



PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA™

THE ADVOCATE



Welcome to the June 30, 2023 issue of *The Advocate*!



In this edition, you'll find a Board Chair message, Special Recognition Award winners, 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 15, 2023.

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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!

BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

It's the Season of Change!



Greetings from Aspen View Public Schools! I am pleased to once again contribute to this interesting section of The Advocate - we get a glimpse into what's relevant, successful, or challenging to each of the school divisions, and for us at this moment in time, it is the season of change!

We want to congratulate our superintendent, Neil O'Shea, on his well-deserved retirement! Our board has always valued a strong board/superintendent relationship, and Mr. O'Shea will be missed.

BUT, we made the decision very early to use a contract facilitator to help us with the search, from developing an ideal candidate profile, to advertising, to aiding interviews, and directing us through a very meticulous process, it was such a thorough way to proceed! And we are so pleased to have hired an excellent candidate, Mr. Constantine Kastrinos, joining us from Grande Yellowhead. If there are any boards who would like more information on how to successfully implement a facilitator for a new Superintendent hire, do not hesitate to contact us. It will make your own process much more enjoyable and seamless!

Along the season of change theme, we have 7 out of our 10 schools with administrator changes. This is unprecedented, but we've been successful in all of our hires, with a lot of hard work from HR!

So, going into the next school year, we will also be navigating a somewhat new government as well. The season of change is bringing us a new education minister, and our board will be reaching out to establish a relationship early on.

As school divisions, change can happen regularly, unexpectedly, or even be planned. We as a division are accepting all of our changes currently happening, and are looking forward to see where we land. Our board will always strive to adapt cohesively.

Wishing you all a safe and relaxing summer with friends and family!

Candyce Nikipelo
Board Chair



UPCOMING EVENTS

August 2023 PSBC Meeting in Medicine Hat!

- **August 9-11, 2023**

We will be heading to Medicine Hat August 9, 10 and 11 for our summer PSBC. We will kick off the event Wednesday evening at 5pm at the Medalta with a casual BBQ dinner and a tour of the historic museum.

Event registration will start the next day at 8.30 am at Medicine Hat High, transportation from the hotel will be provided at 8am. The professional learning day will include a discussion on trauma informed practice with Claire Peterson, followed by a tour of their state-of-the-art facilities with Boris Grisonich.

In the afternoon we will participate in a blanket exercise which will go through the history of the past 400 years of the northern part of North America and will be held at Medicine Hat College Co-op Wellness Commons. From there we will conclude our day with a stop at the Medicine Hat Saamis Teepee for a visit and tour of the attraction, which was originally constructed for the Calgary 1988 Winter Olympics.

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

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 will include the Terry Jorden and Friends jazz band and our keynote speaker will be the Honourable, David Hancock, the 15th premier of Alberta.

Thursday's Professional Learning Day will be led by Glenn Tecker and we will once again attend the Mayfield Dinner Theatre for a rendition of Musicians Gone Wild: Rock The Canyon for dinner Thursday.

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

November PSBC Meeting

- **November 17-18, 2023**

Our November PSBC will be held on Friday and Saturday this year to accommodate for necessary changes in the schedule. 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!](#)

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](#).

**Public School Boards' Association of Alberta:
Communications Manager**

**Northland School Division:
Superintendent of Schools/CEO**

**Lethbridge School Division:
Associate Superintendent, Human Resources**

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

2023 SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS



Advancing Association Business and Initiatives Award

Winner: Patrick Grisonich

Pat was nominated by Brian Callaghan from Canadian Rockies Public Schools. PSBAA presented this award to Pat due to his commitment to his school board and to this Association.



Dick Baker Legacy Award

Winner: Eric Cameron

Eric was nominated by Aileen Wagner from Parkland School Division. PSBAA presented this award to Eric for modeling and mentoring outstanding values of integrity, respect and leadership in his work as a trustee, to his school board and to this Association.



