

Highlights from the March 13, 2008 meeting of the Board of Trustees for Red Deer Public Schools

QUICK NEWS AND CELEBRATIONS

- Congratulations to MLAs Mary Anne Jablonski and Cal Dallas on their wins in the recent provincial election--in particular to Mrs. Jablonski on her appointment to cabinet and to Mr. Dallas as the new MLA for Red Deer South. The Board is also pleased with the announcement of David Hancock as the new Minister of Education.
- The Red Deer History Symposium at Red Deer College featured excellent presentations by students from our IB and AP programs.
- Eastview Middle School 'paid it forward' by raising money to support breast cancer research as a way to thank Canadian Idol Kalan Porter whose mother, a breast cancer survivor, provided the band program with tickets to his recent concert.
- APEGGA recently hosted students at its Science Olympics with hands-on adventures for scientist of all ages.
- Students at Hunting Hills were "Standing Up Against Bullying" in a school wide event to promote safe and caring schools.
- Stephanie Harris from Hunting Hills provided a student's perspective as part of a panel discussion on "How do we best support learning in the 21st Century" at the CASS Curriculum Symposium
- Trustees extended their condolences to Wild Rose Public Schools and the family of Gerald Kujala who passed away unexpectedly. Gerald served as Board Chair and was a proud and strong supporter of public education.

Life and Learning at GH Dawe School

"Our Students...Our Present...Our Future." is the focus at GH Dawe Community School. Now in its 32nd year of operation, the school

provides quality education to 215 students in kindergarten to grade 5 as well as two Foundations classes offering congregated programming for students with special educational needs. The school continues making a difference by developing a culture of respect that supports learning and the development of successful citizens. The school's new vision statement: "Nurturing a community of compassionate, conscientious and confident learners demonstrating academic success and responsible behaviour." provides exciting opportunities for the school many which were profiled during their presentation to the Board.

Principal Recognized for Support of School Athletics

Recognized as a staunch supporter of Lightning Athletics, Dave Maclean, principal at Hunting Hills High School received the Lorne Wood Award from the Alberta Schools' Athletics Association. The Award recognizes the important role of school administrators in modeling, supporting, and promoting sportsmanship through involvement in their school's athletics program. Nominated by students, parents and staff, Dave stressed the need to share the award with all those at the school who make Lightning Athletics a success.

Hunting Hills Students off to China

Students in the Mandarin program at Hunting Hills will have the opportunity to visit China during their spring break in 2009. The two-week excursion will provide opportunities to visit their twin school in Shanghai as well as experience other areas of China.

Gateway Christian High School Program

Trustees approved Gateway Christian School providing high school programming starting in September. Currently offering kindergarten to grade 9, Gateway joined Red Deer Public as an alternative program in 1999 and has shown steady growth

since joining the District. In 2005, the Board agreed in principle to expand the program to include a high school component. This move has also been supported in the District's Capital Plan with our hopes to acquire the River Glen School site to house an expanded Gateway program. The school will offer grade 10 next year, expanding to grade 11 in 2009 and adding grade 12 in 2010. The program will include a combination of academic courses offered in a Christian context, as well as partnering with Lindsay Thurber to provide access to option courses. The high school program will continue its emphasis on curriculum embedded service learning.

New Initiatives Enriches Teaching and Learning

The District welcomes new approaches and ideas that enrich teaching and learning. The New Initiatives program provides financial assistance of up to \$750 for projects that align with goals identified in the District Education Plan. Projects approved in the latest round of grants include:

- Circle of Courage – Westpark Middle – Bob Machuk
- Make You Think! – Hunting Hills – Michelle Ferreira
- Opportunity Room Student Follow-up Program – Lindsay Thurber - Angela Fritz
- PLA Art Day at RDC – Lindsay Thurber - Sheena McNiff-Wolfe
- Purchase 2 AED Trainers - Hunting Hills – Brent Wesley and Mona Pearson

Hazardous Goods and Waste Policy

Trustees gave final approval to amendments to the policy on the handling of hazardous goods and waste. The policy aligns with current legislation and practices in handling these items within the District.

Correspondence:

- Provincial Election Candidates – outlining current issues, concerns and opportunities in education the Board believes needs to be addressed by government
- Minister of Education – outlining costs incurred by the District for the provincial review of Severe Disabilities Profile and requesting reimbursement.

