



**DATE:** June 28, 2023  
**TO:** Board of Trustees  
**FROM:** Shawna Warren, Superintendent  
**ORIGINATOR:** Shawna Warren, Superintendent  
Jonathan Konrad, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services  
**GOVERNANCE POLICY:** [Policy 100 – History of Sturgeon Public Schools](#)  
**ADDITIONAL REFERENCE:** Assurance Domain – [Local & Societal](#)  
**SUBJECT:** Policy 100 – History of Sturgeon Public Schools

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**PURPOSE:**

For approval. Motion required.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

- a) That the Board of Trustees approve the revised Board *Policy 100 – History of Sturgeon Public Schools* as recommended by the Policy Committee and presented at the June 28, 2023, Public Board meeting.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Board of Trustees is responsible to review Board Policies on an ongoing basis in order to adhere to the requirements necessary to provide excellence in public education and comply with the Education Act and provincial, as well as federal, legislation. The following revised policy is in support of this responsibility.

Administration has reviewed and updated *Policy 100 – History of Sturgeon Public Schools* as part of its review of policies that fall under the Superintendent’s Office.

The Policy Committee reviewed and updated *Policy 100 – History of Sturgeon Public Schools* at their June 7, 2023, committee meeting and has recommended it to the Public Board meeting for approval.

Administration is prepared to respond to questions at the June 28, 2023, Public Board meeting.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

- 1. Policy 100 – History of Sturgeon Public Schools – Rewrite
- 2. Policy 100 – History of Sturgeon Public Schools – Current

# **Policy 100 - History of Sturgeon Public Schools**

## **1.0 Policy**

1.1 The Board believes in the importance of acknowledging and celebrating the history and development of Sturgeon Public Schools. Understanding how the school division has grown and changed over the years supports better community involvement, a greater sense of belonging, and a clear appreciation of the hard work that has built a great rural public education school division.

## **2.0 Guidelines**

2.1 Each year the Superintendent (and/or designate) will review and revise the History of Sturgeon Public Schools and provide the changes as Appendix A to this policy, in addition to informing the Board of Trustees at the Public Board meeting, and School Administration at the Administrative Council meeting in October each year.

## **References:**

100: Appendix A – A History of Sturgeon Public Schools



## Appendix A - A Short History of Sturgeon Public Schools

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The Province of Alberta was founded within the Dominion of Canada in 1905. The system of education which had been in force in the Northwest Territories was continued and provided education up to the grade eight levels.

By 1935, Alberta was more widely settled and with the rapid advancement of the age of technology, there was a demand from industry and the public in general for higher education. Due to the poor financial state of many of the rural school districts following the depression of the 1930s, it was necessary for the Provincial Government to act. Consequently, in 1936, legislation was passed which provided for the establishment of school divisions.

The Sturgeon School Division, consisting of five sub-divisions, was formed by Ministerial Order on January 1, 1939, the five trustees having been elected shortly prior to its formation.

The following five trustees were sworn in at the first organizational meeting held on December 6, 1938:

Sub-division No. 1	Mr. J. G. Dusseault
Sub-division No. 2	Mr. Angus L. McGillis
Sub-division No. 3	Mr. Harry Speers
Sub-division No. 4	Mr. John E. Holmes
Sub-division No. 5	Mr. M. D. Tkachuk

Mr. Speers was appointed Chairman of the Board; Mr. J. E. Holmes, Vice-Chairman; Mr. E. Meaden was appointed Secretary-Treasurer; and Mr. J. J. LeBlanc was the provincially appointed Superintendent of Schools for the Division.

At the time of its inception, the Sturgeon School Division consisted mainly of one and two-room schools with a few larger schools. Gradually the idea of centralizing the schools around major villages became popular, but the progress of this re-organization was interrupted by the commencement of World War II.

1939, saw the schools of Bon Accord School District No. 438, Camilla School District No. 470, Namao School, and Gibbons School District included in the Sturgeon School Division. This also included Ufford School District No. 2328 (which went on to become Redwater School District No. 2328) that remained a part of Sturgeon School Division until June 1, 1947.

One of the alternatives to centralization during this period was the formation of dormitories. One such dormitory was established in Bon Accord in 1943.

Following the cessation of hostilities, centralization was resumed, and the dormitories were closed by 1949.

Between January 1, 1947, and June 1, 1948 St. Albert School District No. 3 (RCP) and the Legal School District No. 1738 were included in the Sturgeon School Division. In 1947, the Thorhild School Division No. 57 and the Westlock School Division No. 37 were formed which resulted in Sturgeon losing a total of 30 sub-divisions to these new school divisions.

