

STURGEON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

TRUSTEE TALK

Updates from the Board of Trustees for our Sturgeon Public school community
March 2022



The 2022 Question:

What are the most important things that Sturgeon Public Schools are doing or should be doing to improve student learning in our schools next year?

The nature of Thoughtexchange allows participants to share their ideas and then vote or 'star' on other ideas they feel are important. Participants can log in and check back anytime while the exchange is open to join in the ongoing conversation. The strongest or most supported thoughts will rise to the top for administration to consider when building our Education Plan.

Thoughtexchange 2022

Between April 7th and April 20th Sturgeon Public Schools will be hosting a division-wide online Thoughtexchange Engagement with all stakeholders. It's an exciting and interactive way to keep the conversation going on improving student learning and achievement.



**Sturgeon
Public Schools**
Dare to reimagine learning

Plan In Motion.

Each year the Division has to prepare and update its Three Year Capital Plan and submit it to Alberta Education for approval by April 1st each year.

Corporate Services has been preparing the Capital Plan intended for review and approval by the Government to then fund the approved projects.

The top three priorities include:

- Gibbons School new construction
- École Morinville Public new construction
- Sturgeon Heights School modernization

Due to the age and capacity issues of each of these schools, considerable upgrades or complete replacement is needed to continue to provide a safe and comfortable learning space for students. It takes time for the Government to respond and we anticipate hearing back around March 2023.



Noon Transportation Discontinued.

Based on the decision made at the March 23, 2022, Public Board Meeting, effective the 2022-2023 school year, Sturgeon Public Schools will no longer be offering noon transportation services. This impacts pre-kindergarten transportation across the Division and kindergarten transportation at École Morinville Public.

With the increasing costs of transportation services and decreased utilization rates, the Division is no longer able to sustain the cost of providing these

services. The elimination of noon transportation services will help offset the Division's transportation cost escalation due to anticipated increases in fuel rates and carbon tax.

The Division must prepare a balanced budget for review and approval by the Board, on an annual basis. Transportation Services reviewed the implication of the inflationary and budgetary pressures for the upcoming school year and is expecting a large deficit of over \$700,000. To offset this anticipated deficit, administration has been working through scenarios for consideration by the Board, one of the scenarios is the elimination of Noon Student/Child Transportation Services.

The Noon Student/Child Transportation Service is ineligible for funding by Alberta Education and, despite charging fees to families, it runs a significant deficit each year. By eliminating Noon transportation across the Division, the Board will realize a savings of \$122,635 against the large deficit.

To offset the anticipated transportation deficit, Transportation Services will be bringing forward other scenarios for Board consideration including eligible/ineligible ridership and transportation fee increases.

Focused and Effective Communication

Focused and effective communication is an interest-based dispute resolution approach for dealing with communication and challenges between internal and external stakeholders.

Administrative Procedure 221 - *Focused and Effective Communication* clearly defines the process for open communication and dispute resolution in Sturgeon Public Schools.

Read the full Administrative Procedure [here](#).