



Community Meeting

Doing What's Best for Kids

Meeting Notes

Location:	École McTavish Junior High School Gymnasium 352 Parsons Creek Drive
Date:	Monday, July 11, 2016
Time:	7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Meeting Facilitator:	Board Chair J. Thompson & Doug Nicholls, Superintendent of Schools

Item	Topics	Discussion
1.	Call to Order	The Community Meeting was called order at 7:05 p.m. Board Chair J. Thompson welcomed and thanked parent/guardians, students and staff for attending.
2.	Welcome, Introductions and Opening Remarks	<p>Board Chair J. Thompson thanked Trustees and Senior Leadership Team in attendance, introductions followed.</p> <p>Superintendent D. Nicholls welcomed and thanked parents, staff and students who worked extremely hard on the day of the evacuation. It took all of us working together to ensure the safety of everyone. We have had a significant number of staff who have lost homes. Condolences were expressed to families who have lost their homes or homes that sustained damaged.</p> <p>The District is sincerely grateful for the overwhelming number of messages and donations. A complete list will be compiled and shared through our website and social media.</p> <p>We want to acknowledge that everyone had their own personal situations to deal with during the evacuation of students. Parents/guardians, staff and students were thanked for their support during these difficult times.</p>
3.	Programming	<p>Beacon Hill Public School will be operating out of Dr. K. A. Clark Elementary School for the 2016 - 2017 school year. Fort McMurray Christian School will not be moving into Timberlea Public School. The school will remain at their current location for 2016 - 2017. With current resources working on remedial and restoration work in our facilities, the opening of Christina Gordon Public School will be delayed. Christina Gordon Public School will begin the 2016 - 2017 within Timberlea Public School.</p> <p>The Francophone School Board sustained significant damage to their facility. In discussions with the Francophone School Board and Alberta Education - Infrastructure the decision was made to allocate two additional modulars to École McTavish Junior High School. Eight modulars will be used to support the 200 elementary Francophone students for the 2016 - 2017 school year. FMPSD will support the Francophone School</p>

		<p>Board, however we do not want this to impact our student learning. Many of the Francophone students will be moving on to our Westwood Community High School French Immersion Programs.</p> <p>On August 27, 2016 each high school will conduct its own graduation awards ceremonies. The combined Grand March Graduation Ceremony will be held later that evening at MacDonald Island.</p>
4.	Principal's Message	<p>École McTavish Junior High School Principal Scott Barr welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. Our facility is still under a no entry advisory as work continues, however an inventory has been conducted and students have been allowed access to retrieve their locker contents. Staff are looking forward to returning in August. The Grade 9 Farewell is scheduled for August 29th, and the School Awards Ceremonies along with the Inaugural Fine Arts Awards will be scheduled for September. Please continue to monitor the school website and social media for updates.</p>
5.	Mental Health Supports	<p>Assistant Superintendent - Inclusive Education, Shannon Noble shared that a priority for FMPSD in the coming school year will be building resilience with our staff, students and families. We know that everyone in Fort McMurray has been impacted. We have been meeting with other school jurisdictions who have been through similar situations. We have requested additional funding for counselling services so that each school will be well supported next year. We have partnered with Calgary Board of Education and Alberta Health Services to provide in-service training and professional development for all staff. A District Reliance Team will be established to identify students who need additional support. Each Administrator will be working with their staff to develop a plan for the return of their students. As a School District, we understand what families have been through. It is important to recognize that the beginning of the school year is eight weeks away. Alberta Health Services has brought in an additional 50 counsellors to Fort McMurray to provide support should parents feel that their children would benefit from their services.</p>
6.	Staffing	<p>Deputy Superintendent Phil Meagher shared that the Human Resources Department has been able to continue operations largely due to the temporary office set up in Edmonton. Staffing for the 2016 - 2017 is 95% completed. Administrators are instrumental in ensuring we have the correct number of staff and in the right placements. We will have strong staff when the school year begins.</p>
7.	Facilities	<p>Remedial and restoration work continues in all our facilities. We expect our schools to be turned back over to us between August 1 -15, 2016. We will be ready to go for the first day of school, September 6, 2016.</p>
8.	Transportation	<p>At the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting on June 22, 2016, the Trustees approved a motion to waive basic instructional fee for the 2016 - 2017 school year. PEAK and other options courses will continue to have fees attached.</p> <p>Transportation fees have also changed for the 2016 - 2017 school year.</p>
9.	Questions/Answers	<p>All students will progress to the next grade level in September. Grade 12 students were given the option of writing diploma examinations or taking their final awarded mark. For all other students, their final mark is the mark of May 3rd. If students elected to enrol in another jurisdiction, both marks were submitted to Alberta Education who would then take the highest mark as their final mark. If this is not happening, please contact Alberta Education or the School Principal. Reports cards will be available later in August.</p> <p>A challenge for the District next year will be addressing the missed instructional time and curriculum that was not covered. Our staff will work diligently to get students where they need to be. We will need a team effort to get those weeks of instruction back and it will be important to have parent support through this process.</p> <p>Registration is now available online through our website. If you registered in the Spring, there is no need to re-register. If you know you will be leaving the community, please advise your school administrator. ECDP registrations are currently still in paper form and we hope to have this available online by the end of July.</p>

		<p>High School students may access their marks by visiting myPass. Each student has an ID Number that will need be needed to access myPass. If the student attended another school during the evacuation, two marks would be submitted to Alberta Education. The highest mark will be entered.</p> <p>School specific questions, i.e. transcripts, timetable changes, etc. should be directed to your School Administrator.</p> <p>Grade 6 Class Farewells are being discussed. There will be considerable activity in the schools when we return. Once a decision has been made, there will be an announcement.</p> <p>Locker inventory has been completed for Westwood Community High School, Fort McMurray Composite High School, Ecole McTavish Junior High School and Dr. K.A. Clark. Students are welcome to retrieve their items during dates/times that have been announced. When the August dates are available, they will be communicated.</p> <p>In our meetings and discussions with High Prairie/Slave Lake School Administration, they advised us to expect a slow start regarding academics. They also indicated we should focus on building resilience and safe schools. The academics piece will come later. In the fall we will begin to do some assessments and benchmarking to identify the gaps.</p>
10.	Closing Remarks	<p>Superintendent D. Nicholls thanked everyone for their support as we work through this process. There may be a need to make some adjustments in August, but by the time students enter the classroom we will be ready to deliver exceptional classroom support and instruction.</p> <p>Board Chair J. Thompson thanked everyone for keeping our students safe. We recognize that our community is not that same as it was prior to May 3rd, but for now as we adjust to the new normal, we will continue to work together and deal with any challenges that may come forward. We want to ensure parents that our schools will be safe for students to return and we will have the staff and resources that are needed.</p>
11.	Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.