

## May 2013 School Council Report

- Policy JA Community Engagement is out for feedback
- Passed 1<sup>st</sup> read of Policy GBEB Respectful Learning Environments – It encompasses all staff and students and includes definitions of harassment, discriminatory harassment, non-discriminatory harassment and bullying. It includes reference to LGBTQ which is one of the items discussed at the last ASBA AGM.
- Policy EEAB Transportation Limits of Service policy has been amended to allow for more flexibility over the safety of where bus stops are.
- Policy GBCD Mandatory Record Checks – All staff and volunteers with a class or program must have a criminal record check done every 5 years with an annual statutory declaration.
- Policy JHA Donations and Fundraising for facilities – allows for corporations or individuals to donate money for facilities
- New Education Act update – They've made a Regulatory Review Committee, comprised of four MLAs and a public member previously involved in the
- Inspiring Education initiative. The committee will work with all stakeholders to develop regulations in support of the new legislation.
- Sarah Thompson School Site Improvement – will use up to \$96,590 to upgrade and fence the playing fields of Sarah Thompson School in exchange for long term lease of additional 2.3 acres of land due to the inadequate size of the MSR school site.
- New approval for Cochrane K-8 School but we needed 2 Airdrie elementary schools in same approval
- Capital Plan approved. New Langdon Elementary and High school are in the 2016 budget year for approvals but we need approvals for several other schools with areas of higher utilization first
- FI duel vs single debate
- May 14 Community Engagement meeting. Morning session postponed until fall but the Assessment session will still be at 1:00 pm.
- PAT's will be replaced by a new assessment intended to help educators assist kids better in terms of knowing what they already know and what they need to improve. They will be administered at the beginning of the year to help target areas of need through out the year. Grade 3 students will be first to write the new assessments, with pilots starting in September 2014. Full implementation for Grade 3 is expected by September 2015. Pilots for Grades 6 and 9 are scheduled to begin in 2015 and 2016, respectively. The tests maintain a strong focus on literacy and numeracy, but will also help educators and parents understand how well students demonstrate competencies such as creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving.
- On May 6, a new Ministerial Order came out which will ensure our education system is responsive to the needs of all learners and prepares students for success in the 21st century. The policy shift identified in Inspiring Education-namely, to place less emphasis on content and more on

competencies-is the primary focus of the new Ministerial Order. It will serve as the foundation for the development of Alberta's provincial curriculum - including programs of study, assessment, and learning and teaching resources. Albertans, especially students, have told the ministry they want more relevant and engaging curriculum, now and into the future. The new Ministerial Order provides us with a clear focus on building the student competencies of the three E's of an educated Albertan - an engaged thinker and ethical citizen with an entrepreneurial spirit. New curriculum will support a strong foundation of literacy and numeracy and the development of cross-curricular competencies. Students will continue to learn content in subject areas; however, there will be more emphasis on applying knowledge.

As programs of study change, resources and assessments will also change to align with the new directions. These changes will help to ensure that our education system meets the needs of all students in the coming decades.

- April 18 - Board approved the Government of Alberta and ATA contract deal. May 13 the Minister of Ed, Jeff Johnson, signaled his intent to introduce Bill 26, the **Assurance for Students Act**. If passed, the bill will ensure that the remaining boards and two ATA locals benefit from the negotiated agreement their colleagues from across the province already adopted.

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