

Highlights from the January 27, 2010 meeting of the Board of Trustees for Red Deer Public Schools

CELEBRATIONS

- Many of our schools are involved in raising funds to support relief efforts for Haiti.
- The Olympic Torch Relay was truly a great event that involved many students from across the District. *Go Canada Go!*
- The Outreach School Center will be offering Aboriginal Studies 10 to enhance understanding and appreciation of First Nations, Métis and Inuit languages, cultures and traditions.
- The District is working with others to ensure we are a welcoming and inclusive community.
- West Park Elementary will celebrate its 4th Annual Donation Challenge with amazing support for local charities including:
 - 150 706 can tabs for Ronald McDonald House
 - 51 726 pennies for SPCA
 - 862 pairs of mitts and socks for the Women's Shelter
 - \$2052.18 in spare change for Ronald McDonald House
 - 1192 food items for The Food Bank
- Our CTS programs are providing amazing opportunities for students, particularly with new equipment made available through recent funding from the province and Skills Canada.
- Sympathies are extended to the family of Bruce Moltzahn, Associate Superintendent with Chinook's Edge who passed away. Bruce was highly regarded across the province for his excellent work.

The Life and Learning at Oriole Park

Since 1964 École Oriole Park Elementary, our largest elementary school in the District, has provided outstanding programming for students. The dual track school serves 256 English students with 218 students in French Immersion. The school is also home to Pathways for students with severe special education needs. Current and former students shared many of the special aspects about Oriole Park. In reviewing its education plan and results report with the Board, the school has demonstrated strong results in its Accountability Pillar Report Card with a number of

strategies to support provincial and District goals. The school is particularly proud of the strong and important role parents play at the school.

Mentors and Protégés

Red Deer Public provides a mentorship program to support beginning teachers. The program is mutually beneficial for both mentors and protégés. Mentors provide a role model, guidance, support and encouragement to their protégés while new teachers also provide new methods, perspectives and opportunities for renewal to their experienced colleagues. The mentorship program includes embedded professional development as well as release time for planning, observing and developing resources. For all participants there are group meetings on essential topics for new teachers. This year twenty-four mentors are supporting twenty-one beginning teachers. Sue Merry (mentor) and Kourtney Phillips (protégé) provided insights on their experiences and the benefits of the program. Two of the teams are involved in a provincial mentorship project discussing and collaborating on meeting the diverse learning needs through differentiated instruction.

Special Education Programming in K to 8

As part of the reconfiguration of GH Dawe, Glendale, and Normandeau, an inclusive education services delivery model will be piloted to best meet the needs of students with special educational needs. The pilot will see a shift to more inclusive programming. Included in the transition is the implementation of a Learning Assistance Teacher who will serve as a teacher, mentor and facilitator for colleagues who have special needs students within their class. The initiative supports the belief that neighbourhood schools best serve the needs of students and that appropriate supports need to be in place to do so. The pilot program will be evaluated over the next two years on a variety of measures.

High School Mathematics Curriculum Update

The Board reviewed revisions to the high school

mathematics program that come into effect in the 2010-2011 school year based on the principles of:

- improved transitions from grade 9 to 10 mathematics
- enhance depth of understanding while reducing the number of topics in each course
- increase opportunities to transfer between courses
- facilitate transitions from high school to post-secondary programs and the world of work.

The revised program reflects changes already in place in the K to 8 programs with significant changes to the high school mathematics program to achieve the principles and meet diverse student needs.

Maternity Leaves

Approval was made to the Board's maternity policy that includes minor editing changes to the policy and changes to the regulations as they relate to the Supplementary Employment Benefits Plan as a top up to employment insurance benefits.

December Enrollment

9889 students were enrolled in the District in December 2009.

Public School Boards Association of Alberta and Alberta School Boards Association

- Red Deer Public supports introductory clauses proposed by the PSBAA for the new *School Act*.
- The Board supported the draft version the PSBAA Foundation Program.
- The Public School Boards Council has an ambitious work plan to provide valued services and advocacy for its member boards
- The Community Learning Campus in Olds was an impressive venue for the ASBA Zone meeting and demonstrates excellence in community partnerships and collaboration.
- Trustees were concerned and disappointed with the limited response by the ASBA relative to the dismissal of the Northlands School Division—a stronger message was necessary and the Board will express its concerns to the Board of Directors of the ASBA.



Dr. Bill Stuebing,
Chair



Bev Manning,
Vice Chair



Gail Holland



Lawrence Lee



Dianne Macaulay



Cathy Peacocke



Jim Watters