

Board Meeting Highlights

December 20, 2023



MLA Garth Rowswell meets with BTPS Board of Trustees

MLA Garth Rowswell joined the BTPS Board of Trustees at the December 20th Regular Meeting. Trustees shared with him some of their priorities of advocacy focusing on rural education, including such topics as; professional recruitment and retention, student transportation, the Wainwright Elementary School design process, and Alberta Education's funding model. The Board was pleased to have this opportunity to join in discussion with MLA Rowswell.

Superintendent's Highlights

Trustees joined Superintendent Webb on school visits to discuss the impacts of the AERR on individual schools, as well as taking the opportunity to visit classrooms and engage with students and staff. The Superintendent's Public Speaking Competition is scheduled for April 30, 2024 in Vermilion. Trustees are looking forward to judging the speeches presented by students. Try-a-Trade is scheduled for April 30, 2024. Grade 10 students from across BTPS will have an opportunity to experience a variety of trades and careers at this event. Dates for the Stakeholder Engagements have been scheduled during the month of February. All parents, staff, students, and community members will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the Four Year Education Plan.

IMR Information

Secretary-Treasurer Neale presented the Infrastructure Maintenance Renewal final financial report for the year ending August 31, 2023. During the past year, facilities staff have been working towards continuing the excellent standards of our schools, including spending \$950,000 to maintain our buildings and addressing safety priorities. Significant projects included \$250,000 for LED lighting upgrades at Dewberry School and Dr. Folkins School, and \$54,000 for a lift equipment upgrade at Marwayne Jubilee School. For 2023-24, \$875,000 in IMR projects are being planned and worked on.

Transportation Service Improvements

The Alberta Government provided a funding increase for 2023-24 of \$700,000 to improve transportation services, reduce fees, reduce walking distances, reduce ride times, and improve the recruitment and retention of school bus drivers. For 2023-24, the Board accepted the recommendation of the Superintendent to increase routes mid-year using the additional dollars, including two new rural routes in Vermilion, a new rural route in Innisfree-Delnorte and two in-town routes: one in Wainwright and one in Vermilion. In total, the cost of the new routes is estimated at \$225,000, and for the rural routes will significantly reduce ride times in areas that were among the longest ride times for students. The Board seeks to have students ride the school bus for no longer than 150 minutes per day.

Student Engagement

Students from Provost Public School, Delnorte School, and Dewberry School joined the Regular Meeting and shared their thoughts on community engagement. They were asked questions about living in rural Alberta, how their school connects to their community, and how they would like to be more involved in the community. They gave great insights into the positive aspects of living in rural Alberta and being active in their communities.



Upcoming Dates

Next Board Meeting:

Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 9:30am

For the Board's official meeting minutes, click [HERE](#).

For the full Board agenda and reports, click [HERE](#).

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