

PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA™

THE ADVOCATE



Welcome to the September 15, 2023 issue of *The Advocate*!

In this edition, you'll find a message from PSBAA President Dennis MacNeil, current information on the PSBAA upcoming events and speakers, Franklin Covey webinars, programs, courses and bursaries, grant opportunities and our regular features. Enjoy!



The next edition of *The Advocate* will be published on September 30, 2023.

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ONLY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROVIDE PUBLIC EDUCATION®

PSBAA WEBINAR HOSTING SESSION



LEADERSHIP THROUGH WHIRLWINDS AND UNCERTAINTIES

By Marty Schafer, EdD

Friday, September 29 from 1:00-3:30 p.m.

The Public School Boards' Association of Alberta welcomes Franklin Covey to host a webinar session on Leadership Through Whirlwinds and Uncertainties – A Focus on the Impact of Physical and Mental Wellness and Building Positive Outcomes, with Dr. Marty Schafer. The webinar will take place on Friday, September 29 from 1-3:30 p.m.

The webinar will focus on the following:

- Understanding signals from our Brain on Burnout: Using Neuroscience to Support Wellness.
- Developing tools to keep ourselves engaged and focused as we continue to face uncertain and difficult times.
- Defining issues we should be aware of that can impact our mental health and wellness.
- How do we use trust to rebuild our relationships with our community and with our colleagues?
- What have we learned through the last three years that can help us plan better for the future as we incorporate mental wellness and mental health into our strategic planning?
- What types of wellness exercises, activities, communications, strategies should we consider around wellness issues that will help us to positively impact student achievements?
- How does our focus on our own wellness and well-being lend itself to productivity, effective governance, good decision-making and sound judgement calls?
- Key elements of a cohesive team and effective Board!

The PSBAA is hosting this session exclusively to members for **\$250 per board**. There is no restriction on how many of your members and administration can attend, so take advantage of this opportunity for such a great price right from the comfort of your city or town today.

[CLICK HERE](#)
for more information or to register!

PRESIDENTS' CORNER

Looking ahead to a great fall season

Welcome back to the start of the new school year!

I hope you had a wonderful summer break, and were able to rest and recreate with friends and family as well as taking some time for yourself.

This year, we took August PSBC on the road to Medicine Hat. It was wonderful seeing so many of our members in person. Our professional development and PSBC meetings are second to none, and we had an excellent discussion about how local boards engage with their stakeholders.

Ongoing community feedback is so important to ensure we are serving our communities well. On behalf of the PSBAA board, deep appreciation and thanks to the Medicine Hat Public School Division and board Vice Chair Pat Grisonich for being such wonderful hosts and event organizers.

September is always a busy month for our school communities, and it's such a joy to visit our schools and experience the excitement of new and returning students. We are truly thankful for all the hard work of our teachers, administrative staff and leadership for their dedication and passion to equipping each student for academic success.

Looking ahead, check out all the great events coming up in the pages of the Advocate. Registration is open for all events on the PSBAA website, please don't forget to register. We hope to see you there.

As we settle into the new school year, we also renew our focus on our primary role as locally-elected school board trustees: creating the optimal conditions for all students to learn, grow and thrive. The PSBAA is committed to supporting this work through professional development, research and advocacy. We look forward to a new year of continuing this work with all our members and education partners. Equity and equality of opportunity is also a key priority, including how we respond to the full diversity of student learning, while still being accountable to deliver on provincial standards.

While the fall season will be busy for everyone, we know it is made richer by the collaboration and support of our colleagues and friends. The PSBAA is your Association, and we are here to support each of our members with resources, information and expertise. We wish you all the very best for a productive and enjoyable 2023-2024 school year!

Dennis MacNeil, PSBAA President





UPCOMING EVENTS

PSBAA's Fall Conference and AGM

- **October 18-20, 2023**

The Fall Conference and Annual General Meeting will start Wednesday October 18 and run until Friday, October 20, 2023. Wednesday evening starts with the Lieutenant Governor Lois Hole Dinner and we are honoured to have the new Minister of Education, the Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides bring greetings and the Honourable, David Hancock, the 15th premier of Alberta as our keynote speaker.