With the acquisition of "New Town" status by the Town of St. Albert in 1957, the St. Albert School District was excluded from the Sturgeon School Division. In 1959, the people of the Amelia School District requested and were granted permission to become part of the County of Thorhild.

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## Appendix A - A Short History of Sturgeon Public Schools

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In 1955, due to a re-organization of the boundaries of the municipalities and the school districts and in preparation for introduction of the County System in the Province, the Vimy School District was lost to Westlock.

With the formation of the County of Sturgeon in January 1961, Sturgeon School Division ceased to exist, and the School Committee of the County assumed the responsibilities for the administration of education formerly vested in the Divisional Board.

Pursuant to a plebiscite requested by the electors, the area reverted from the County of Sturgeon No. 15 to the Municipal District of Sturgeon No. 90, and School Division status on July 12, 1965.

By Ministerial Order dated October 13, 1966, the number of sub-divisions within the Sturgeon School Division was reduced from five to four, following the exclusion of the seven sub-divisions comprising the Legal centralization. This resulted in a reduction of the Board membership to four Trustees.

In September 1966, some high school facilities within the Division were closed and high school students were sent to St. Albert and Edmonton to complete their education. By September 1970, all high school students were being educated in St. Albert and Edmonton.

In September 1971, Sturgeon Heights School opened as part of Sturgeon School Division. This allowed the division to accommodate students from the closure of Cunningham School in Morinville in 1969.

In the fall of 1972, the Morinville Hutterite Colony School joined the Sturgeon School Division.

On September 6, 1977, following public petition, Sub-division No. I of the County of Thorhild was transferred to Sturgeon School Division, increasing the number of trustees to five. In October of that year, following some re-arrangement of the sub-divisions, and at the request of the Minister, seven trustees were elected. This brought the community of Redwater into Sturgeon School Division.

In 1977, the Division constructed Sturgeon Composite High School which offers a comprehensive selection of academic, complimentary and Career and Technology studies (CTS) programming.

In the years 1976 - 1979 an increase of 2,400 students (from 2,300 to 4,700) was experienced. Since 1979, enrolments remain relatively stable at approximately 5,400 students.

During the 1981 - 1982 school year, the City of Edmonton annexed a portion of the south-east corner of the M.D. of Sturgeon which included the Horse Hill School which, as a result, was transferred to the Edmonton Public Schools in July 1982. Many of the remaining rural residents from the Horse Hill area came to Landing Trail School. This annexation, coupled with a down-turn in Alberta's economy, resulted in a 'dip' in enrolments during the period 1983 to 1986.

On December 2, 1982, Landing Trail School officially opened. Currently a K-4 school, it first opened to serve rural students K-9 around the town of Gibbons.

On February 17, 1983, Ochre Park School, was opened to serve the community of Redwater.

## Appendix A - A Short History of Sturgeon Public Schools

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May 1984, saw the official opening of Lilian Schick School to serve the Bon Accord community.

In the spring of 1989 the Board of Trustees, in keeping with the philosophy of the ward system, resolved to make electoral boundaries and attendance boundaries co-terminus wherever feasible.

In September 1994, Guthrie School at Lancaster Park, Canadian Forces Base Edmonton, became part of Sturgeon School Division.

In September 1995, Oak Hill School in Bon Accord also came under the Division's jurisdiction. Oak Hill School had been previously administered by Sturgeon School Division from 1979 until 1990.

In November 1995, the Division opened an alternative education program, the Sturgeon Learning Centre, to provide educational learning opportunities for senior high students and young adults.

In the fall of 1996, the School Division launched one of the first educational wide area networks in Alberta, *Route #24*, that introduced the Internet and a variety of related technology as an instructional tool to enhance student learning. In January 2000, the Division upgraded to a wireless network with the assistance of an Innovation Grant from Alberta Learning.

In July 1997, the alternate school programs were expanded to include the Morinville Learning Centre, which was originally developed in partnership with the Greater St. Albert Catholic Regional Division. Sturgeon School Division assumed full responsibility for the Centre in 1999. In 1999, the Sturgeon Learning Center celebrated the graduation of its first group of students who had successfully completed the Alberta Diploma requirements.

Significant building projects that occurred during the latter half of the 1990's included the modernization of Bon Accord School in 1998, the building of the Morinville Colony School in 1999 and the replacement of Guthrie School in Lancaster Park, Edmonton Garrison was completed in 2003.

In September 2003, the Redwater Learning Center was established and served local students until its closure in 2010.

A modernization of Namao School was completed in 2010.

