

Highlights from the April 9, 2008 meeting of the Board of Trustees for Red Deer Public Schools

QUICK NEWS AND CELEBRATIONS

- The Board hosted its annual Admin Appreciation Dinner to recognize the valuable work of our school and district administrators. David King, Executive Director of the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta was the guest speaker for the evening.
- The University of Calgary hosted a luncheon to profile its initiatives and programs, in particular their new veterinary medicine program.
- The Triple-H S Rock Band from Hunting Hills High Schools hosted a great concert for family and fans.

Moments of Silence

The Board of Trustees observed a moment of silence in remembrance of Brenda Barrett, a teacher at Central Middle School who passed away over Spring Break.

Trustees also extended sympathies to the students and families from Wolf Creek School Division who was involved in a tragic school bus accident near Rimbey earlier in the day.

Hunting Hills Basketball Team Heads to Washington

Ten players and their coaches from the Lightning Boys Basketball team will head

to Spokane at the end of June to attend the Gonzaga University Team Camp. Students attended the camp last year, which contributed to a successful season on the court.

Thurber Students Off to Germany

Students in the German program at Lindsay Thurber will have the opportunity to visit Germany during Spring Break 2009. Students will visit their new twin school in Goch as well as other areas in Germany.

Two students will also be involved in a six-month Alberta-Germany student exchange. German students be coming to Red Deer in the fall for three months and our students will return to Germany with them for three months.

Anaphylaxis Policy

The Board gave first reading to a policy to related to students and staff who have life-threatening allergies. The anaphylaxis policy provides a balanced perspective for the development of school and individual plans with a focus on creating safe environments, creating awareness and understanding among school communities, as well as the development of response protocols and emergency procedures.

Resources from the Canadian School Boards' Association, the Alberta School Boards' Association as well as a resource kit developed by Alberta Education helped in the development of the policy. The David Thompson Health Region was also most supportive in the policy development process.

Representatives from the Anaphylactic Support Group of Central Alberta welcomed the policy and provided feedback on the regulations.

The Board will invite stakeholders to respond to the proposed policy and regulations to ensure a balanced perspective in dealing with life-threatening allergies in our schools.

Administrative Staffing

Chad Erickson was appointed Acting Principal of Oriole Park Elementary School for the remainder of the school year.

Public School Boards' Association of Alberta and Alberta School Boards' Association

- The ASBA Zone meeting included presentations on the Alberta School Council Association as well as reports on the Alberta Education Workforce Planning Initiative, the Accountability Pillar Report Card as well as questions and answers regarding the Special Education Review process and future directions.
- Red Deer Public has put forward a proposed Directive for Action calling for equitable provincial funding for Instructional Technology Initiatives

Correspondence:

- Minister of Education: letter to the Minister with concerns regarding provincial funding for instruction technology initiative and asking for equitable funding in this area
- Minister of Education: joint letter from Red Deer Public and Chinook's Edge School Division requesting a meeting with the minister to discuss the joint capital initiative for River Glen School.



Dr. Bill Stuebing,
Chair



Bev Manning,
Vice Chair



Gail Holland



Lawrence Lee



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Cathy Peacocke



Jim Watters