



St. Paul Education Regional Division No.1

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December 19, 2014

County of St. Paul
5015-49 Avenue
St. Paul, AB T0A 3A4

Reeve and Council, County of St. Paul

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of St. Paul Education Regional Division staff and students, I wish to thank you for your past support of our Family School Liaison Worker (FSLW) program. As evidenced by your past support you no doubt realize the importance of this program.

Our front line workers continually tell us how valuable this service is to our students and families. The FSLW program offers a wide variety of services which include individual and group counselling, crisis management, case consultation and initiating referrals to other agencies. The workers are also closely involved with families. Continued access to these services is crucial and provides ongoing support to students regarding personal and social skills development that is not easily available through academic programming.

We as a school division realize the importance of these services and as such have more than doubled the budget targeted for the FSLW program. These past years we have seen our mandate expanding more and more beyond the essential 3Rs. Unfortunately our funding is not expanding to cover this wider mandate and we constantly struggle to balance social and educational needs.

The funding we receive from our community partners is absolutely essential for the continuation of this valuable service. The total operating cost of the FSLW program is \$888,000. Last year, 1187 students participated in the program resulting in approximately a \$748 cost per case. The County of St. Paul was identified as the residence for 319 of these students. We can safely say that the approximate costs to operate the FSLW program for students residing in the County of St. Paul was \$238,612. Based on this information, we ask that the County of St. Paul give consideration to continuing to contribute \$30,000 for the 2015/16 school year.

If you require further information or would like a presentation on the program, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Heather Starosielski
Board Chair
St. Paul Education Regional Division No. 1