

Woodhaven School Council meeting - September 18, 2024

In our Public Board meeting from June 19 last year, the Board made a motion coming out of in-camera to inform the public of details specific to the delays in construction funding for Spruce Grove Composite High School. (Full motion copied below). A media campaign began the next day to bring our partners in education up to speed on the efforts we had made to advance construction and the roadblocks we were continuing to face.

*Whereas Parkland School Division has supported the Horizon Stage advocacy in the following ways:*

- *We sent a letter to the Minister of Ed for \$5 million for the replacement of Horizon Stage*
- *We designed the new school with the possible addition of Horizon Stage on site*
- *We have instructed our Superintendent to enter into negotiations to remove the land ownership barrier, this included financial remediation*

*And Whereas*

- *We have received letter from the Minister of Education advising that further consideration of the \$100 million dollar new school construction requires resolution of the complications related to the land ownership and Horizon Stage ownership*
- *We have met with the City of Spruce Grove council to discuss the urgency of this matter*
- *We received a letter from the City providing “consent to the construction of the new Spruce Grove Composite High School on the condition that the Province agrees to provide funding to replace the Horizon Stage, currently projected at \$5 million.*

*Be it resolved that the board instruct administration and Board Chair to actively and transparently advise all stakeholders by written communication of the circumstances and request support for our further advocacy to the City of Spruce Grove to sever Horizon Stage from consent to construct SGCHS.*

*Further be resolved that Trustees take appropriate action to bring public awareness to this issue.*

**There has been a lot of work done on this over the summer. Board Chair Stewart and Senior Administration have attended many meetings to sort through the details and I am pleased to report that the following motion was made coming out of in-camera at yesterdays Public Board meeting (our first of the school year).**

**The recommendation reads that The Board direct Board Chair to enter into formal agreement with the City of Spruce Grove pursuant to the key considerations presented in-camera regarding:**

- **The purchase of land**
- **The replacement of Spruce Grove Composite High School and**
- **The replacement of Horizon Stage**

**Basically what this means is that the details of the agreement have been agreed to in principle and it is with the lawyers. Spruce Grove City Council had a similar motion coming out of in-camera at their Council meeting Monday that gave direction to their Mayor and CAO as well. The details of this agreement I hope to be able to discuss with you when I see you in October.**

Some other highlights of note from yesterday's meeting include:

1. We received word that our Mental Health in Schools grant was extended to the end of this year. The Board had been advocating for continued funding for the amazing work that Assoc Superintendent Dr Meg Miskolze and her team have been doing.
2. Transportation update - we have a current ridership of more than 7300 riders on 171 routes. There are an additional 396 who applied to ride, but have not paid fees yet. We have space for these riders and the transportation department is reaching out to those families to see if they need further assistance in registering. All 171 routes have permanent drivers, which is wonderful to see.
3. Late spring last year we received a ministerial order regarding cell phone usage in schools. Principal Shaw can tell you more about the Administrative Procedure that has been implemented as a result.
4. Implementation of the new grades 4-6 Science curriculum has been rolled out. There are also 13 teachers piloting the new Social Studies curriculum division wide in grades 1-5. For specifics on this - please see your fearless leader..... Principal Shaw
5. The School Resource Officer role has been reassigned to Constable Gord Marshall, who has been very effective in this role in recent years. Constable Bobbi Hineman is still in our community working as a youth liaison officer, which is a role that I believe he will be very successful in. So good news for our community all around.
6. The Facilities team was extremely busy over the summer and we thank them for the work they do to keep our buildings and grounds safe and functional. A couple of highlights include a renovation to Tomahawk gym, which is huge for that community. We also transferred two portables from the old Stony Central School that still had life to Copperhaven. They were added to the footprint and will be usable for the school by the end of this month. For more on the Facilities Report please click here <https://www.psd.ca/download/466692>
7. The Offsite Activities Report was presented at yesterday's meeting. Appetite for experiences is high post-covid and it was wonderful to see the hundreds of different activities and learning opportunities students were able to participate in. Please see attached for more details <https://www.psd.ca/download/466693>
8. The Human Resources Report was provided for information. Some areas of note include a continued focus on substitute teacher recruitment and retaining teaching and support staff. For more details, please see the attached document. <https://www.psd.ca/download/466694>

9. Cara Nichols, a Spruce Grove Composite High School Student was selected for the Minister's Youth Advisory Council. The Board is excited to meet Cara and hear how we can support her in this important role.

10. Rotary's Community Pantry continues to support food security in Parkland School Division. This year they will be preparing and delivering 850 bagged lunches to our schools, including rural schools. Last year the program increased from 600-750 lunches and they have committed to an additional 100 this year. The program is financially supported equally by both PSD and the Rotary.

11. One last announcement: On Sept 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, an event is being held to recognize survivors and those lost to residential schools at Horizon Stage from 6:30-8:30pm. This year's program will include a viewing of the film Holy Angels. It is a documentary that shares the experiences of Lena Wandering Spirit, who attended residential school in Fort Chipewyan.