

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From December 8, 2015 Meeting

For Immediate Release

Advocacy Plan 2015-2016

The Board accepted the Advocacy Plan for the 2015-2016 School Year, with focus on three main areas:

1. Building increased trust and credibility with communities and government;
2. Equitable funding for Rural Education; and
3. Government approval of capital project – new K-12 school in Valleyview.

Bill 8

Bill 8, the Public Education Collective Bargaining Act, proposes the creation of the Teachers Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA) to represent the boards at the main negotiating table. Under the current process, all 61 boards negotiate 61 contracts with their ATA locals. However, the government, which funds the majority portion of school board budgets, isn't at the table. Bill 8 wants to change that to provide more consistency to bargaining. The government has the option of having a representative on TEBA, but all 61 Boards must be members.

The Bills purpose – two levels of negotiations, a first at the provincial level for matters affecting all teachers/employers and a second level at the local school jurisdiction. It will require the establishment of a Teachers Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA) which will represent School Board at the provincial level. More work is required to set up the regulations that will determine how the TEBA will operate. At present, teacher contracts with the province will expire in August of 2016. Negotiations will begin in March of 2016 at the provincial level.



Draft School Year Calendar – 2016-2017

The Board approved the Draft 2016-2017 School Year Calendar. The draft calendar will be circulated for feedback and will go back to the Board in February 2016 for final approval. These are posted on the Division website and are open for your feedback.

Christmas Board/Staff Lunch

The Board of Trustees hosted a Christmas lunch for Central Office Staff at the December 8th, 2015 Board Meeting.

In attendance at lunch was former Trustee Beverly Smith, where the Board of Trustees thanked her for her time served on the Board and presented her with a gift.

Next Meeting

The next regular Board meeting will take place **Tuesday January 12th, 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.

