

MARCH 2022

FROM THE BOARD

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE HORIZON BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTHLY MEETING



WINTER ROAD CLEARING CREWS - OUR HATS ARE OFF

The past few months have offered us some of the most challenging conditions that we've had in years. With record amounts of snowfall, frigid temperatures, blizzards, and days where entire systems of highways were closed, this winter was a doozy!

Throughout the season, provincial highways and rural municipalities worked through treacherous conditions, helping to keep us all safe and travelling where we needed to go.

"We can't thank highways, RM crews, and town crews enough for clearing a path so our students and staff could attend school throughout a very tough winter," said Jim Hack, Board Chair.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the crews of: provincial highways; George Gordon First Nation and all of our First Nations partners; the RMs of Barrier Valley, Bayne, Big Arm, Big Quill, Colonsay, Elfros, Emerald, Fish Creek, Flett's Springs, Foam Lake, Garry, Grant, Hazel Dell, Hoodoo, Humboldt, Insinger, Invergordon, Invermay, Ituna Bon Accord, Kellross, Kelvington, Lake Lenore, Lakeside, Lakeview, Last Mountain Valley, Leroy, Longlaketon, McKillop, Morris, Mount Hope, Ponass Lake, Porcupine, Prairie Rose, Sarnia, Sasman, Spalding, St. Louis, St. Peter, Stanley, Three Lakes, Touchwood, Tullymet, Osborne, Viscount, Wolverine, Wood Creek, and Wreford; the municipalities of Annaheim, Archerwill, Bruno, Bulyea, Cudworth, Drake, Englefeld, Foam Lake, Holdfast, Humboldt, Imperial, Ituna, Kelvington, Lake Lenore, Lanigan, LeRoy, Muenster, Middle Lake, Nokomis, Punnichy, Quill Lake, Raymore, Rose Valley, St. Brieux, Strasbourg, Viscount, Wadena, Wakaw, Watrous, Watson, and Wynyard.

"We can't thank highways, RM crews, and town crews enough for clearing a path so our students and staff could attend school throughout a very tough winter."

-Jim Hack
Board Chair



Thank you!

MEETING ATTENDEES

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Trustee, Subdivision | Trustee, Subdivision | |
| ✓ Jim Hack (Board Chair), 10 | ✓ James Lissinna, 7 | ✓ Kevin Garinger, Director of Education/CEO |
| ✓ Linda Mattock (Vice Chair), 2 | ✓ Cheryl Vertefeuille, 8 | ✓ Sarah Reding, Superintendent of Finance Services/CFO |
| ✓ Jenna Hale, 1 | ✓ Douglas Armbruster, 9 | ✓ Justin Arendt, Superintendent of Operational Services/COO |
| ✓ Jennifer Lemky, 3 | ✓ Edward Bitternose, 11 | ✓ Randolph MacLEAN, Deputy Director |
| ✓ Mark Fedak, 4 | ✓ Paul Crow-Buffalo, 12 | |
| ✓ Dana Stefanson, 5 | ✓ Albert Pinacie, 13 | |
| ✓ Christine Gradin, 6 | | |
| | ✓ Apologies: | ✓ Jessica Durling, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter (observer) |
| | Rhonda Kayseas, 14 | |

TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT



DOUGLAS ARMBRUSTER

Doug brings a passion for volunteerism, a talent for public speaking, and a love of governance to his role as Subdivision 9 Trustee.

Born and raised in Neudorf, Doug knew from a young age that his calling was with the church. In fact, his high school yearbook quote read, "Douglas will be attending Briercrest College to follow God's call on his life to become a pastor." He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Theology and Pastoral Leadership from Briercrest College and later a Master of Divinity from Sioux Falls Seminary in South Dakota.

Having grown up in a family who understood service, with grandparents and parents serving on boards and volunteering in their communities, the call to volunteer is a given. "Education and service are in my blood," said Doug. "It was not a surprise to anyone who knows me that I ran for the school board."

Doug has served on Raymore Town Council, coached volleyball, volunteered on the arena board, and is always looking for ways to be involved with his community. It was his son's Kindergarten career that prompted Doug to pursue a trustee role. "Celyn was in Kindergarten, and it was time to start doing something that would affect his education," he said.

Learning about governance at a school-board level has been a welcome challenge. "I enjoy being part of something bigger than myself. My colleagues on the board are not only incredible people, but they are brilliant," he said. Being a first-term trustee in the COVID-19 era has meant that events like the SSBA conference and many board meetings have been virtual. Doug is looking very forward to joining events in person, starting with the National Congress on Rural Education in Canada in late March.

Doug lives in Raymore with his wife Jocelyn, principal of New Horizon Hutterian School, and their son Celyn. They love to sing and play music, and Doug loves to read about policy and governance. In fact, if you are interested in discussing parliamentary procedure, Doug is your man; Roberts Rules of Order is his favourite book.

