



TRUSTEE TALK

Updates from the Board of Trustees for our Sturgeon Public School Community
December 2022



2022-2023 Council of School Councils' Spring Meeting

Each year the Board of Trustees seeks to host a meeting with the School Council Chairs or Vice Chairs to encourage communication between School Councils and the Board of Trustees. The first meeting for the 2022-2023 school year took place on Tuesday, October 25, 2022, at the Morinville Rendez Vous Centre. The second 2022-2023 Council of School Councils' meeting will take place in person at École Morinville Public on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. with snacks and light refreshments.



The Board of Trustees would like to extend warm holiday wishes to our staff, our students, our families, our school communities, and our many partners in education. We hope you take time to rest and celebrate quality time with your loved ones. Enjoy your well-deserved break!



Fuel Price Subsidy

The Fuel Rate Contingency Program was announced in July 2022 with a retroactive payment for the period of March to June 2022 and is continuing to be awarded to Divisions in 2022-2023, as long as the fuel price for diesel remains above \$1.25/litre.

Sturgeon Public Schools received a total payment of \$143,729 for the Fuel Contingency Program in July. This amount was divided between the total kilometers travelled between March and June 2022 for all buses. This resulted in an approximate payment of \$0.21/kilometer that was directed to the Contractors. This payment was processed to Contractors on July 21, 2022.

Starting September 2022, the Division will receive a monthly Fuel Contingency payment around the 15th of the following month, as calculated by Alberta Education. To date, the Division has received three payments. Alberta Education uses the distance rate model that the Division used prior to the change implemented in September 2020. The government distance rate is adjusted to market fuel price, either monthly or as established during the budgeting process as an average for the actual market prices. The formula for the distance rate is:

$$\text{Base fixed rate} + (\text{Market Fuel Price}/\text{Consumption rate})$$

For comparison purposes, below is the calculation of the distance rates side by side for both methodologies:

	Sep 2020		Sep 2021		Sep 2022		Nov 2022	
Base fixed rate	\$0.60		\$0.60		\$0.60		\$0.60	
Consumption rate	3.09		3.09		3.09		3.09	
Market Fuel Price	\$0.922		\$1.238		\$1.734		\$1.909	
Market Rate/Consumption Rate	\$0.298		\$0.401		\$0.561		\$0.618	
Distance Rate	\$0.898	\$0.93	\$1.01	\$0.98*	\$1.161	\$1.28	\$1.218	\$1.28

*plus \$0.21/km fuel subsidy already paid in 21-22 for 4 months (if annualized leads to \$0.08/km).

Based on the analysis included above, the distance rate paid to the Bus Contractors for 2022-2023 to date, already incorporates the market fuel price escalations.

At the December 21, 2022, Public Board meeting, the Board approved the distribution of the fuel price contingency to the Bus Contractors, as received by the Division on a monthly basis during the 2022-2023 school year. As a result, the Board is now required to obtain Ministerial Approval to further extend the access to the Division's reserves, equal to the deficit that the fuel subsidy was intended to offset in the Division's 2022-2023 budget.