

TRUSTEE TALK

Updates from the Board of Trustees for our Sturgeon Public School Community
September 2023



Communication Plan & Year in Review

Aligning with the Board's value of Communication, the Superintendent is committed to ensuring that open, transparent, positive internal and external communications are developed and maintained. In accordance with this commitment, the Superintendent directs the creation and review of an annual Communication Plan to establish and maintain effective Division and school communication. To view the summary of the Communications 2022 - 2023 Annual Plan Review, and the Communications 2023 -2024 Annual Plan, click [here](#).

Draft 2025 - 2026 School Year Calendar

Our school year calendar process involves Board approval, review by school leaders and School Councils, and input from teachers. After gathering feedback, the final 2025-2026 calendar will be presented for approval at the March 27, 2024, Public Board meeting. To view the draft 2025-2026 calendar, click [here](#).

Indigenous Education & Student Success

During National Truth and Reconciliation Week, from September 25th to 29th, Sturgeon Public Schools honoured the histories and legacies of residential schools, paying tribute to survivors, families, and communities. All students engaged in meaningful activities, guided by resources provided to teachers, aimed at fostering understanding and empathy.

On September 29th, Orange Shirt Day was observed across the Division, with custom-designed shirts available for various staff members. Notably, permanent installations, such as artwork by Eugene Alexis and a Tipi, symbolizing Treaty 6 territory, have been established in schools. Additionally, Treaty 6 and Métis Nation Flags now permanently grace the Frank Robinson Education Centre.

Looking ahead to the 2023-2024 school year, Sturgeon Public Schools is committed to enhancing Indigenous student success and representation. Strategies include forming local partnerships, strengthening community engagement, supporting academic achievement, providing personalized student support, and creating safe, inclusive environments. The plan also emphasizes professional development opportunities and the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives to effect lasting systemic change. Together, these initiatives demonstrate our commitment to reconciliation and holistic student success.



New Curriculum, Provincial Screening and Benchmark Assessments

In the 2023-2024 school year, Sturgeon Public Schools (SPS) is committed to enhancing the new curriculum and supporting teachers. Building on previous efforts, the curriculum working groups will continue to identify key outcomes and provide supporting resources for teachers. A Professional Learning (PL) Menu will offer teachers various high-quality learning sessions tailored to new curriculum areas like computer science and financial literacy.

Additionally, the Division will offer professional learning opportunities to improve literacy and mathematical teaching practices, including book studies and support from Learning Coaches customized to teacher needs. Measurable data will track attendance at working groups and participation in PL sessions.

The Division is also implementing Alberta Education Literacy and Numeracy Screeners in grades 1-4, supporting teachers with the results to align with the new curriculum. Division Benchmark Assessments will help identify students' strengths and challenges, informing instruction and programming. These assessments will cover reading levels, reading comprehension, and math proficiency. Measurable data will track student participation and progress division-wide.

Overall, the Division is dedicated to enhancing curriculum delivery and student learning through these strategic measures.

2023-2024 Transportation Startup Summary

Sturgeon Public Schools is committed to providing safe and efficient student transportation services for eligible students within the Division's boundaries. The responsibility for ensuring safe transportation is shared among employees, bus contractors, parents/guardians, and students.

The start of the school year was successful, with Transportation Services making improvements based on previous stakeholder feedback. Changes included more detailed bus passenger lists, earlier distribution of bus lists to schools, and improved communication with families, both new and returning.

Additional support from an experienced staff member contributed to the smooth start-up, reducing training time and providing excellent support for parents. Despite high call and email volume between August 14 and September 8, from parents seeking transportation information or changes, the Division successfully transported 3,005 students to school.

Notably, Transportation Services received 646 service-related applications between July 14 and September 14 and responded to an average of 29 phone calls per day between August 14 and September 14, highlighting their commitment to serving the school community.

2023-2024 Council of School Councils' Meetings

The Council of School Councils' (COSC) brings together school council chairs and vice chairs to foster communication and collaboration between school councils, the Board of Trustees, and the Division's administrative team. According to *Policy 225*, the Board must meet with COSC at least once a year. This year, two in-person meetings are scheduled for **November 15, 2023, and March 7, 2024**. These meetings allow COSC members to connect, share information, and facilitate better understanding and cooperation between schools and the Board, promoting a stronger educational community.

Updated Policy 225

During the 2023-2024 school year, the Board of Trustees is conducting a thorough review of their governance role, emphasizing an review of their board policies. This demonstrates their commitment to effective governance of and accountability to the Division. At the September 27, 2023, Public Board meeting, the Board approved revisions to [*Policy 225 - Role of the Board*](#), marking a significant step forward in enhancing their governance framework for the benefit of the Division and its stakeholders.