MILEAGE RATE INCREASE



Horizon School Division's mileage rate will be raised to \$0.49 per kilometre, effective April 1, 2022. This increase will bring our rate in line with many other Saskatchewan school divisions.

Going forward, the Horizon School Division mileage rate will be tied to that of the Government of Saskatchewan.

It is the hope that this increase, from \$0.42/km to \$0.49/km, will better offset travel expenses while fuel costs are at an all-time high.

STAFFING

Randy MacLEAN, Superintendent of Human Resources, is leading the assessments for Horizon's 2022 - 2023 staffing requirements. Randy, along with Monica Arendt, Manager of Human Resources, Darrell Paproski, Superintendent of Inclusive Education, and Bryan McNabb, Superintendent of Indigenous Education, met with principals to review upcoming leaves and transfer requests compared with projected enrolments.

MacLEAN, who is completing his final duties at Horizon School Division before moving east next month said, "During my time here, we have not had teacher lay-offs due to the staffing process. I feel like this is perhaps my biggest achievement at Horizon; when someone feels safe, they can effectively teach children."

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

At its March 11 meeting, the Transportation Committee was presented with a Student Transportation Review. Board Chair Jim Hack, Vice Chair Linda Mattock, and Trustees Jennifer Lemky and Mark Fedak will take time before the April meeting to review the report which includes a cost analysis of transportation models (in-house transportation services versus contracted), and SWAT analysis of service and maintenance, training and recruitment and more.

Committee Chair Linda Mattock thanked Justin Arendt, COO, and Jocelyne Possberg, Manager of Transportation Services, for the exceptional job in preparing the Student Transportation Review. "There is a wealth of information here and we look forward to reviewing it in depth," said Mattock.

HON. DONNA HARPAUER

The Honourable Donna Harpauer, Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance, accepted an invitation to meet with Trustees, Kevin Garinger, Director of Education, and Sarah Reding, CFO. At the March 3 meeting, Trustees covered the following topics:

- Lanigan School Project - Trustee Mark Fedak: Inflationary costs, supply chain issues, and other market conditions continue to drive cost estimates higher than expected, even with Board of Education contingency funding and existing funding commitments by the Ministry.
- Elections - Trustee Jennifer Lemky: The goal of advocacy with partner municipal governments for sharing and coordinating election responsibilities, review of polling stations, the submission of election boundary adjustments, and working with First Nations representatives to best clarify and support the election process.
- Pre-K - Vice Chair Linda Mattock: Our board vision is to offer universal Pre-Kindergarten learning. The last Ministry-funded program was established during the 2013 school year, and since then Horizon has funded and implemented programs in three communities for a total of 11 programs.
- Truth & Reconciliation - Trustee Paul Crow-Buffalo: Horizon will observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Paul also highlighted initiatives like the George Gordon First Nation Mîkiwahp (Tipi) Project, our annual Flag Ceremony, a future Blanket Ceremony, and this year's SCC workshop which had a Truth and Reconciliation focus.
- COVID-19 Funding - Board Chair Jim Hack: Horizon's actual spending for COVID-19 in 2020-21 exceeded funding received, and we are again seeing this happen in the 2021-2022 school year.

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

The 2022 - 2023 school year calendar was approved at the Board of Education's regular March meeting.

You may view the calendar at the following link: tinyurl.com/Horizon2022Calendar.

Did you know that Horizon School Division's 2022-2023 school year calendar:

 Was designed with consultation with families, staff, and the Board of Education

 Includes 960 instructional hours, exceeding the Ministry of Education's minimum required 950 hours

 Includes five Personal Professional Days where staff have preparation time and may pursue professional development opportunities

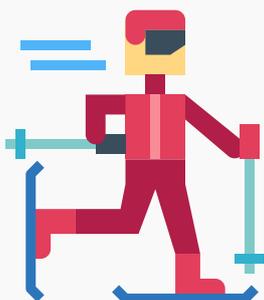
 Includes three collaborative learning days

 Incorporates non-instructional days with already occurring school breaks.

 New this year - Horizon will recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and there will be no school for staff or students on September 30, 2022. Horizon School Division and its Board of Education believe in the importance of recognizing this day in response to the Call to Action 80 and our continued support of Truth and Reconciliation.



tinyurl.com/Horizon2022Calendar



SCHOOL STAFF: THANK YOU!

The past two years have been extremely demanding on both students and staff. You have faced challenge upon challenge with grace; coming up with new and innovative ways to do things and managing to keep making connections despite the many limitations that COVID-19 posed.

The Board of Education, along with the Senior Leadership Team would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to each of you. Thank you for forging ahead with plans and lessons, participating in extra-curricular activities, planning school-wide skis trips and continuing to find the magic in education, at a time when it was difficult to see the positives.