Promoting and Advancing the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation of Canada in Relation to Public Education in Alberta Award

Winner: Indigenous Education Team with High Prairie School Division

The Indigenous Education Team was nominated by Joy McGregor of High Prairie School Division. PSBAA presented this award to the Indigenous Education Team due to their commitment in promoting and advancing one or more of the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada in relation to education within Alberta.



Special Contribution to Public Education Award

Winner: Dana McIntosh

Dana was nominated by Lori Grant from Peace Wapiti Public School Division. PSBAA presented this award to Dana due to her special contribution to public education.



Special Contribution to Public Education: Media Award

Winner: Support Our Students

Support Our Students was nominated by Pat Grisonich from Medicine Hat Public Schools. PSBAA presented this award to Support Our Students for their engagement in media and/or media outlets such as social media, newspapers, reports and other media sources whom have made a special contribution to public education.

We are thankful for everyone who attended the 2023 Spring General Assembly on June 1 to 3. It was a great event, great speakers, great food, and capped off with our own Special Recognition Awards. The honorees were all so well deserving.

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.

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.

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!](#)

ALBERTA INDIGENOUS GAMES



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



In the spirit of our youth!

We have an amazing opportunity for Alberta youth to gain volunteer experience.

The Alberta Indigenous Games is the largest Indigenous games held in North America. The games are held in Edmonton, AB, from August 9 - 19, 2023 and they are looking for volunteers to assist in their endeavors to successfully host the games this year. See what the games are all about in this [video clip](#) from last year's game.

[CLICK HERE for more Details!](#)

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.

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

PROGRAMS, COURSES AND BURSARIES



Family Feud Teachers Edition

Do you watch Family Feud? Have you ever watched the show and found yourself shouting out the answers at the TV? Then here is your chance to be on the show!

Family Feud Canada are looking for educators from the same school to participate in their Family Feud Canada: Teachers' Week! As you may know, the host, Gerry Dee, is a former teacher and they are looking for teams of teachers wanting to school the competition and earn some cash for their school.

[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!](#)

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

Improving Student Outcomes and Teacher Efficacy

- Part 1: June 28, 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- Part 2: July 5, 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- Part 3: July 10, 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Well-functioning teachers and leadership teams are essential to the continuous improvement of schools, especially in times of change and uncertainty.

This three-part live workshop teaches teachers how to implement a four-step collaborative protocol that fosters positive relationships, encourages responsible autonomy, and creates professionals who enthusiastically believe they can improve student outcomes through equitable learning cultures.

[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 affects 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!](#)

GRANTS



Shell

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 16, 2023.

[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!](#)



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.

[CLICK HERE for more details!](#)

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!](#)



WORD SEARCH: Aspen View Public Schools

Find and circle each of the words from the list below. Words may appear forwards or backwards, horizontally, vertically or diagonally in the grid.



