

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, December 7, 2023 at Aspen View Public Schools Division Office

School calendars

The Board of Trustees of Aspen View Public Schools gave final approval to the [2024-25 School Calendar](#), which was approved in principle in October with a number of changes from the original draft.

The first day of school for students is Thursday, August 29, 2024. The calendar includes a November break from November 11-15, 2024, a Christmas break from December 23, 2024 through January 3, 2025, and a Spring break from March 31-April 4, 2025. Six Professional Learning Days are included in the calendar.

The Board of Trustees also gave approval in principle to the draft [2025-26 School Calendar](#), which is very similar to the 2024-25 calendar, except that the Spring Break includes the Easter weekend. The draft 2025-26 School Calendar will be shared with school councils and other stakeholders for feedback. Final approval is slated for December 2024.

Delegation: Rochester School viability

Rochester School parent Candice Jensen presented to the Board of Trustees regarding its review of Rochester School's viability.

She thanked the Board for voting unanimously in 2022 to keep Rochester School open. She noted that the school's current enrolment is higher than was projected in the 2022 Rochester School Viability Study, which keeps its weighted moving average enrolment above the 35 students required to ensure provincial funding remains similar.

Mrs. Jensen expressed concerns about school bus ride times should Rochester School be closed, and suggested that any savings Aspen View may anticipate would be eroded by busing costs.

Superintendent Constantine Kastrinos noted that he will be present at the Rochester School Council meeting on January 16, 2024 and invited community members to attend.

The Board of Trustees will make a decision regarding the future of Rochester School at its January 25, 2024 meeting.

Transportation update

Secretary-treasurer Amber Oko reported that all 61 school bus routes now have drivers, after a number of routes in Grassland, Smith and Smoky Lake were amalgamated due to driver shortages.

She also noted recent incidents of vehicles passing school buses while their red lights are activated. Aspen View has reached out to law enforcement for support, and has shared safety information through its website and social media.

Athabasca County lease agreement

Superintendent Kastrinos advised that Athabasca County has given notice that it will not be renewing Aspen View Public Schools' lease when it expires in June 2024. Therefore, Aspen View will require a new location to house its division office.

Other highlights

- Superintendent Kastrinos advised that Aspen View is in discussions with the Town of Smoky Lake regarding sidewalk access to the new H.A. Kostash School. While construction of the sidewalk is the municipality's responsibility, maintenance, snow removal, liability and other issues require resolution before proceeding with construction on Aspen View property.

- The Board of Trustees unanimously passed second reading of amended *Policy 24 - Information & Technology* and *Policy 31 - Assessment, Evaluation & Reporting of Student Achievement*.

Next Board Meeting:

Thursday, January 25, 2024

10 a.m. - Edwin Parr

Composite School

Upcoming Events:

December 25, 2023 -

January 5, 2024

Christmas Break

January 8, 2024

Classes resume

January 10-30, 2024

Diploma exams

January 31, 2024

Professional Learning Day
(No school for students)

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.”