



LLOYDMINSTER PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION

## **Annual Board Advocacy Plan 2017-2018**

### **Background:**

Lloydminster Public School Division (LPSD) utilizes a policy governance framework to manage the school division. As part of the framework, the Board committed to developing an annual advocacy plan which is to be reviewed and renewed on an annual basis.

### **Purpose:**

The Board and individual trustees represent and promote the best interests of students through their interactions with families, the public, the media, community partners, provincial organizations and with the government. It is the responsibility of the Board of Education to act as an advocate for students, to continually enhance their experiences, opportunities and wellbeing within the context and mandate of *the Education Act, 1995*. Ultimately, the purpose of advocacy is to influence education policy and to seek to secure sufficient resources in order to meet local student needs identified by the Board of Education. Effective advocacy depends on consistency and persistence, as well as engaging others.

The underlying assumption of the Board Advocacy Plan development process is that the Board plan should complement the existing strategic direction of the Board. It should outline focused and specific actions that the Board can take to actualize the stated goals that have already been committed to in the Board's strategic plan.

### **Strategic Advocacy:**

In December of 2016 the Board of Education reaffirmed the priorities and outcomes contained within the Education Sector Plan. The Board also reaffirmed a local priority on Staff and Student Wellness. By approving the 2017-2018 Advocacy Plan the Board will strategically advocate for the priorities contained within their strategic plan.

### **Process:**

The Board Advocacy Plan will be reviewed during the August meeting of the Board of Education. Suggestions for improvement will be collected and a renewed version of the plan will be approved during the September meeting of the Board of Education. The Board will revisit and assess progress of their advocacy efforts in January of 2018, as indicated on the Board Annual Work Plan.

## **2017-2018 Board Advocacy Plan**

The Board identified three priorities on which to focus advocacy efforts for the 2017-2018 school year:

1. Academic Innovation
2. Non-Resident Vulnerable Students
3. Facilities Renewal
4. Public Relations and Communications

### **1. Academic Innovation:**

The Board of Education is committed to enhancing and promoting academic innovation opportunities in the school division and will continue to advocate for programs and resources that will enrich the academic experience of students.

Proposed Actions:

- That the Board promote the school division's current and future plans to develop partnerships with Lakeland College and other Post-Secondary institutions to offer dual credit course offerings, industry-specific training opportunities, program enhancement initiatives and strong academics
- That the Board of Education actively advocate (locally and provincially) for resources that support the development of enrichment-specific programs
- That the Board of Education host Post-Secondary institutions at planned collaboration meetings to promote partnership development and enhanced course offerings for students.

### **2. Non-Resident Vulnerable Students:**

Funding adequacy continues to be a primary concern of the Board of Education, especially as it relates to supporting vulnerable students. The Board has an inordinate number of non-resident students and families that are vulnerable. Striving to meet the complex needs of vulnerable students places extra demands on the school division budget, which is not always recognized through provincial funding distribution. The Board affirms the need to continue to advocate for adequate resources for non-resident students with vulnerabilities in order to meet provincially and locally determined targets around student learning.

Proposed Actions:

- That the Board continue to share information relating to non-resident vulnerable student demographics and associated impacts on student learning and the school division budget at planned Board Chair Collaboration meetings held throughout the year.
- That the Board raise awareness at the provincial level about the impact of non-resident vulnerable students on the division budget and advocate for a strategy to address and mitigate the impact.

- That the Board continue to advocate for sufficient funding for vulnerable students at the provincial level and raise awareness with SSBA Executive and membership at provincial events.

### **3. Facilities Renewal:**

The School division has schools that are in significant need of renovation and repair. The community of Lloydminster is projected to experience moderate growth in future years which will translate to enrollment pressures within the division. The Board's Facility Audits provide a comprehensive set of actions that must be undertaken to renew infrastructure within the school division. Projected funding for Maintenance and Renewal along with limited access to Capital funding define a significant deficit position for the Board of Education.

Proposed Actions:

- That the Board continue to publicly recognize the strong stewardship of the division's facilities and maintenance record and advocate for Maintenance funding.
- That the Board continue to advocate provincially for a capital infrastructure plan that recognizes the unique needs of growing communities.
- That the Board host engagement meetings with Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Minister of Education and /or government officials, and local/municipal governments.
  - MLA's – Two meetings per year per MLA
  - Mayor – One meeting per year
  - Government Officials – When available or required
- That the Board meet with Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) Executive to share concerns about the provincial infrastructure backlog.

### **4. Public Relations and Communications:**

The Board of Education affirmed the importance of improving public relations. Positive public relations and the promotion of the Lloydminster Public School Division's mission of; "Ensuring personal excellence for all students" is seen by the Board as an integral part of advocating for students. Effective advocacy is contingent on the Board's capacity for strategic communications and the development of a robust communications and marketing plan.

Proposed Actions:

- That the Board maintain a strong social media presence in order to publicly promote student achievements with a strong emphasis on academics and students achieving at high levels.
- That the Board continue to support and promote the welcoming culture of Lloydminster Public Division schools.
- That the Board continue to monitor and provide direction for the LPSD Communications and Marketing Plan.
- That the Board seek out opportunities to engage with staff and members of the public about the qualities of LPSD.

## **Student Voice in Governance**

The Board of Education has a desire to open up opportunities for the Board collective to have conversations with students about their experiences within LPSD and to tap into their perspective about how things may be improved.

### **Proposed Actions:**

- Students from Elementary Schools will be invited to present at Committee of the Whole meetings hosted by their respective schools.
- The Student groups that present to the Board will be structured to provide a cross section of socio economic backgrounds and school experiences whenever possible.
- Student groups will be provided with a list of questions or discussion topics prior to the presentations that focus on items such as hope and aspirations to graduate.

### **Future areas of Focus:**

In addition to the above priorities the Board of Education has expressed an interest in including the following areas into future iterations of the Advocacy Plan:

1. **Ministry Relations**
2. **Local Board of Education Relations**