

May 2014 School Council Report

- There's been a lot of media talk about the math curriculum. Kids are expected to:
 - know "the basics" (number facts, add, subtract, multiply and divide); addition and subtraction number facts by the end of gr 3 and multiplication and division facts to 9X9 by end of gr 5.
 - have the understanding to enable them to apply their knowledge to solve problems in real-world situations.
 - Mastery of number facts can be accomplished in a variety of ways, and teachers use their professional judgment to choose appropriate pedagogical approaches to help students meet program expectations.
 - The Board has requested that every school has a link on their website to the facts of what's happening in math. We're also looking at hosting math myth busting evening in each ward in the fall so parents have the opportunity to ask questions and get clarification regarding math.
- Our Board met with MLA's Bruce McAllister and Rob Anderson to discuss advocacy issues.
- Board met separately with MLA Ron Casey for advocacy as well. He was extremely helpful in offering ways to advance our positions.
- The Minister of Education, Jeff Johnson had a meeting scheduled with us for April 3rd but it had to be cancelled so we're waiting to find out when the new date is.
- Feedback requested for amended policy draft of EBCD Emergency Closure of Schools.
- 3rd year in a row of no increase in transportation grants, and we have lost one of our most crucial grants, which is a fuel contingency grant. We have contractual obligations of \$130,000 for contractors. Over all, the transportation budget is in deep trouble. Administration recommended an increase of \$35.00 in fees for next year and after much debate, we finally passed a motion to increase by \$10.00 next year and will probably need to increase quite a bit the following year.
- Board has approved the construction and the right to use and maintenance agreements with the Cochrane Lions Football Society regarding the construction and use of an artificial turf field on the Board's Bow Valley High School property. The Town, County and community partners are involved in funding the 1.6 million dollar project.