In June 2011 as per the St. Albert and Sturgeon Valley School Districts Establishment Act, Sturgeon School Division was charged with the responsibility of providing public education to students resident to the Towns of Morinville and Legal. Classes in Morinville started out in the local Community Cultural Centre (grades 1 - 4) and the Parish Hall (Pre-School - Kindergarten). In September 2012, the Government of Alberta transferred George P. Vanier School in Morinville from Greater St. Albert Catholic School Division (GSCRD) to Sturgeon School Division. The school was renamed Morinville Public Elementary School and opened its doors in September 2012.

In September 2014, Morinville Public Elementary School was renamed Morinville Public School to reflect the addition of Junior High classes with the first group of Grade 7 students.



## Appendix A - A Short History of Sturgeon Public Schools

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A major modernization of Sturgeon Composite High School was completed at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year.

In September 2019, Morinville Public School split into two schools: Morinville Public Elementary School and Four Winds Public School. Both schools were housed in the same building awaiting the new 5-9 school build.

Morinville Public Elementary School was renamed to École Morinville Public School in September 2019, to recognize the school as a dual-track Public Education program.

In January 2020, a newly built school called Four Winds Public School opened its doors to students in Grades 5 to 9 in Morinville for the 2019-2020 school year.

A modernization of the Frank Robinson Education Centre was completed in 2020.

The rebuild of Camilla School in Rivière Qui Barre was completed in March 2021.

In September 2021, Sturgeon Public Virtual Academy was opened in response to the positive online learning experience supporting students through the COVID-19 Pandemic.

## Appendix A - A Short History of Sturgeon Public Schools

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### Past and Present Trustees

ALLEN, Hugh	1952 - 1954	McCUE, Arthur	1951 - 1955
AUSTIN, Reg	1965 - 1974	McDONELL, John	1965 - 1983
BAUMAN, John	1980 - 1995	McGILLIS, Angus	1939 - 1944
BEVINGTON, Don	1961 - 1965	MAHE, Paul	1951 only
BEVINGTON, Joyce	1977 - 1989	MARTINEAU, Ferd	1945 - 1950/ 1965 - 1966
BILECKI, Olga	1974 - 1977		
BORLE, Ed	1957 - 1960	MESSIER, Ladis	1951 - 1954
BRIGGS, Cindy	2021 -	MILLER, Wendy	2004 - 2017
BUGA, Stacey	2021 -	MILLIGAN, Richard	1989 - 1998
CHAUVET, Paul	1945 - 1954	MILLIGAN, Robert	1998 - 2010
CLEMENT, C.	1960 only	MURRAY-ELLIOTT, Trish	2019 -
COMO, Roy	1962 - 1964	MYCHASIW, Michelle	2013 - 2016
COURCHESNE, Ed	1961 - 1964	NOBERT, Alphonse	1961 only
CUNNINGHAM, Toby	1945 - 1956	NOWAK, Tracy	2007 - 2017
DEEDMAN, William	1965 only	OATWAY-MCLAY, Tasha	2017 -
DUSSEAULT, Joseph	1939 - 1944	PASICHNEY, William	1944 - 1946
DWYER, Joe	2017 -	PAUL, Harold	1969 - 1977
EVERITT, Keith	1977 - 1986	PEQUIN, Janine	2017 -
FEATHERLEY, Misty	2013 - 2021	PORTER, Bruce	1951 only
FLYNN, Willie	1956 - 1965	PORTER, Shelly	2010 - 2013/ 2014 - 2017
FORCADE, Lionel	1955 - 1959		
FRAZIER, Penny	2004 - 2007	REYNOLDS-KUIPER, Dorothy	1986 - 1992
FUNDYTUS, Careen	1995 - 2010	REYNOLDS, Linda	1992 - 1998
GARON, Leo	1940 - 1943	ROSS, Neil	1947 - 1951
GERVAIS, Therese	1995 - 2004	ROSS CARLETON, Micky	1986 - 2004
GRAY, Brent	2010 - 2013	RYE, Lawrence	1961 - 1965
GIBBONS, Irene	2021 -	REMILLARD, D. (Mrs.)	1955 - 1957
HOLE, Lois	1967 - 1979	SHERWIN, Shane	2017 - 2018
HOLMES, John	1939 - 1948	SIMONOWITS, Robert	1995 - 1998
HORNER, Gail	1998 - 2007	ST. ONGE, Harvey	1966 only
HOOD, Don	1977 - 1980	SPEERS, Harry	1939 - 1950
HRYNCHUK, Fred	1998 - 2010	STEVENS, Joyce	1983 - 1992
JENKINS, Archie	1955 - 1960	TKACHUK, M.D.	1939 - 1940
JEWELL, Terry	1980 - 1995/ 1998 - 2021	VAN DE WALLE, Walter	1958 - 1965
		VENESS, William	1953 - 1955
KLUFAS, Harry	1980 - 1986	VISSCHER, Cathy	1992 - 1995
KLUTHE, Lawrence	1965 only	WALKER, Stanley	1961 - 1965
KOHLE, Elizabeth	2007 - 2021	WALL, Ruth	1977 - 1980
KONSORADA, Nick	1965 only	WARD, Jim	1977 - 1980
KRIEGER, Daryl	2010 - 2013	WILSON, George	1965 - 1969
LESBURG, Albert	1965 - 1967	WILSON, Lloyd	1956 - 1960
		ZUIDEMA, Peter	1980 - 1998

