



MEMORANDUM

October 11, 2022
Regular Board Meeting

TO	Board of Trustees
FROM	Shauna Boyce, Superintendent
ORIGINATOR	Mark Francis, Deputy Superintendent
RESOURCE	Dean Bernard, Northern and Indigenous Relations
GOVERNANCE POLICY	Board Policy 2: Role of the Board Board Policy 12: Role of the Superintendent
ADDITIONAL REFERENCE	BP 2: Education Planning and Programming Board Annual Work Plan <i>Education Act</i>
SUBJECT	ATHABASCA DELTA COMMUNITY SCHOOL REPORT

PURPOSE

For information. No recommendation required.

BACKGROUND

The Superintendent is committed to the principle of open, two-way communication with the Division's internal and external stakeholders. In the 2021-2022, the Minister of Education sought an interested School Authority to assume the role of Interim Education Authority for Athabasca Delta Community School (ADCS), and Parkland School Division was invited by the Nations and community of Fort Chipewyan and approved by the Minister to assume the role.

Effective September 1, 2022, Parkland School Division assumed the role of Interim Education Authority for ADCS, as Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Fort Chipewyan Métis Association, and Mikisew Cree First Nation take the necessary steps to establish a Community Education Authority.

REPORT SUMMARY

The Superintendent employs a Division Principal to be responsible for Northern and Indigenous Relations with an initial purpose of facilitating the operation of ADCS and developing relationships and partnerships with Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Fort Chipewyan Métis Association, and Mikisew Cree First Nation as partners in education.

This report provides an update to the Board regarding finances, enrolment, staffing, school infrastructure, staff housing, technology, programming and services for ADCS students, since assuming the role of Interim Education Authority.

Administration would be pleased to respond to any questions.

MF:kz



ATHABASCA DELTA COMMUNITY SCHOOL REPORT

October, 2022

Presented to the Board of Trustees, October 11, 2022

Mark Francis, Deputy Superintendent

Resource: Dean Bernard, Division Principal of Indigenous and Northern Affairs

Our Students Possess the confidence, resilience, insight and skills required to thrive in, and positively impact, the world.

BACKGROUND

In May 2022, Parkland School Division (PSD) Executive members were invited to meet with representatives from Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Fort Chipewyan Métis Association, Mikisew Cree First Nation and Alberta Education. In June 2022, upon invitation from the Nations, PSD accepted the request to act as the Interim Education Authority for Athabasca Delta Community School (ADCS) in Fort Chipewyan, Alberta. In July, 2022 The Minister of Education issued Ministerial Order 011-2022 adjusting PSD's Boundaries to include area in and around Fort Chipewyan which had previously been part of Northland School Division. The Ministerial Order came into effect on September 1, 2022.

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Fort Chipewyan Métis Association, and Mikisew Cree First Nation are in the process of establishing a Community Education Authority, and PSD will work in partnership with the local community to operate ADCS until the Community Education Authority assumes operation.

REPORT / TOPIC

Financial Operation

ADCS has operated under a budget allotted by the Government of Alberta and under a Tuition Agreement between the Nations, Federal Government and the local School Authority. The budget for ADCS falls under a separate funding envelope than the rest of the PSD.

Enrolment Summary

ADCS has functioned as a K-9 school for the last few years and has had an enrolment of approximately 140 students in 2021-2022. In the 2022-2023 school year, ADCS currently has 156 students in grades K-10.

Staffing

ADCS is staffed based on agreement with the Nations, community needs (including grants), identified student supports and school enrolment.

14 FTE Teaching positions. There are 3 returning teachers from 2021-2022.

1 Community Instructor/Cultural Liaison - In addition to the teaching FTE, 1 community instructor/cultural liaison instructs the Dene language/cultural program. Returning employee.

5 Educational Assistants - 2 returning employees.

1 School Administrative assistant - New employee.

2 cooks - Returning employees.

1 Bus driver - Returning employee.

2 Mental Health Support workers (Helping Hands) - Returning employees.

1 Maintenance worker. Returning employee.

PSD and the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) are in the process of concluding adoption of a Letter of Understanding that would recognize the inclusion of the ADCS teachers as part of the PSD Collective Agreement with the ATA, subject to the PSD Collective Agreement but recognizing specific provisions and language from the Northland School Division Collective Agreement.