Thursday's Professional Learning Day will be led by Glenn Tecker of Tecker International, and we will once again attend the Mayfield Dinner Theatre for a rendition of Musicians Gone Wild: Rock The Canyon for dinner Thursday. On Friday, we will hold our Annual General Meeting beginning at 9 a.m.

[CLICK HERE for more information or to Register!](#)

November PSBC Meeting

- **November 17-18, 2023**

Our November PSBC is being held on Friday and Saturday to reduce the time between our meeting and the ASBA FGM. More details will be coming shortly on who will be in attendance for our Professional Learning sessions.

[CLICK HERE for more information or to Register!](#)

SPECIAL REMINDER TO SUBMIT YOUR CAPITAL PLANS

Don't forget to submit your Capital Plans to
Troy Tait (executivedirector@public-schools.ab.ca)

Please submit by: Friday, September 29, 2023

EMPOWERING STUDENTS FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES: NALOXONE TRAINING IN HIGH SCHOOLS

In a collaborative effort to promote community safety and equip young individuals with lifesaving skills, **Medicine Hat Public School Division (MHPSD)** has partnered with Alberta Health Services (AHS) for a second year to introduce voluntary naloxone training for grade 12 students and school staff. This initiative represents a proactive approach to address the global opioid crisis and related incidents, empowering students to become proactive allies.

The opioid crisis has impacted communities across the world. In Medicine Hat, as of July 2023, the total ambulance dispatches for opioid-related events totaled 108, compared to the 103 calls recorded for the entirety of 2022. Illicit drug use and accidental opioid overdoses are impacting too many lives. In response to this ongoing public health emergency, it is essential to educate and empower the next generation to become active participants in saving lives. Despite the efforts of families, community supports, and schools, a percentage of young people will choose to use drugs, including dangerous opioids (AHS, 2022).

“Today’s students navigate a world filled with complexities that demand resilience, adaptability, and critical thinking. Our partnership with AHS represents a vital step forward, helping students to embrace challenges, empowering them to become confident leaders and change makers.”, said Mark Davidson, Superintendent of MHPSD. AHS brings valuable expertise and resources to implement comprehensive naloxone training, ensuring that they receive accurate and up to date information about opioids, the risks associated with misuse, and how to effectively respond in emergency situations.

“The naloxone training program is designed to be inclusive, informative, and free from judgment, it is intended to empower students”, remarked Davidson. It aims to provide students the skills to recognize signs of an opioid overdose and confidently administer naloxone (a medication that can reverse the effects of opioid overdose). We acknowledge that young people can play a pivotal role, taking action during critical situations until professional help arrives.

Open and supportive discussions about the training are conducted beforehand to address any concerns and provide clarity on the objectives. Recognizing the sensitivity of the topic, the naloxone training is voluntary, allowing students and families to make informed decisions based on their comfort level and beliefs.

We aim to create a culture of wellness, educating young minds about the opioid crisis goes beyond just teaching the technicalities of naloxone administration. It involves fostering a culture of empathy, understanding, and support within the school community. In addition to increasing student knowledge, attitudes and behaviours, part of the training focuses on promoting mental health awareness and addiction support, encouraging students to seek help for themselves or others struggling with substance abuse.

Providing naloxone training to students is a significant step towards creating safer communities. By empowering youth with life saving skills and knowledge, we instill a sense of responsibility and compassion, fostering a proactive and caring generation. Through voluntary participation and open dialogue students can become informed decision makers who contribute positively to society and are equipped to tackle real world challenges. Together, we can learn, grow and make a difference in the fight against the opioid crisis, building a brighter and safer future for all.



Do you have a good news story from your school jurisdiction that you would like to share with PSBAA member boards? Please let us know by emailing communications@public-schools.ab.ca.



Alberta School Councils' Association

Promoting parent engagement in public education

207, 11010.142 Street Edmonton AB T5N 2R1 Phone 780.454.9867 or 1.800.661.3470 Fax 780.455.0167 www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca

ASCA helps 700,000+ K-12 students in Alberta have knowledgeable, informed, engaged parents, guardians, and families.

Over 700,000 students in Alberta's K-12 education system rely on knowledgeable, informed, engaged parents, guardians, and families to guide and support their success in classrooms, schools, and life.

