

TCS School Council Meeting November 23/21 - Trustee's Report

We had our Fall General Meetings this month, ASBA and PSBA Nov 14-19. There were four advocacy action motions moved of importance. #1-Added transportation dollars to offset the inflationary costs for our Contract Bus Operators, #2-Delay the implantation of the curriculum, #3-Access to reliable internet for all, #4-Remove ministerial approval to access surplus dollars. Minister LeGrange opened our conference. In her speech she mentioned that \$45M has been allocated to assist in the Gr 2-3 learning loss with additional funds being announced for Gr 1 in January. Enrollment dropped by 25k students in 2020/21 across the province. There has been \$64M spent on curriculum development over the last ten years. The government has not landed on what the implementation process for the curriculum will look like and are committed to listening to all feedback received from outside sources and developing resources.

The Board had our swearing in and organizational meeting October 25. All trustees new and returning were sworn in. Elohne Chizawsky has returned to the Board for Ward 5, and we welcome Cindy Lutz in Ward 3. Candy Nikipelo was elected back into the Chair's position and Anne Karczmarczyk to the Vice Chair. I have stepped into ASBA Rep, TEBA, TEAC, Grievance, Labor Relations-ATA, Policy, Finance, Political Advocacy, and Audit committees. We made no changes to remuneration for this year.

At our last budget discussion meeting we took a look at the last five year: we have seen a decrease of 334 students, we have seen a decrease of 3.4 FTE teaching staff and a decrease of 15.5 FTE support staff. This year we still have a 15:1 pupil teacher ratio, there has been no increase to school based fees, and salaries and benefits make up 67% of our budget.

We held a Special Board Meeting November 8 where we had a presentation from Mark Critch who is the president of the Alberta School Bus Contractors Association on the inflationary insurance premiums CBO's are facing, and instructed Administration to draft and implement a Covid19 vaccination status administrative procedure.

Our next Regular Board Meeting November 26 in Athabasca