GOOD NEWS FROM AROUND THE DIVISION

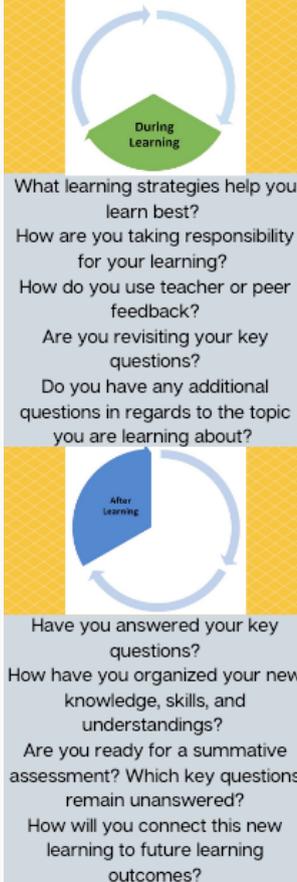
HCI'S TEACHING AND LEARNING CYCLE INITIATIVE

Humboldt Collegiate Institute recently launched its 'Teaching and Learning Cycle' initiative.

Students were provided with a 'Teaching and Learning Cycle' student bookmark which includes prompts for learning before, during, and after instruction. The bookmark was designed collaboratively by HCI's Graduation Rates Learning Improvement Plan team.

HCI Principal Cory Popoff said, "We feel that the biggest gift that we can give our students are the proper tools for learning."

Teachers have been provided the 'Teacher Planning Tool' that guides teachers to plan their lessons in a manner that best suits how people learn. The initiative will kick off with students watching a short video that describes how people think and learn.

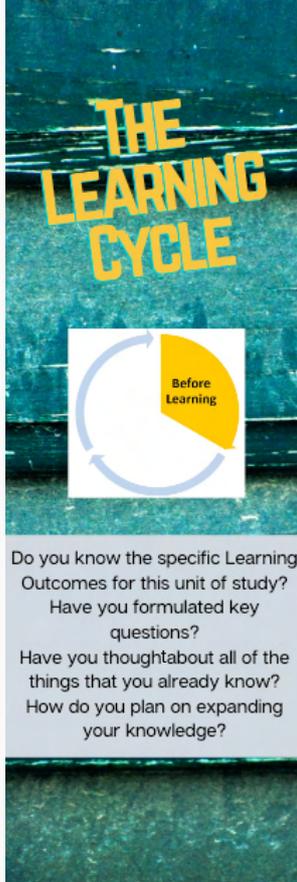


During Learning

- What learning strategies help you learn best?
- How are you taking responsibility for your learning?
- How do you use teacher or peer feedback?
- Are you revisiting your key questions?
- Do you have any additional questions in regards to the topic you are learning about?

After Learning

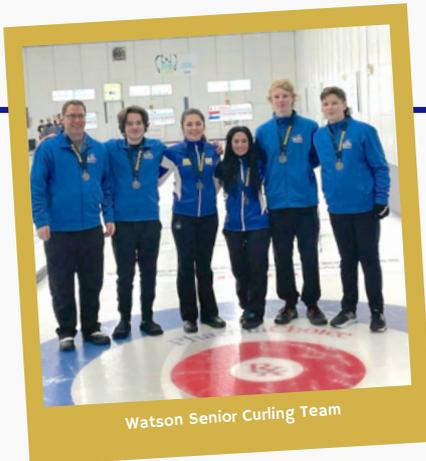
- Have you answered your key questions?
- How have you organized your new knowledge, skills, and understandings?
- Are you ready for a summative assessment? Which key questions remain unanswered?
- How will you connect this new learning to future learning outcomes?



THE LEARNING CYCLE

Before Learning

- Do you know the specific Learning Outcomes for this unit of study?
- Have you formulated key questions?
- Have you thought about all of the things that you already know?
- How do you plan on expanding your knowledge?



WATSON CURLERS EXCEL DESPITE LACK OF LOCAL RINK

Four years ago, Watson School's curling program was launched. As there is no curling rink in town, the vision of high-level curling coming from the school was certainly an ambitious goal.

Kalvin Lefebvre took on the challenge of coaching the Watson team without a "home," and lined up ice time in Muenster for practices. Under his guidance they have realized amazing skill and personal growth, to the point where Kal will now be coaching not only the school team, but also two out-of-school competitive teams of mainly Watson curlers.

Working through COVID-19 was a challenge for all teams, but especially for a fledgling program like this one. However, the athletes remained committed and our coach resolute.

Results continue to improve, and this year their senior curling team narrowly missed out on advancing to provincials, placing third at regionals. Next year will be the first time for Watson to have Grade 12 curling athletes, and they are excited for the future of our program.

Congratulations to Coach Lefebvre and the curling athletes on your continued success!



TO SUBMIT PHOTOS OR STORIES, PLEASE CONTACT OUR COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER AT JESSE.GREEN@HORIZONSD.CA OR 306-682-8609.

**NEXT MEETING:
APRIL 13, 2022**