For over 20 years, Education Ministers 'of the day', superintendents, secretary-treasurers and division staff, trustees, principals, teachers, parents, guardians, families, and Alberta's K-12 students relied upon Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) to provide – at no cost - knowledge and skill development to those dedicated volunteers and staff serving school councils to support students. To achieve this, ASCA received reasonable funding (≤ \$727,500) through Alberta Education conditional grants, to ensure open, and free access to and availability of ASCA materials, templates, tip sheets, workshops, and skilled staff members and contractors.

In 2021, a shift in Government of Alberta priorities eliminated ASCA's eligibility to obtain any form of grants from Alberta Education to continue, specifically, this important work.

To meet an optimistic budget of less than \$550,000.00 for 2023-2024, ASCA is relying upon Membership Fees, Fees for Service from school councils utilizing their \$500.00 Alberta School Council Engagement (ASCE) Grant, sponsorships, program or operating grants, event fees, fundraising initiatives and donations.

Here's how you can help! Every effort will assist in supporting Alberta's 700,000+ students!

Ensure your school councils are [ASCA Members](#). Most school divisions pay the \$100 fee for their school councils.

Encourage your school councils to utilize their [ASCE grant on ASCA Learning Opportunities, services, or materials and resources](#).

Donate funds one of 4 ways to ASCA: <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/donate-to-asca> Provide a one-time, or monthly, donation; receive a tax receipt; pay no fees if you use [Zeffy](#).

Sponsor an ASCA event or product! Review our [Partner Sponsor Program](#) to learn how you can gain exposure to Alberta's education community.

Contribute an item, service, experience, funds, or become a sponsor, for ASCA's Second Annual Online Auction: <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/online-auction>.

Watch for [news and announcements](#) from ASCA about other opportunities (i.e.: a Virtual School Council Engagement event in November 2023, a golf tournament in June 2024) to support ASCA's efforts to ensure K-12 students have knowledgeable, informed, and engaged parents, guardians, and families supporting their growth and success.

Please distribute and share this information as broadly as possible, thank you for your support!

Wendy Keiver, ASCA Executive Director

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

PSBAA will post career opportunity ads on the website and in *The Advocate* for members free of charge. Check out the following current career opportunities on the [PSBAA website](#).

Email a PDF copy of your career ad to Troy Tait at: executivedirector@public-schools.ab.ca



CONGRATULATIONS BEVAN DAVERNE!

After 30 years with the [Golden Hills School Division \(GHSD\)](#) and 12 years as its superintendent, Bevan Daverne has retired.

The Public School Boards' Association of Alberta wishes you all the best in your retirement!

PSBAA WEBINAR HOSTING SESSION



LEADER IN ME

By Lynn Kosinski

Thursday, November 9 from 1-3 p.m.

The Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) welcomes FranklinCovey to host a webinar session on *Leader in Me: The 4 Disciplines of Execution for Educators*.

This webinar will focus on the book '*The 4 Disciplines of Execution for Educators*' this book takes the goal achievement method laid out in the best-selling *The 4 Disciplines of Execution* and optimizes it for the educator and administrator. It's a sure and simple formula for executing your most important goals—for making a real difference in the lives of your students. Tested, refined, and proven by literally thousands of schools and districts around the world, the 4 Disciplines enable classroom teachers, school principals, district superintendents, and trustees to achieve their highest priorities.

The PSBAA is hosting this session exclusively to members for **\$250 per board**. There is no restriction on how many of your members and administration can attend, so take advantage of this opportunity for such a great price right from the comfort of your city or town today.

PSBAA SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Do you know someone who has made a special contribution to Public Education this year? Advanced business initiatives in your school division? Promoted or advanced Truth and Reconciliation? Or maybe has just been an all around great mentor or leader?

Then nominate your fellow colleague through the PSBAA website under [member resources](#) in the award nomination forms section.

The Deadline for nominations is Friday, March 31, 2024.

[CLICK HERE](#)
[for more information or to register!](#)

PROGRAMS, COURSES AND BURSARIES

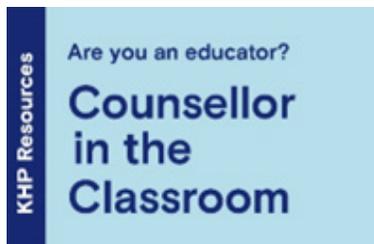
Explore – Second Language Program

Explore is an intensive language immersion program that provides opportunities for English-speaking students to study French, and for French-speaking students to study English.

