

FROM THE BOARD

Highlights of the Horizon Board of Education Monthly Meetings

March, 2020

A message from Jim Hack, Horizon School Division Board of Education Chair:

“Our daily lives have changed drastically in a pretty short amount time. Throughout this uncertainty, Horizon staff have gone above and beyond to address the challenges we face. We are so proud of the work they have done, and will continue to do, in support of students and families. Moving into the days and weeks to come, Horizon School Division will ensure that we meet the learning needs of children, wherever they may be, who choose to continue their learning at this time. Plans have been developed to guide this work, and we look forward to getting our supplemental learning opportunities finalized and in place for April 20.

We will continue to provide regular updates as we move through this. Thank you, all. Stay safe. Be kind and take care of each other, Horizon. We are in this together, as Horizon students, families, staff, and communities. We will get through this difficult situation by continuing to support one another, each and every day. ”

March 2020 Regular Meeting

A regular monthly meeting of the Board took place via video and teleconference on Thursday, March 19. All Trustees joined this meeting: Jim Hack (Chair), Linda Mattock (Vice-Chair), David Holinaty, Jennifer Lemky, Mark Fedak, Lori-Anne Proznick, Christine Gradin, Wil Lengyel, Cheryl Vertefeuille, Jolene Koopman, Nathan Bitternose, Paul Crow-Buffalo, Albert Pinacie, and Sheryl Kayseas. Director of Education / CEO, Kevin Garinger, Superintendent of Finance Services / CFO, Sarah Reding, Superintendent of Operational Services / COO, Justin Arendt, and Deputy Director, Randy MacLEAN joined the meeting to provide reports.

“Horizon staff have gone above and beyond to address the challenges we face. We are so proud of the work they have done, and will continue to do, in support of students and families.”

*- Jim Hack,
Board Chair*



Discussion Items:

- COVID-19 Planning
- STF Sanctions Updates
- Saskatchewan Spending Plan Review
- March 31 Special Meeting

COVID-19 Response

During the regular meeting of March 19, Director of Education Kevin Garinger shared information regarding the provincial announcement of indefinite school closures for PreK-12 in Saskatchewan. Discussions included information regarding the education sector's Response Planning Team and their work to develop guidelines and details for offering supplemental learning opportunities for students and families. With the direction of the Board, Horizon's central office was physically closed until further notice, with central office staff equipped to work from home. Please continue to visit horizonsd.ca for regular updates, or call **1-306-682-2558** for Horizon's Communication Centre Hotline with any questions or concerns.

Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation Job Sanctions Update

Deputy Director of Education, Randy MacLEAN, and Director Kevin Garinger led a discussion regarding Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF) job sanctions, which restricted volunteer and extracurricular activities provided by teachers.

*** Note: as of March 27, STF job sanctions have been suspended and are not currently in place.**

Saskatchewan Spending Plan Review

Superintendent of Finance Services / CFO, Sarah Reding, shared information following the Government of Saskatchewan's spending plan announcement. Due to the fluidity of the COVID-19 pandemic, the government postponed its budget, but did announce funding for areas such as Health and Education.

Special Meeting - March 31, 2020

Horizon's Board held a special meeting on Tuesday, March 31 to discuss the current state of education in Saskatchewan, and Horizon's work on supplemental education. Director Garinger discussed the provincial Response Planning Team and subcommittees, Horizon's Supplemental Learning Plan, Business Continuity Plan, Pandemic Plan, and Learning Practice Tool. The Board discussed the suspension of STF job sanctions, which have been lifted as of March 27. Regarding the recent decision of Saskatchewan's Court of Appeal — which overturned a ruling that said the province could no longer fund non-Catholic students attending Catholic schools — Horizon's Board made a motion to support the continuation of the Saskatchewan School Board Association's Public Section litigation to be presented to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Submissions & Feedback

To submit photos or stories regarding the Board of Education or an individual Trustee in your school community, please contact the Horizon School Division Communication Services Officer at lance.hiltz@horizonsd.ca.

We want this newsletter to be as informative and beneficial as possible, so feedback on how we can improve is always welcome.

Thanks for reading!

Next Regular Board Meeting Scheduled for April 22, 2020

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