## Appendix A - A Short History of Sturgeon Public Schools

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### Past and Present Superintendents

WARREN, Shawna	2022 -
CAMPBELL, Mary Lynne R.	2018 - 2022
DICK, Michèle	2007 - 2018
MILLER, Evan	2000 - 2007
ROBERTSON, J. Kenneth	1998 - 2000
HOGARTH, John	1994 - 1998
THIESSEN, Roy D.	1986 - 1994
TAYLOR, Anthony	1985 - 1986
HEPPLER, Walter	1979 - 1985
ROBINSON, Frank	1970 - 1979
KUNST, A. E.	1964 - 1970
SWAN, J. F.	1955 - 1964
SCOTT, R. J.	1939 - 1942 & 1945 - 1955
ERICKSON, E. M.	1942 - 1945
LE BLANC, J. J.	1938 - 1939 & 1942

### Past and Present Secretary Treasurers

LEVESCONTE, Liliana	2020 -
BROOKS, Charmaine	2018 - 2020
PAULIK, Iva	2013 - 2018
PARASYNCHUK, Karen	2002 - 2013
PILSNER, Marlene	2000 - 2002
ISBISTER, Andrew	1997 - 2000
LLOYD, Murray	1984 - 1997
KRAUSKOPF, Charles	1965 - 1984
NOBERT, Alphonse	1962 - 1965
MEADEN, E.	1938 - 1962





## 100: History of Sturgeon Public Schools

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By 1935, Alberta was more widely settled and with the rapid advancement of the age of technology, there was a demand from industry and the public in general for higher education. Due to the poor financial state of many of the rural school districts following the depression of the 1930s, it was necessary for the Provincial Government to take action. Consequently, in 1936, legislation was passed which provided for the establishment of school divisions.

The Sturgeon School Division, consisting of five sub-divisions, was formed by Ministerial Order on January 1, 1939, the five trustees having been elected shortly prior to its formation.

The following five trustees were sworn in at the first organizational meeting held on December 6, 1938:

- Sub-division No. 1     Mr. J. G. Dusseault
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One of the alternatives to centralization during this period was the formation of dormitories. One such dormitory was established in Bon Accord in 1943.

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Since the re-formation of Sturgeon School Division in 1965, numerous changes have taken place within the area. In the spring of 1989 the Board of Trustees, in keeping with the philosophy of the ward system, resolved to make electoral boundaries and attendance boundaries co-terminus wherever feasible.

In September 1966, some high school facilities within the Division were closed and high school students were sent to St. Albert and Edmonton to complete their education. By September 1970, all high school students were being educated in St. Albert and Edmonton. In 1977, the Division constructed Sturgeon Composite High School which offers a comprehensive selection of academic, complimentary and Career and Technology studies (CTS) programming.

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A major modernization of Sturgeon Composite High School was completed at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year. Additional new builds for Sturgeon Public Schools are expected over the coming years. A new school, Four Winds Public School in the Town of Morinville is being built and is expected to open in 2020; the rebuild of Camilla School in Rivière Qui Barre is expected to break ground in the 2018-2019 school year and a modernization of the Frank Robinson Education Centre in the Town of Morinville was commenced in the 2018-2019 school year.

