

# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2024/2025



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Board meetings take place in the Central Board room at the Division Office (231 Hardin Street) starting at 2:00 pm. The next meeting is on June 18, 2025. The following are updates from the May 21, 2025, meeting.

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### PRIORITY #1 - SUCCESS FOR ALL

- The Board approved the requisition of locally acquired courses for use by École McTavish High School, Westwood Community High School, Fort McMurray Composite High School and Frank Spragins High School beginning the first semester of the 2025-2026 school year. The material and resources for each course will be as per each course outline.
- The Board approved the 2026/2027 Major Breaks Calendar as presented.
- The Superintendent of Schools and Board evaluations are in progress.
- School Education Plans were presented and reviewed on May 13/14.
- The Board has approved the Annual Division Education Plan and will submit a finalized version to the Minister on May 31st.

### PRIORITY #2 - MAINTAIN SAFE & CARING LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

- The Yearly Advocacy Plan has been deferred to the June Board meeting.
- The Government of Alberta has informed the Board that the modernization of École Dickinsfield and Westwood Community High School has been approved as part of the school capital approval announcements.

## TRUSTEE ENGAGEMENT FOR APR 24 - MAY 21

May 2025

# FINANCIAL UPDATES

As presented by Allan Kallal, Associate Superintendent of Business & Finance;

- The 2025-2026 budget for FMPSD has been prepared to address our student population's increasingly diverse and complex needs. FMPSD is not reflective of the provincial average in demographics, growth, or student complexity, and therefore cannot be equitably supported by funding models based on provincial averages or static estimates.
- FMPSD's number of severely coded students has surged from 367 in 2021-2022 to 579 in 2024-25, a 58% increase. At the current rate, this number could reach 645 students in 2025-26. This represents a 304% faster growth rate than the provincial average, yet funding has not kept pace.
- From 2018/19 to 2024/25, the provincial overall enrollment grew by 10.68%, whereas our Division's overall enrollment grew by 34.03%, or 3.19 times faster than the provincial average. Given our higher growth rate, when you compare the 2023/24 weighted moving average (WMA) of the total provincial average. If we look back one more year in 2022/23, the provincial impact was 1.9% unfunded, whereas our division had 5% unfunded. The impact of the weighted moving average is not equitable to FMPSD students but is more than double the impact of the provincial average. The new funding framework helps, but the Division has had to reduce services for years and has greatly depleted its reserves.
- Class sizes have been increased successively over the years. This year, an increase was considered but not implemented and services were supported through deficit budgeting and reserve utilization.
- Each school has been reviewed with a focus on class configuration data, and each department has been based on the needs to support the Division's goals. Any additional cost escalations or reductions in revenue will result in accelerated utilization of reserves. To balance the budget, annual reductions of \$1.75 million per year for two (2) more years will be required.
- The current funding framework continues to put the Division into deficit budgeting.
- The budget has a projected deficit of \$5.8 million, plus board-funded capital expenditures of \$500,000.
- Without eliminating any average enrollment calculations and funding the growth in severe enrollment, facilities operations and maintenance, and inflation, the Division will deplete its operating and capital reserves by June 2029. Reductions to balance the budget over the next four years will impact every department, program, and school.
- The changes to the transportation funding manual have reduced the requirement for fees. Yellow bus fees will be reduced from \$51 per month to \$15 per month for the 2025-26 school year.



## SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS



### Westwood Community High School - Black Student Union

The Westwood Black Student Union (BSU) proudly presented to the Board of Trustees, highlighting their ongoing initiatives and impact within the community. As part of Black History Month, they have organized a series of engaging events, including cultural showcases, educational workshops, and speaker panels aimed at celebrating Black excellence and heritage. These events provide an opportunity for the community to come together, learn, and honour the rich history and contributions of Black individuals.



### Walter & Gladys Hill - Inclusive Opportunities for All

Walter & Gladys Hill students presented to the Board of Trustees, showcasing the school's dedication to inclusive opportunities for all students. They highlighted impactful programs like the Gay-Straight Alliance, the MCA's ELLA program supporting EAL students, and the vital contributions of classroom Educational Assistants. The presentation underscored the school's commitment to fostering a welcoming and supportive environment for every learner.

## DIVISION SHOWCASE

### École McTavish High School - Travel Club



École McTavish High School's Travel Club recently embarked on an unforgettable adventure to Peru during Spring Break. Students explored breathtaking landscapes, immersed themselves in rich cultural experiences, and created memories that will last a lifetime.

### Westwood Community High School - Travel Club



Westwood's Travel Club recently embarked on a remarkable journey through Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. From exploring historic landmarks to soaking in picturesque alpine landscapes, students created unforgettable memories while experiencing the rich culture of these stunning countries.



### FMPSD Spelling Bee Winners

Congratulations to our incredible Spelling Bee champions; 1<sup>st</sup> Place will travel to Nationals in Toronto

1<sup>st</sup> Primary: Seth Sofoluwe from the Fort McMurray Christian School (Not Pictured)

1<sup>st</sup> (Junior): Ayan Ahmed from the Fort McMurray Islamic School (Not Pictured)

2<sup>nd</sup> (Junior) Eesa Khan from Dave McNeilly School

1<sup>st</sup> (Intermediate): Rayan Ahmed from the Fort McMurray Islamic School (Not Pictured)

2<sup>nd</sup> (Intermediate): Hiba Ali from the Fort McMurray Islamic School (Not Pictured)

3<sup>rd</sup> (Intermediate): Ghazanfar Afridi from the Fort McMurray Islamic School (Not Pictured)



### NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Award - Sarah Khandoker

Huge congratulations to Sarah Khandoker, a Grade 12 student at Westwood Community High School, for receiving the prestigious NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Award. This award honours her outstanding achievements and passion for computing.



### Aloha Math Competition Winners

Congratulations to the incredible champions of the Aloha Math Competition in Spain! A big round of applause to Ali Ahmied, the Grand Champion from Fort McMurray Islamic School, as well as to our 1<sup>st</sup> Runners-Up, Faiza Mehmood from Fort McMurray Islamic School and Shreyoshi Bairagi from Westwood Community High School.