

Board Highlights

“Aspen View Public Schools is committed to preparing our students to achieve success and reach their unique potential through the provision of diverse learning opportunities.”



From the regular meeting held Thursday, May 23, 2024 at Athabasca University

2024-25 Budget

Faced with a \$1.45 million decline in funding and rising costs, the Aspen View Public Schools Board of Trustees approved what Chair Candyce Nikipelo describes as a ‘difficult’ [2024-25 budget](#), which includes a deficit of almost \$500,000 and significant cuts to expenditures, including staffing reductions.

Aspen View’s total budgeted revenue for 2024-25 is approximately \$43.7 million, which is almost \$1.45 million less than was budgeted in 2023-24. Provincial funding, which is Aspen View’s largest revenue source, has decreased by close to \$970,000; approximately 3 per cent less than was budgeted in 2023-24. Federal funding has decreased by over \$347,000, which represents a 22 per cent drop from the 2023-24 budget.

A significant portion of the drop in funding is tied to declining enrolment; Aspen View’s projected enrolment for 2024-25 is 2,596 students, 29 students less than the 2023-24 enrolment of 2,625.

Aspen View’s revenue is also negatively impacted by changes to provincial funding. Funding for socio-economic factors has dropped by 22 per cent, or over \$232,000. Stabilization funding, intended to mitigate the impact of declined enrolment, has been cut by 34 per cent, or over \$197,000.

In addition to declining revenue, Aspen View is also experiencing significant cost escalations due to inflation, including salary grid increases, employee benefit costs, contract costs, and higher costs for repairs and maintenance, supplies, utilities and insurance.

To offset both the decline in revenue and the inflationary cost increases, Aspen View has reduced budgeted expenses by almost \$1.3 million, to \$44.2 million, which is approximately 3 per cent less than was budgeted in 2023-24.

Over \$1.27 million of the spending decrease will be realized through staffing reductions, while increased costs for services, contracts and supplies will be mitigated through planned expenditure reductions in non-school budgets. Instruction spending, which received a \$1.37 million increase in 2023-24, has been reduced by \$1.57 million in 2024-25.

The budgeted deficit of \$499,475 will be funded from operating reserves, which are projected to be at just under \$2.5 million at the end of 2024-25.

2024-27 Education Plan

Katherine Mann, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum & Technology, presented Aspen View Public Schools’ [2024-27 Education Plan](#), which the Board of Trustees unanimously approved for submission to Alberta Education.

The 2024-27 Education Plan maintains Aspen View Public Schools’ three division priorities of Student Success & Completion, Wellness, and Engagement. Within each priority are target outcomes, strategies and performance measures that indicate to stakeholders how progress towards these objectives will be evaluated.

Associate Superintendent Mann highlighted a new target outcome to employ quality assessment practices to achieve high levels of student success.

Athabasca University Lease

- Superintendent Constantine Kastrinos updated the Board of Trustees that Aspen View Public Schools signed a five-year lease agreement, effective July 1, 2024, which will see Aspen View’s division office relocated to the Athabasca University campus, opening the doors for even greater collaboration between the two institutions.

Next Board Meeting:

Thursday, June 13, 2024
10 a.m. - Division Office

Upcoming Events:

June 11, 2024
Diploma Exams start

June 21, 2024
National Indigenous Peoples Day

June 26, 2024
Diploma Exams end

Last day of school for students

June 27, 2024
Last day of school for staff

Trustees:

Ward 1 (North West):
Brenda Fulmore
Ward 2 (North Central):
Anne Karczmarczyk
(Vice Chair)
Dennis MacNeil
Ward 3 (North East):
Candy Nikipelo (Chair)
Ward 4 (South West):
April Bauer
Ward 5 (South Central):
Elohne Chizawsky
Ward 6 (South East):
Donna Cherniwchan

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“Aspen View Public Schools acknowledges Treaty 6 territory: the ancestral and traditional territory of the Cree, Dene, Blackfoot, Saulteaux, Nakota Sioux, as well as the Métis. We acknowledge the many First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples whose footsteps have marked these lands for generations. We recognize the land as an act of reconciliation and gratitude to those on whose territory we reside or are visiting.”