The program has two categories one for ages 13-15 and the other for 16, 17, or 18+. For 13 to 15 year olds, three-week summer sessions are available. Some virtual Explore sessions are offered for those who are unable to participate in person. For participants 16 and older, Explore sessions are offered during the spring or summer, which last between 31 and 33 days.

The program contributes \$2,400 for each participant 13 to 15 years old and \$3,350 for each participant 16 years and older. This covers the costs of tuition, instructional materials, meals, and lodging.

[CLICK HERE for more details!](#)



Help raise awareness about youth mental health and well-being by bringing Kids Help Phone's nationally funded Counsellor in the Classroom program to your school!

The Counsellor in the Classroom program promotes the discussion of mental health and well-being among young people. The program is available from coast to coast for students in Grades 6 through 12 across Canada in both English and French. This is an opportunity for educators of Grade 4-12 students to promote help-seeking and provide students with more information about mental health and the support available to them.

The program is divided into two parts, firstly the classroom is provided activities which are led by the teacher and the second allows students the opportunity to learn and engage with a Kids Help Phone professional counsellor. In this virtual session, the counsellor will share information about Kids Help Phone's services and facilitate a discussion about why it can be difficult to reach out for help sometimes, as well as answer any questions that arise

[CLICK HERE for more details!](#)



The Impact of Social Media on Student Well-Being

Looking to understand how and why your students are using social media more than ever before? Want a better understanding of the impact on well-being that can be seen in the classroom? Then we have a course that might interest you.

Sonderly is offering a one and a half hour course from Dr. Alexandra Makos who provides a detailed history of social media, explains how the design of social media effects student well-being and gives concrete solutions to not only manage the use of social media in the classroom but also to use it in ways that will improve the well-being of students.

The course will help you better understand the role of social media in the lives of students and provide strategies to improve the impact of social media on well-being.

[CLICK HERE for more details!](#)

JobSafe, A Free Safety Program for Junior and Senior High Schools

Looking for more ways to educate and empower youth on safety prior to them entering the workforce?

SafeGen has a great program, JobSafe, that provides young workers with accredited safety education prior to entering the workforce. The job safety course has no cost and is available to all publicly funded junior and senior high schools throughout Alberta. The program is a great fit to be used as an effective Career and Technologies Studies (CTS) resource for both teachers and students.

[CLICK HERE for more details!](#)

Support for Indigenous Students Learning Program (SISLP)

The SISLP is a time-limited program available to Indigenous (First Nation, Métis and Inuit) students of limited financial resources, including Indigenous students living with disabilities. The program is a way to provide technology and technology supports to Indigenous learners to assist in improving their access and participation in education, training and lifelong learning.

[CLICK HERE for more details!](#)

RETIREMENT NOTICE

Do you know anyone who will be retiring from your School Division? PSBAA would be happy to make an announcement and send our well wishes to the retirees.

Please email information to:

communications@public-schools.ab.ca

GRANTS



Shell Canada provides social investment programs that support the communities around their operations as well as national programs that provide lasting benefits to Canadians across the country. Shell's social investment strategy focuses on two themes: Rising Indigenous Communities and Energy Transition and Access.

The program supports Education in both adult learning and K-12 programs such as STEM and cultural retention efforts. Funding may be used for one-time projects that benefit the community and are sustainable after the conclusion of the grant.

While the program is ongoing, the next review deadline is June 15, and the following review deadline is October 15, 2023.

[CLICK HERE for more details!](#)



Alberta Blue Cross - Build Together Grants

Alberta Blue Cross is offering five \$50,000 grants for their Built Together grant program that is designated for healthy living infrastructure projects across Alberta.

