



Date: November 27, 2024 **Agenda Item:** 7.4
To: Board of Trustees
From: Shawna Warren, Superintendent
Originator(s): Sean Nicholson, Associate Superintendent, Corporate Services
Subject: **Sturgeon Public Virtual Academy Closure**

Recommended Motion:

THAT the Board of Trustees approve the closure of Sturgeon Public Virtual Academy after June 30, 2025.

Background:

The initiation of virtual schools during the COVID-19 pandemic was a response to the unprecedented circumstances, aiming to prioritize safety while ensuring continuity and accessibility of education for students and families. The Division opened Sturgeon Public Virtual Academy (SPVA) as an alternative education choice for families who had concerns that needed to be met through a virtual education platform. Most students have returned to in-person learning and that has led to low enrolment numbers at SPVA.

In response, the Division is changing the format of education programming to model what is in place in the learning centres. Students will be able to complete all academic programming for grades 8 through 12 with asynchronous online learning and in-person support at the learning centre locations. Students are welcome to come and engage in school work at any time at either learning centre location.

Staff will be available for questions and guidance, and students can book specific times for direct instructions or help whenever needed. The Division will continue to strive to meet the diverse needs of students who may not thrive in a traditional school environment and to provide them with the resources and support they need to reach their full potential.

Status & Relationship to Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard (SLQS):

This report aligns with the [SLQS](#) in the following way:

COMPETENCY: (3) Visionary Leadership
INDICATORS: c. promoting in the school community a common understanding of and support for the school authority’s goals, priorities and strategic initiatives; and
d. ensuring that the vision expressed in the school authority’s education plan is responsive to the ongoing review of the school authority’s achievements, meets all requirements

identified in provincial legislation and incorporates the school community's perspectives.

COMPETENCY: (4) Leading Learning
INDICATORS: e. ensuring that staff have access to resources, programs and expertise to support them in meeting their professional responsibilities and in addressing the learning needs of all students.

COMPETENCY: (6) School Authority Operations and Resources
INDICATORS: a. providing direction on fiscal and resource management in accordance with all statutory, regulatory and school authority requirements;
b. ensuring effective alignment of the school authority's human resources to achieve the school authority's education plan; and
e. establishing data-informed strategic planning and decision-making processes that are responsive to changing contexts.

Governance Implications:

[Education Act](#)

Closure of schools

62(1) A board may, only by resolution, permanently or temporarily

(a) close a school, or

(5) A policy established pursuant to subsection (2) related to the permanent closure of a school must provide for

(a) adequate opportunity for the public to respond to the board's proposal to permanently close a school,

[Policy 600: School Closure](#)

The Board understands that changing populations and conditions of buildings may necessitate school closure. A decision to close a school shall be made after considering the input from stakeholders.

Administration is prepared to respond to questions at the November 27, 2024, Public Board meeting.

Attachment(s):

1. Letter Sent to SPVA Families - May 30, 2024



Sturgeon Public Virtual Academy

30 May 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students of Sturgeon Public Virtual Academy (SPVA):

We thank you for continuing to register your child with SPVA. As you may be aware, the initiation of virtual schools during the COVID-19 pandemic was a response to the unprecedented circumstances, aiming to prioritize safety while ensuring the continuity and accessibility of education for students and families. As a result, the Division opened SPVA as an alternative education choice for families who had concerns that needed to be met through a virtual education platform.

As time passes, coming out of the pandemic, most students have returned to in-person learning. Due to low enrolment numbers at SPVA, the Division is changing the format of education to model what is in place in our learning centres for the 2024-25 school year. Students will be able to complete all academic programming for grades 8 through 12 with asynchronous online learning and in-person support at our two learning centre locations: Gibbons and Morinville. There will no longer be regularly scheduled, daily in-person virtual lessons, and for the 2024-25 school year, SPVA will no longer accept registrations for grade 7 students.

Moving away from synchronous, daily in-person instruction will be a challenge for some students, and our staff are committed to ensuring support and enhanced communication is in place to help students and families during this transition. Students are welcome to come and engage in school work at any time at either learning centre location. Staff will be available for questions and guidance, and students can book specific times for direct instruction or help when needed. We will continue to strive to meet the diverse needs of students who may not thrive in a traditional school environment and to provide them with the resources and support they need to reach their full potential. We will also continue to offer the Home Education option to families.

Should you have any questions in regard to your child's education programming for the fall of 2024, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kristin Lapierre
Acting Principal, SPVA and Learning Centres

Acting Principal: Kristin Lapierre

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