ALLEN, Hugh 1952 - 1954  
AUSTIN, Reg 1965 - 1974  
BAUMAN, John 1980 - 1995  
BEVINGTON, Don 1961 - 1965  
BEVINGTON, Joyce 1977 - 1989  
BILECKI, Olga 1974 - 1977  
BORLE, Ed 1957 - 1960  
CHAUVET, Paul 1945 - 1954  
CLEMENT, C. 1960 only  
COMO, Roy 1962 - 1964  
COURCHESNE, Ed 1961 - 1964  
CUNNINGHAM, Toby 1945 - 1956  
DEEDMAN, William 1965 only  
DUSSEAUULT, Joseph 1939 - 1944  
DWYER, Joe 2017 -  
EVERITT, Keith 1977 - 1986  
FEATHERLEY, Misty 2013 -  
FLYNN, Willie 1956 - 1965  
FORCADE, Lionel 1955 - 1959  
FRAZIER, Penny 2004 -2007  
FUNDYTUS, Careen 1995 -2010  
GARON, Leo 1940 - 1943  
GERVAIS, Therese 1995 - 2004  
GRAY, Brent 2010 - 2013  
HOLE, Lois 1967 - 1979  
HOLMES, John 1939 - 1948  
HORNER, Gail 1998 - 2007  
HOOD, Don 1977 - 1980  
HRYNCHUK, Fred 1998 -2010  
JENKINS, Archie 1955 - 1960  
JEWELL, Terry 1980 - 1995/1998 -  
KLUFAS, Harry 1980 - 1986  
KLUTHE, Lawrence 1965 only  
KOHLE, Elizabeth 2007 -  
KONSORADA, Nick 1965 only  
KRIEGER, Daryl 2010 - 2013

McGILLIS, Angus 1939 - 1944  
MAHE, Paul 1951 only  
MARTINEAU, Ferd 1945 -  
1950/1965 - 1966  
MESSIER, Ladis 1951 - 1954  
MILLER, Wendy 2004 - 2017  
MILLIGAN, Richard 1989 - 1998  
MILLIGAN, Robert 1998 - 2010  
MURRAY-ELLIOTT, Trish 2019 -  
NOWAK, Tracy 2007 - 2017  
OATWAY-MCLAY, Tasha 2017 -  
PASICHNEY, William 1944 - 1946  
PAUL, Harold 1969 - 1977  
PEQUIN, Janine 2017 -  
PORTER, Bruce 1951 only  
PORTER, Shelly 2010 -  
2013/2014 - 2017  
REYNOLDS-KUIPER, Dorothy  
1986 - 1992  
REYNOLDS, Linda 1992 - 1998  
ROSS, Neil 1947 - 1951  
ROSS CARLETON, Micky 1986 -  
2004  
RYE, Lawrence 1961 - 1965  
REMILLARD, D. (Mrs.) 1955 - 1957  
SHERWIN, Shane 2017 - 2018  
SIMONOWITS, Robert 1995 -  
1998  
ST. ONGE, Harvey 1966 only  
SPEERS, Harry 1939 - 1950  
STEVENS, Joyce 1983 - 1992  
TKACHUK, M.D. 1939 - 1940  
VAN DE WALLE, Walter 1958 -  
1965  
VENESS, William 1953 - 1955  
VISSCHER, Cathy 1992 - 1995  
WALKER, Stanley 1961 - 1965  
WALL, Ruth 1977 - 1980  
WARD, Jim 1977 - 1980  
WILSON, George 1965 - 1969  
WILSON, Lloyd 1956 - 1960

LESBURG, Albert 1965 - 1967

McCUE, Arthur 1951 - 1955

McDONELL, John 1965 - 1983

ZUIDEMA, Peter 1980 - 1998

### **Past and Present Superintendents**

CAMPBELL, Mary Lynne R. 2018 -

DICK, Michele 2007 - 2018

MILLER, Evan 2000 - 2007

ROBERTSON, J. Kenneth 1998 - 2000

HOGARTH, John 1994 - 1998

THIESSEN, Roy D. 1986 - 1994

TAYLOR, Anthony 1985 - 1986

HEPPLER, Walter 1979 - 1985

ROBINSON, Frank 1970 - 1979

KUNST, A. E. 1964 - 1970

SWAN, J. F. 1955 - 1964

SCOTT, R. J. 1939 - 1942 & 1945 -  
1955

ERICKSON, E. M. 1942 - 1945

LE BLANC, J. J. 1938 - 1939 & 1942

### **Past and Present Secretary**

#### **Treasurers**

PAULIK, Iva 2013 - 2018

PARASYNCHUK, Karen 2002 - 2013

PILSNER, Marlene 2000 - 2002

ISBISTER, Andrew 1997 - 2000

LLOYD, Murray 1984 - 1997

KRAUSKOPF, Charles 1965 - 1984

NOBERT, Alphonse 1962 - 1965

MEADEN, E. 1938 - 1962

## **History**

2019 Apr 24 Initial Approval

2020 Jan 29 Amended

2021 Oct 27 Reviewed

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## **Policy Handbook I. Introduction, Foundations and Philosophical Commitments**