



April 13, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff Members of our Westside Lethbridge Schools,

Based on the valuable feedback received at the January 16, 2012 Westside Public Consultations, the Board of Trustees recently approved a report at its March 23, 2012 Regular Meeting. This report analyzed the findings of the consultation and provided a number of recommendations relating to transportation, programming, and grade configuration. Though the report may be view in its entirety at: <http://www.holyspirit.ab.ca/cabinet/2/14/115/West Lethbridge Consultation Report and Recommendations - March 28, 2012.pdf>, there are a few recommendations, pertaining to transportation, that will be easily implementable in time for the 2012-2013 school year, including:

- As a program of choice, non-funded students requiring transportation to St. Patrick Fine Arts Elementary will be charged a fee of \$25.00/month to access bussing.
- As a program of choice, non-funded students requiring transportation to St. Francis Junior High will be charged a fee of \$25.00/month to access bussing under the following guidelines:
  - The students currently live in the Father Leonard Van Tighem Junior High attendance zone (west of the river); AND
  - The student attended St. Patrick Fine Arts Elementary in grade 6.
- Students currently accessing transportation from the Father Leonard Van Tighem Junior High attendance zone will be grandfathered for a period of not more than two years, until June 30, 2014.
- Families who have more than one child attending either of these schools will be charged on a sliding scale. (\$25.00 for 1st child, \$15.00 for 2nd child, and \$10.00 for additional children to a maximum of \$50.00/month/family).

I believe these recommendations represent the feedback provided through the public consultation process, and provide the balance between parental choice and fiscal responsibility.

I would again like to thank all those who provided their feedback, and I look forward to working with you in the near future as we continue to proactively address the effective utilization of our west-side schools.

Sincerely,

Christopher Smeaton, Superintendent of Schools

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