



MEMORANDUM

Date: 02 November 2010

To: Board of Trustees

From: Tim Monds, Superintendent of Schools

Originator: Emilie Keane, Acting Associate Superintendent

Subject: **HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK** *Tell Them From Me Project: Measuring Student Engagement*

Recommendation

That the Board of Trustees receives as information the “*Tell Them From Me Project: Measuring Student Engagement*” background information and survey measures as presented at its regular meeting of 02 November 2010.

Background:

As part of the High School Completion Framework, Alberta Education has initiated a three-year pilot project to measure student engagement of junior and senior high students in the social, academic and intellectual domains with 200-250 Alberta schools beginning in September 2010. This pilot project will survey the same schools throughout the term of the project. The participating schools represent the Alberta experience and reflect a cross-section of rural/urban, large/small, and north/south.

Because of division encompasses rural and urban schools, Parkland School Division has been selected as one of the jurisdictions in the province to participate in the pilot project. PSD schools participating in the pilot include Memorial Composite High School, Memorial Composite Outreach, Graminia School, Wabamun School, Muir Lake School, Entwistle School, Blueberry School, Duffield School, Greystone Centennial Middle School, Seba Beach School, and Woodhaven Middle School. Spruce Grove Composite High School is part of the High School Flexibility Project and, as such, is automatically participating in the project.

The first surveys will be administered between October 18 and November 17, 2010 while the second surveys will be administered later in the spring.

Administration would be pleased to respond to questions.

Parkland School Division No. 70

Tell Them From Me Project: Measuring Student Engagement

Parkland School Division has been selected as one of the jurisdictions in the province to participate in the ***Tell Them From Me Project: Measuring Student Engagement*** beginning in September 2010.

As part of the *High School Completion Framework*, Alberta Education has initiated a three-year pilot project to measure student engagement in the social, academic and intellectual domains with 200-250 Alberta schools beginning in September 2010. This pilot project will survey the same schools throughout the term of the project. The participating schools represent the Alberta experience and reflect a cross-section of rural/urban, large/small, and north/south.

Alberta Education has contracted *The Learning Bar* to develop a customized survey solution and platform that will be used to help schools gather and report data on student engagement to help with school improvement planning. This consulting company will function as project managers at Alberta Education and will support all facets of the project by actively supporting jurisdictions and schools throughout the process.

In consultation with *The Learning Bar*, a number of research-based survey measures have been preselected to be included in the survey. The corresponding questions from those measures will be made available to students when they complete the online survey. Results from schools will be aggregated at the jurisdiction level, and results from jurisdictions will be aggregated into a provincial report. The *Tell Them From Me Project* will help schools and the jurisdiction gather reliable, easy-to-interpret data on student engagement in a timely manner. School improvement planning and decisions can be made based on the evidence. The inherent features and tools on the platform are there to help schools monitor the progress of interventions over time, and to determine how best to focus their school improvement efforts.

The survey is anonymous and takes approximately 30 minutes to complete during the course of the school day. The survey questions measure the following:

1. Student Outcomes

- a. Academic Domain
 - i. Literacy
 - ii. Numeracy
 - iii. Science
 - iv. Student Aspirations
- b. Physical Domain
 - i. Physical Fitness
 - ii. Risky Behaviors
- c. Social/Emotional Domain
 - i. Social Engagement
 - ii. Institutional Engagement
 - iii. Intellectual Engagement
 - iv. Emotional Health

2. Drivers of Student Outcomes:

- a. Quality Instruction
 - i. Effective Learning Time
 - ii. Relevance
 - iii. Rigor
- b. School Context
 - i. Bully-Victim
 - ii. Safe School
 - iii. Advocacy at School
- c. Classroom Context
 - i. Teacher-Student Relations
 - ii. Learning Climate
 - iii. Expectations for Success
- d. Family Context
 - i. Advocacy Outside School

3. Demographic Factors:

- a. Language Spoken at Home
- b. Immigrant Status
- c. Aboriginal Status
- d. Grade Repetition
- e. Changed Schools