playgrounds, could not be supported by the Board at this time. The Board will continue to advocate for playgrounds to be part of school programming requirements.

Next Meeting

The next regular Board meeting will take place **Tuesday March 29th, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Division Office in Whitecourt. Members of the public are welcome to attend. For more information, please call 780-778-2800 or 1-800-262-8674.

