



**DATE:** March 22, 2023  
**TO:** Board of Trustees  
**FROM:** Shawna Warren, Superintendent  
**ORIGINATOR:** Superintendent’s Office  
**GOVERNANCE POLICY:** [Policy 125 – Advocacy Plan](#)  
[Policy 225 – Board Responsibility and Conduct](#)  
**ADDITIONAL REFERENCE:** Assurance Domains – [Governance and Local & Societal](#)  
**SUBJECT:** PSBAA The Advocate – Board Chair’s Message

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**PURPOSE:**

For information.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Public Schools Boards’ Association of Alberta (PSBAA) has a monthly newsletter that is distributed to all member boards called *The Advocate*. A feature that was introduced in 2020 proved to be a popular addition to the newsletter. So popular, that PSBAA has carried it through the 2021-2023 school years. This feature is the *Board Chair’s Message*.

Each Board Chair is given the opportunity to provide approximately 200-250 words +/- (two to three paragraphs) on a topic of their choice of what is happening in their Division.

As per the schedule set by PSBAA, Sturgeon Public School Board Chair’s message was approved by the Board Chair on January 20, 2023 and sent in January 2023 for the February 2023 publication of *The Advocate*.

Administration is prepared to respond to questions at the March 22, 2023, Public Board meeting.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. The Advocate – February 2023 – Sturgeon Public Schools’ Board Chair’s Message



## A Warm Welcome to PSBAA's Newest Member Board: Peace River School Division!

We are very pleased to officially welcome our newest public school board member to the Association – [Peace River School Division](#).

We believe Public School Boards are stronger together and that the collective voices of all our members is impactful. The Association is honored to represent and advocate for our board members on the key issues facing K-12 education in Alberta. We now have twenty-seven members, and we couldn't be happier to represent each board on their unique needs.

[Peace River School Division](#) believes it takes a village to raise a child and they take great pride in their divisions national and provincial award-winning online engagement strategies that empower school communities to make their schools event better. The division focuses on engaging their students, staff and the local public to ensure everyone can grow and learn together. ([Please read our press release here](#))

Peace River School Division offers high quality educational opportunities and a broad range of extracurricular and sports programs to 3000 students in 21 schools within their division. The division covers 13,000 square kilometers, serves 11 communities and transports approximately 2847 students per day in their division and the two neighbouring school divisions. To say they cover a large geographic area is an understatement!

We once again welcome the Peace River School Division to the Association and look forward to working together over the coming months.

## BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

[Sturgeon Public Schools](#) is proud to partner with leading post-secondary institutions to provide our students with meaningful pathways to higher education. Our students have the opportunity to take college-level courses at institutions such as Lakeland College, Olds College, Northern Gateway College and NAIT, earning both high school and post-secondary credits in the comfort of their own schools.

We are excited to announce a new partnership with NAIT in the field of Advanced Welding. Our [Sturgeon Composite High School](#) is known for its innovative [career and technology programming](#). This partnership will allow students to take online theory classes and engage in practical lab days at NAIT, earning credit for the Advanced Welding program as well as fulfilling high school graduation requirements.

In Spring 2023, we will be offering 15 students the opportunity to participate in the NAIT welding partnership and extending the invitation to neighbouring school divisions such as St. Albert Public Schools. This Advanced welding partnership with NAIT is the first of its kind and we are equally excited to be sharing in this endeavor with our neighbours to ensure the program's success and bring career readiness to more Alberta students.

Our new partnership with NAIT is the latest example of Sturgeon Public's commitment to working with local businesses and communities to ensure education is relevant, while meeting the needs of families in the Heartland. We continue to grow our [Registered Apprenticeship Program](#), Green Certificate and work placement options in addition to expanding Dual Credit options. We are proud of the hard work our teachers are doing to equip students with the skills to be successful in trades, the workforce and in further studies. Innovation and collaboration are key to our mission of providing students with the best possible education.