The Built Together grant program is designed to support infrastructure projects that you and your community are passionate about. Programs such as playgrounds, adult gyms, walking paths, outdoor rinks, skate parks and more are all eligible for the grants. (Deadline: September 18/23)

[CLICK HERE for more details!](#)



Fueling Futures

Enbridge's Fueling Futures grant is a community investment program that is guided by a core set of criteria. Enbridge considers donation and sponsorship opportunities in communities where Enbridge operates that meet the following criteria:

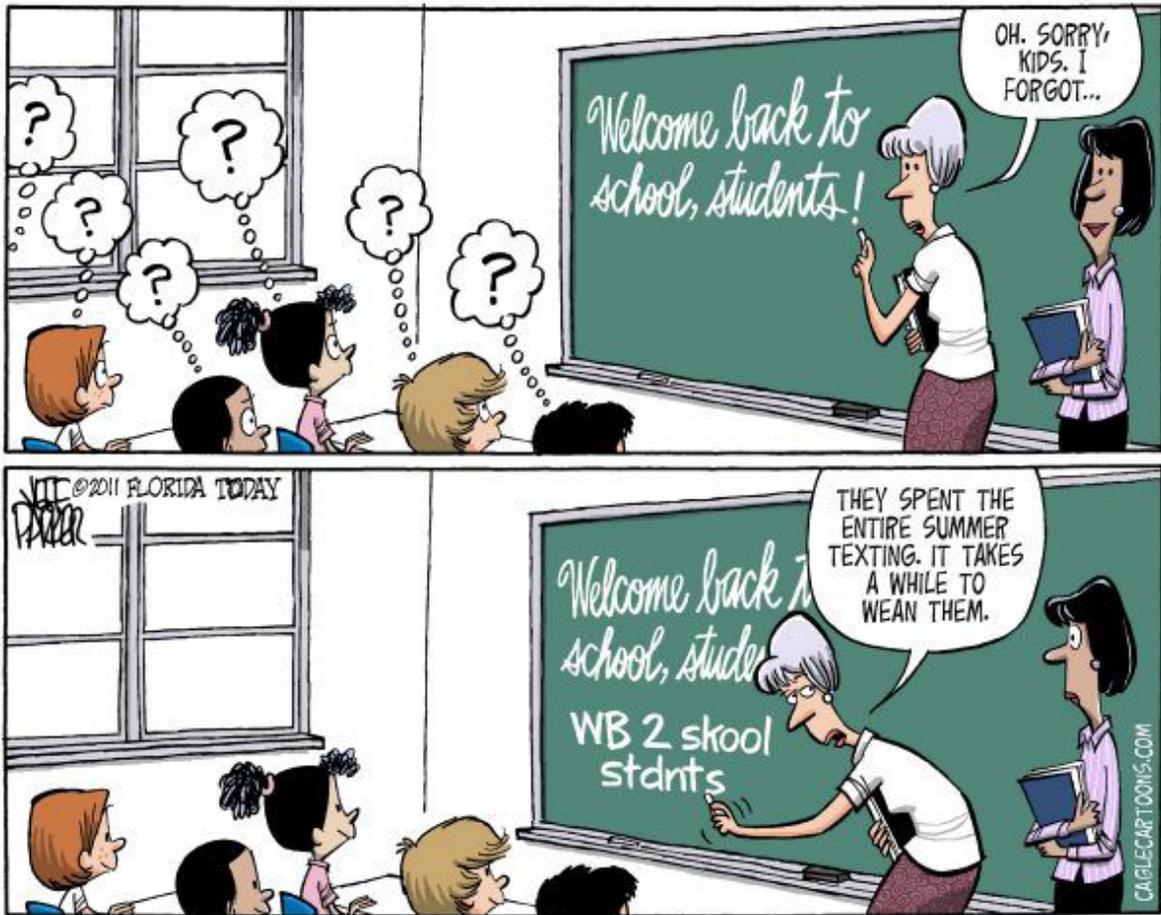
- Located primarily within a 20-kilometer (10-mile) radius of their pipeline right-of-way or near their operations.
- The request is of prime importance to the community.
- Beneficial to the greatest possible number of people.
- Significant to the long-term interests of the community.
- Supportive of one of their three core areas that they view as integral for a sustainable community: Safe Communities, Vibrant Communities, Sustainable Communities.

[CLICK HERE for more details!](#)

"WELL SAID!"

"TELL ME AND I FORGET; TEACH ME AND I REMEMBER; INVOLVE ME AND I LEARN."

~ BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA™

STORY IDEA? FEEDBACK?

We welcome your story ideas and suggestions!

CONTACT US

Please email communications@public-schools.ab.ca.

Address #105, 10470 176 Street, Edmonton, AB, T5S 1L3

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