

Good News Items

- Trustee Garry Kissel congratulated the Glendon School girls' volleyball team on winning gold at the school's recent tournament and the boys' team on winning silver in a hard fought match against Cold Lake High School.
- Trustee Maurice Richard congratulated J.A. Williams High School alumnus Dr. Cameron Elliott on being named one of Edmonton's "Top 40 Under 40." Dr. Elliott is a neurosurgery resident at the Li Ka Shing Centre for Health Research and Innovation, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Alberta.
- Trustee Rod Soholt congratulated Cold Lake High School on winning the football "B" Division final. He also acknowledged all of the hard work and dedication of the coaches, parents and officials who make athletic opportunities available for Northern Lights students.
- Board Chair Mandi Skogen complimented Cold Lake Elementary on its annual Pumpkinella event, which featured jack-o-lanterns and a costume parade for students, as well as staff and parents.

Student Voice

J.A. Williams High School student Sarah Adil shared with the Board what she learned through attending the recent Student Voice symposium hosted by the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta.

In addition to learning about the role of a trustee and a school board, Sarah learned about the large network of people across the province who work collaboratively to ensure Alberta students receive a quality education. She also learned that she has the ability to have her voice heard and use it to improve her school and her community.

As a result of her experience, Sarah has started an Interact Club at JAWS. Interact is part of the Rotary Club network and helps with community and international service projects. It is open to students ages 12-18 and each club takes responsibility for one local community service project and one international one.

The Board thanked Sarah for attending Student Voice and commented on how well she represented her school and the Division. They encouraged her to continue to be involved in her school and pursue future Student Voice opportunities.

School Fees

Secretary-Treasurer Paula Elock provided the Board with an overview of the fees collected by schools so far this year.

Elock explained that some of the items that appear as fees are actually refundable deposits. Many of the fees are optional, or only applicable to students enrolled in a particular course.

She noted that compilation of the data is much easier since the Division has started using School Cash Online. School Cash Online has also enhanced the quality of information being shared with parents about fees, through the descriptions provided on the site.

The Board restated its commitment to keeping fees as low as possible for parents. Trustees also emphasized the importance of school councils being aware of their role in approving school fees.

Facilities Update

Director of Facilities Wayne Kurek updated the Board on the progress made to address deficiencies at the new Cold Lake Elementary School. Some items, such as finishing the landscaping in front of the school will not be complete until Spring.

He also discussed initiatives that are underway in the Division to improve energy efficiency, which could be expedited through grants that may become available. In particular, he said replacing existing lighting with LED lighting in the Division's 900,000 square feet of facilities will address energy efficiency and save a lot of money.

Next Board Meeting

The next Regular Board Meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 30 at the Northern Lights Division Office in Bonnyville.

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