

Date: March 19, 2025 **Agenda Item:** 9.1.1
To: Board of Trustees
From: Shawna Warren, Superintendent
Originator(s): Committee of the Whole
Senior Administrative Team
Subject: **ASBA Friends of Education Award Nomination**

Background:

The Alberta School Boards' Association (ASBA) Friends of Education Award recognizes individuals or organizations that have made exceptional contributions to education within Alberta's public, Catholic and francophone school divisions. This prestigious award highlights those who foster learning opportunities, demonstrate leadership in education and provide meaningful benefits to students and school communities. The Sturgeon Public School Division Board of Trustees is proud to nominate the Jessica Martel Memorial Foundation (JMMF) for the 2025 Friends of Education Award in recognition of its transformative contributions to student well-being and community-based learning.

The Jessica Martel Memorial Foundation was established in memory of Jessica Martel, a mother who tragically lost her life to domestic violence. In her honour, the foundation was created to advocate for victims, provide safe shelter and offer educational programming to prevent cycles of violence. Over the years, JMMF has expanded its impact beyond crisis intervention, launching proactive initiatives to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary for personal growth, leadership and resilience.

One of the foundation's most significant contributions to education is the Inspire Program, a groundbreaking initiative embedded within Four Winds Public School in Morinville. The program provides students with access to mentorship, leadership development and holistic wellness support while also fostering cultural awareness and community engagement. Through dedicated on-site staff and a collaborative relationship with educators, the Inspire Program delivers meaningful, hands-on learning experiences that extend beyond the traditional classroom. By focusing on positive peer relationships, Indigenous education, volunteerism and self-empowerment, the Inspire Program has become an essential support system for students, particularly those facing personal and social challenges.

The Board of Trustees firmly believes that JMMF exemplifies the values of the Friends of Education Award. The foundation's unwavering commitment to student success, its dedication to fostering strong relationships within the education community and its ability to deliver lasting benefits to students make it a deserving recipient. By bridging the gap between education and community services, the Jessica Martel Memorial Foundation has

had a profound and measurable impact on student well-being and achievement, making it an invaluable partner in public education.

This nomination reflects Sturgeon Public School Division's appreciation for the foundation's leadership in fostering a supportive and inclusive learning environment. Through this recognition, we aim to highlight the Jessica Martel Memorial Foundation's innovative approach to student empowerment and the extraordinary role it plays in strengthening the educational landscape of our community.

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

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

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|--------------------|--|
| COMPETENCY: | (1) Building Effective Relationships |
| INDICATORS: | a. collaborating with community and provincial agencies to address the needs of students and their families; and
f. facilitating the meaningful participation of members of the school community and local community in decision-making. |
| 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. |
| COMPETENCY: | (4) Leading Learning |
| INDICATORS: | b. providing learning opportunities, based on research informed principles of effective teaching, learning and leadership, to support building the capacity of all members of the school community to fulfill their educational roles; and
d. promoting collegial relations, collaboration, critical thinking and innovation in the school community. |

Governance Implications:

[Education Act](#)

Board responsibilities

33(1) A board, as a partner in education, has the responsibility to

- (d) ensure that each student enrolled in a school operated by the board and each staff member employed by the board is provided with a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging;
- (e) provide a continuum of supports and services to students that is consistent with the principles of inclusive education; and

(f) collaborate with municipalities, other boards and community-based service agencies in order to effectively address the needs of all students and manage the use of public resources.

[Policy 105: Vision, Mission and Values](#)

MISSION

Working together as a team of trustees, parents, community, staff and students, we create safe, respectful and collaborative learning environments where students are prepared to meet and excel at the challenges presented by the global community.

[Policy 110: Welcoming Inclusive, Safe and Healthy Environments](#)

The Board believes in the importance of, and is committed to, establishing, and maintaining a welcoming, inclusive, equitable, safe, and healthy environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging.

The Board believes that all members of the school community, including students, staff members, and community members, have the right to learn, work and volunteer in environments that respect: equity, diversity, inclusion, and human rights. Such environments create the conditions where everyone can prosper.

[Policy 225: Role of the Board](#)

Stakeholder Engagement and Communication

9. Promote the schools' programs which reflect the needs and desires of the community.

Supports and Services

17. Supports the removal of barriers with learning partners and within learning environments; and
18. Develops ongoing relationships with government, school and system leaders, families and community partners to strengthen and renew their understanding, skills and abilities to create flexible and responsive learning environments

Collaboration

19. Promotes positive community engagement within the Division;
20. Represents the community's needs, hopes and desires for education;
21. Supports the schools' programs, needs and desires to the community;

The Board Chair is prepared to respond to questions at the March 19, 2025, Public Board meeting.

Attachment(s):

Not applicable.