

# Board Highlights

September 13, 2011



Livingstone Range  
SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 68

## *Education Services Agreement with Kainai Board of Education*

The Livingstone Range School Board of Trustees approved an Education Services Agreement between Kainai Board of Education and Livingstone Range School Division No. 68 to provide funding for resident students from Livingstone Range who attend a school operated by the Kainai Board of Education. This motion was also approved by Kainai Board of Education and sent to the Minister of Education for his signature. Earlier this year Livingstone Range School Division also signed an Education Services agreement with Peigan Board of Education.

## *Alberta Borrowing Resolution for 2011-12 School Year*

The Board of Trustees approved the Borrowing Resolution for the 2011-2012 school year in accordance with Section 183 of the School Act.

## *Board Policies Updated*

The Board Policy Review Committee completed a review of the following policies and amendments were approved by the Board:

- Policy 2 Assurance Framework
- Policy 3 Role of the Board
- Policy 6 Role of the Board Chair
- Policy 7 Role of the Vice-Chair

## *Organization Meeting*

The Organizational Meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2011 at 10:00. As outlined in Policy 8, in accordance with the School Act, Section 64, an Organizational Meeting shall be held annually. During the organizational meeting the board shall:

- Elect a Board Chair
- Elect a Vice-Chair
- Establish a schedule for regular meetings and planning meetings
- Create such standing committees of the Board in accordance with Policy 9
- Appoint Board representative in accordance with Policy 10
- Establish annual honorarium, benefits, mileage rates or other expense rates
- Review Board member conflict of interest stipulations and determine any disclosure of information requirements

## *Technology Update*

Stephen Harris, Assistant to the Superintendent provided information about the work that was completed in technology over the summer. An external review of the technology needs within the division was completed in 2010-2011 and a plan was developed based on the recommendations within the report.

The work completed to date includes:

- Evergreening technology in four schools (F.P. Walshe, WCCHS, J.T. Foster and G.R. Davis). All of the technology in those schools is new. Remaining schools will be 'evergreened' over the next two summers.

- All computers over four years of age have been decommissioned in schools within the division.
- Cabling upgrades and creating new server rooms took place in 5 schools.
- Every classroom in Livingstone Range has a Smart Board.

### ***Priority Update***

The focus of the updates on Board priorities was the publication of the First Nation, Metis & Inuit Newsletter – a first within the division. The document was developed by First Nation staff to highlight their work with students, schools and the community. A copy of the Newsletter is available on the jurisdiction's website.

### ***Updates on WCCHS Modernization***

Grade 8 and 9 students are now moved into the portables at WCCHS. The former WCCHS site will no longer be available for public use as the Division prepares for the commencement of the modernization project.

The asbestos abatement contract has been awarded and the contractor will mobilize on September 26, 2011 to complete that work prior to the construction phase of the project. A walk through with potential general contractors will take place on September 27, 2011. It is anticipated that the building contract will be awarded on October 26, 2011.

### ***Trustee PD Session***

Trustees and senior staff joined a professional development session offered by the Alberta School Board Association through video conference. The session was entitled '*In-Camera Meetings: Should you ever close the door on your public?*' Trustees will discuss questions such as the use of in-camera meetings and committee of the whole meetings at their upcoming Board Planning meeting.

### ***ASBA Representative for Zone VI Comprehensive Health Meeting***

Clara Yagos represented Livingstone Range School Division at the Zone VI Comprehensive Health Meeting which was held on September 14, 2011 in Lethbridge. Trustee Yagos will share the information that she gained during that meeting with trustees at the October Board Meeting.

### ***Enrolment Update***

Preliminary data shows that there are 3,605 students enrolled in Livingstone Range schools compared to 3,669 students in 2010-2011 which is a reduction of 64 students. In June 2010, the predicted enrolment decline was 155 students. Overall, the decline is about 1.7 percent which is less than it has been over the past few years.

### ***Audited Financial Statement In-Service***

As part of the Board's work plan and in preparation for the 2010-2011 School Division Audit, the Board spent time reviewing the 2009-2010 Audited Financial Statements. This in-service served to prepare the Board for the Pre-Audit meeting with auditors that will be held as part of the October Board Meeting.

### ***Board Self-Evaluation***

Mr. Terry Gunderson from the Alberta School Boards Association will work with the Board on September 30, 2011 to complete its annual self-evaluation. Individual trustees will complete survey questions and return them to Mr. Gunderson prior to the end of the month. The data from individual surveys will shape the discussion during the process.

### ***The Great Conversation: Assurance Framework***

On August 29, 2011 Jamie Vollmer, the author of *Schools Cannot Do it Alone: Building Public Support for Schools* led a one day session with representatives from each of our community schools, trustees and Central Office staff. The Board of Trustees completed a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of the day and determined next steps in the process. Dick Peterson, Board Chair, led the SWOT analysis and will facilitate the same process with LRSD administrators in October to collectively determine how to best move forward with community consultation and linking it to the jurisdiction's assurance framework. A recently published article by Jamie Vollmer can be found at <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2011/08/31/02vollmer>

Stephen Harris outlined a three phase process to guide the work. The phases are:

- 1) Engagement/readiness/building relationships
- 2) School self-assessment/stakeholder review/peer review
- 3) School development plans/professional growth plans

Each phase consists of a purpose, related actions and a timeline. Once administrators have the opportunity to provide input and offer suggestions about the framework, it will be shared.

### ***Transformation Meeting, Alberta Education***

On October 6, 2011 Alberta Education is hosting a Fall Education Transformation for schools in rural Alberta. The meeting will take place at the Coast Hotel in Lethbridge from 9:30-4:00. The meetings will be held throughout the province and are designed to follow-up on Alberta Education's *Inspiring Education* initiative through which Albertans indicated a need for our education system to change in order to prepare students for future opportunities and challenges. Each jurisdiction has been invited to send three representatives. Dick Peterson, Board Chair; Martha Ratcliffe, Board Vice-Chair; and Ellie Elliott, Superintendent will attend on behalf of Livingstone Range School Division.

*A copy of the Superintendent's report can be found on the Livingstone Range School Division website at [www.lrsd.ab.ca/board/agenda/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.lrsd.ab.ca/board/agenda/Pages/default.aspx)*

***If you require further information on any of the Board Highlights listed above, please contact the Chairman of the Board, Dick Peterson at (403) 563-3212 or (403) 625-7071 (cell).***