School Infrastructure

Maintenance is staffed by 1 onsite Division employee. PSD Maintenance staff has identified a number of school infrastructure needs to be addressed including:

- Upgrading and repairing boiler system
- Mitigate a water leak that occurred during July, 2022 damaging two instructional spaces

A special Capital Request is being finalized for submission to the Ministers of Education and Infrastructure to cover some of the unanticipated capital needs.

Staff Housing

PSD has 14 houses/duplexes to accommodate staff. Staff housing is needed to accommodate teaching staff in a community with limited rental options. When available, support staff may have access as well.

PSD is looking at adding a 15th suite (basement suite in an existing unit) to accommodate future growth and programming needs. A 15th unit also allows for accommodating PSD staff who travel to Fort Chipewyan.

Upgrades to staff housing/procedures include:

- Establishing rental agreements, including minimum criteria for furnishings and standards provided
- Replacement of furniture/household items as required (\$14,000)
- Maintenance of all yards and grounds
- Currently addressing required sewer upgrades at one unit (Duplex)

Technology Upgrades

PSD is updating the technology at ADCS to meet our operation standards. This includes:

- Complete upgrade of the school phone system
- Issuing of new staff computers including laptops for teaching staff and upgrade of desktop systems for school administrative staff
- Switch of the wireless infrastructure to Cisco 9120AXI Wireless Access Points
- Upgrading of the WiFi in the staff housing
- New photocopier contract and replacement of units - scheduled to be completed when the winter road opens

2022-2023 Programming

High School:

ADCS now offers high school courses, starting with grade 10. To accommodate requests from the community, PSD has created a schedule that allows more flexibility and additional courses that have not been offered at that school for many years including Career and Technology (CTS) woodworking. ADCS is also offering students more opportunities and options by allowing them to access the Connections for Learning School, and this allows them to offer a wealth of course choices that PSD offers all of our high school students.

Land Based Learning:

Given the unique location, ADCS will be able to offer students some rare opportunities for learning. Some students this month will be working with Parks Canada on the dissection of muskrats and a talk about employment opportunities with Parks Canada after they graduate from school. ADCS also received a donation from a community member of two moose hides. All students will gain the opportunity to see the tanning process and will have a chance to learn some of the skills needed to tan a moose hide from an elder or knowledge keeper. The school has also supported the students in going to a Moose Camp, and students will have the opportunity to learn about trapping during the winter season.

Services for Students

Mental Health Capacity Building- Helping Hands Project:

PSD has received a one-year Mental Health Capacity Building (MHCB) grant from Alberta Health Services for the continuance of the Helping Hands project, which has been supporting the community for multiple years. This MHCB Project promotes mental, emotional, and social well-being for children and families residing in Fort Chipewyan and protects against negative outcomes by bolstering resilience through skill development. This grant supports two 12-month positions as well as the resources required to support the program. It is anticipated that this grant will continue in future years.

Food Security:

At ADCS, all students have the opportunity to have a healthy breakfast, lunch, and two snacks. The food program is funded through Alberta Education dollars (allocated by the Sept 30 count for ADCS), Tuition Agreements, as well as the support provided by the Breakfast Clubs of Canada and Suncor. The school has two dedicated cooks to support this work. Currently, food is primarily sourced from outside of the community; however, PSD has started a dialogue with the local K'ai Tailé Market to explore partnering to source food locally.

Apple Schools:

ADCS has been working with Apple Schools for multiple years to support health promotion. PSD will be receiving a small maintenance grant from Apple Schools this year, which will support Comprehensive School Health (CSH) at ADCS. PSD's Health and Wellness Facilitator will work alongside the Principal and School Health Lead to support the development and implementation of their CSH action plan

Developing Partnerships between School and Community Service Providers:

PSD is partnering with community service providers to support students requiring speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy. School-based service providers will collaborate with community service providers to ensure smooth transitions between community and school supports.