D	A	E	M	O	D	C	S	I	A	C	N	I	F	Z	F	Q	F	U	P	W	O	E	F	S	A	U	S	Q	E	L	U	L
G	N	B	F	M	D	M	C	B	N	B	P	A	C	F	X	M	A	Y	Z	A	V	C	M	P	S	C	I	O	A	W	X	O
S	P	P	H	T	W	E	B	O	M	U	E	O	A	R	O	F	P	M	F	X	R	R	U	U	C	Z	K	O	H	E	U	O
P	E	C	M	K	W	F	G	U	Y	N	I	Y	C	P	O	G	C	N	I	T	V	I	L	N	A	S	C	H	O	O	L	H
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W	E	E	R	N	L	A	X	B	O	Y	L	E	S	C	H	O	O	L	O	L	C	E	Y	U	O	R	C	T	K	E	E	S
V	S	K	T	Q	H	A	B	I	N	F	K	R	P	C	M	W	B	L	U	R	A	D	Q	C	J	U	N	E	K	G	P	L
P	M	C	A	D	E	R	O	V	N	M	U	N	C	O	E	X	L	F	Q	I	H	I	G	I	I	Y	U	K	I	C	F	A
B	A	Y	T	U	G	E	D	Y	C	L	D	J	E	T	U	C	U	E	S	I	I	M	Y	I	Q	W	V	U	Y	A	R	R
Z	R	N	P	S	P	V	Q	W	U	X	G	A	N	C	O	N	Z	N	M	A	S	E	D	B	A	D	L	E	F	F	U	T
P	R	O	C	H	E	S	T	E	R	S	C	H	O	O	L	A	Y	U	A	A	P	U	J	Y	A	E	M	Q	T	L	N	
F	W	T	U	U	K	I	A	J	V	K	S	C	Y	U	R	C	T	A	I	J	G	U	A	A	I	U	K	G	A	S	G	E
Q	T	Q	Z	I	I	D	I	P	O	O	I	V	C	S	M	O	K	Y	L	A	K	E	C	O	L	O	N	Y	U	T	Q	C
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N	C	E	D	M	C	W	X	K	E	P	S	F	D	W	A	N	S	V	O	Z	P	I	E	V	W	N	A	Q	Y	X	U	L
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L	O	O	H	C	S	E	T	A	I	D	E	M	R	E	T	N	I	L	I	A	R	T	G	N	I	D	N	A	L	X	E	O
Y	M	E	D	A	C	A	T	N	E	M	E	V	E	I	H	C	A	A	N	L	I	V	F	J	R	F	C	O	E	V	I	H
C	E	N	T	R	E	F	O	R	A	L	T	E	R	N	A	T	I	V	E	E	D	U	C	A	T	I	O	N	R	J	L	T
M	E	M	G	R	U	N	U	M	T	P	Y	L	O	O	H	C	S	D	N	A	L	S	S	A	R	G	H	U	N	K	T	R
Q	O	A	Y	P	J	M	F	F	U	Y	N	O	L	O	C	E	N	I	P	W	E	N	A	X	P	Q	Y	Q	M	O	F	O
H	P	F	E	S	U	O	H	W	E	H	I	K	S	K	O	R	T	G	D	I	Y	N	U	I	K	B	O	Y	F	I	I	E
Y	N	O	L	O	C	K	E	E	R	C	P	E	E	D	Y	A	A	O	S	M	I	T	H	S	C	H	O	O	L	I	W	A
L	O	O	H	C	S	Y	R	A	M	I	R	P	S	L	L	I	H	G	N	I	R	E	P	S	I	H	W	M	E	A	G	F
E	A	T	H	A	B	A	S	C	A	C	O	L	O	N	Y	H	A	K	O	S	T	A	S	H	S	C	H	O	O	L	M	W
V	Z	F	F	N	U	Q	H	E	Y	F	I	O	H	O	P	X	R	C	Q	W	E	Y	Q	V	N	U	M	H	D	V	O	I
B	I	Z	K	J	M	W	S	I	R	J	R	E	L	B	E	F	I	S	M	H	F	D	K	U	J	D	O	G	M	A	B	F

ATHABASCA COLONY
 BOYLE SCHOOL
 CENTRE FOR ALTERNATIVE
 EDUCATION
 DEEP CREEK COLONY
 EDWIN PARR COMPOSITE SCHOOL
 GRASSLAND SCHOOL

HA KOSTASH SCHOOL
 KIHAW HOUSE
 LANDING TRAIL INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
 NEW PINE COLONY
 ROCHESTER SCHOOL
 SMITH SCHOOL
 SMOKY LAKE COLONY

THORHILD CENTRAL SCHOOL
 THUNDERBIRD LANDING
 VILNA SCHOOL
 VILNA ACHIEVEMENT ACADEMY
 WHISPERING HILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

PSBAA WORD SEARCH

The first person who completes the puzzle with all words accurately identified and emails to Troy Tait at (executivedirector@public-schools.ab.ca) will receive a PSBAA branded stainless steel water bottle (above), which is awarded exclusively to our puzzle prize winners! (Those who have won a prize in this contest during the past six months are not eligible.)

“WELL SAID!”

**“WHAT DID YOU LEARN?
IS ALWAYS FIRST AND BEST QUESTION.”**

~ OPRAH WINFREY



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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