

Highlights from the June 10, 2009 meeting of the Board of Trustees for Red Deer Public Schools

CELEBRATIONS

- The Board observed a moment of silence on the loss of two good friends of education and Red Deer Public Schools: Ray Congdon, former Assistant Superintendent of Business Services served Red Deer Public faithfully for 22 years and had a positive impact on our District that is still felt today; and Lorne Starko, Senior Reporter with CKGY/Z99 Radio, who understood the issues facing education and was well respected across our community.
- Year-end concerts across the District are opportunities to celebrate excellence in our band and choral music programs.
- Students from the classes of 2009 from Lindsay Thurber and Hunting Hills celebrated their graduations and moving on to the next steps of their lives.
- Alberta Education hosted a provincial symposium to release and seek response to the new framework for "Setting the Direction for Special Education in Alberta."
- Inspiring Education, a dialog with Albertans, is shaping the future of education in our province. The broad consultations involving a range of perspectives, will build an understanding of what it will mean to be an educated Albertan 20 years from now.
- Substitute teachers were recognized for the very important role they play supporting teaching and learning in our schools.
- To set the stage for the 2010 World Skills Competition, SAIT hosted a conversation with Sir Ken Robinson, a recognized leader in the development of creativity and innovation.
- With the school year quickly drawing to a close, volunteers are being recognized for the important role they play in our schools.
- This is the season of retirements as we celebrate the careers of 18 teachers and 6 support staff and wish them all the best.
- The Board and ATA Executive held their annual dinner where they discussed topics of mutual interest and concern.
- PSBAA hosted a valuable session on its Foundation Program of which Trustee Dianne Macaulay has been actively involved in development of the initiative.
- Red Deer Public was honoured to attend the Excellence in Teaching Award ceremonies that recognized Karen Vanderwater, principal at Annie L Gaetz Elementary.

Roseanne Martyniuk Recognized

Roseanne Martyniuk received the Distinguished Service Award from the Career and Technology Studies Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association. Roseanne was recognized for long-term service to the teaching profession and council. Roseanne will be retiring in June after 34 years of teaching Foods and Fashion Studies in our middle schools.

Board Recognized for Nutrition Policy

The Board of Trustees is the very proud recipient of the Alberta Healthy School Communities Award recognizing its initiative to promote healthy eating and setting standards for the sale and distribution of food and beverages in our schools. The Board was recognized for its vision and leadership in developing and approving the first nutrition policy of its kind in the province. The Board recognized the important role partnerships played in this initiative. Parents, students, staff and community members provided important direction through implementation committees. Of particular note was the valuable assistance of Jennifer Sundberg, Registered Dietician with Alberta Health Services, who provided tremendous support in the development and implementation of the policy. The Board is pleased to see other jurisdictions following in our footsteps in developing similar initiatives.

Ultimate Science Experience

Middle school students across the District will have the opportunity to participate in the ultimate science experience, a trip to Florida in April 2010. Students will experience many different areas of science, generating interest beyond the classroom. The trip has strong curricular connections and will include excursions to the Kennedy Space Centre, SeaWorld, EPCOT Center and Disney Parks with specific educational programs at each site.

Energy Conservation at Hunting Hills

Following an energy audit conducted by students in the Environmental Club at Hunting Hills, members presented a proposal to save energy through powering down of electrical equipment when not in use. Annual energy savings could be substantial:

- by limiting TVs to operate six hours on school days, Hunting Hills alone could save \$3,109.81
- by turning computers and hard drives off when not in use, the school could save \$9,055.26

- using the same guidelines for computers across the District, students anticipate savings of \$58,836.86
- Beyond saving money, powering down also has significant impact on the environment. Students believe this provides valuable lessons we can use in our own homes and in the community overall.

Grade Reconfiguration Approved

Earlier this year, the Board began considering a proposal to reconfigure grades in selected schools to enhance student achievement. Four public meetings, as well as other consultations with stakeholders, took place to gauge support and identify issues and concerns.

The Board voted to approve reconfiguration of GH Dawe, Glendale, and Normandeau schools to serve students from kindergarten to grade 8 starting in the 2010/11 school year which could accommodate either a complete or phased in implementation. In approving the reconfiguration, the Board called for the establishment of a committee to address the specific details related to implementation of the initiative and requested that a detailed implementation plan be presented to the Board for information by October 31, 2009.

Science and Technology Program at Glendale

With the reconfiguration of K to 8 schools, Glendale has expressed interest in offering a science and technology program of choice. The Board gave approval in principle to the program and further requested that a Board policy be developed that identifies the characteristics of, distinguishing features of and implementation process for programs of choice. A detailed plan on the implementation of a science and technology program of choice at Glendale will be developed and brought to the Board in December 2009 for final approval.

Administrative Appointments

The Board is pleased to announce the appointment of the following vice principals:

- Katharyn Blades to Annie L Gaetz Elementary
- Hayley Christen to Fairview Elementary
- Sean Grainger to Mattie McCullough Elementary
- Kim Jewan to GH Dawe Community School
- Lisa Spicer to Eastview Middle
- Kim Walker to École Oriole Park Elementary
- Dania Hill to École Mountview Elementary. Dania is currently an Assistant Principal with Wolf Creek Public Schools.