

July 29, 2021

Abid Mavani  
Fatality Inquiry Coordinator  
Civil Litigation  
Justice and Solicitor General, Legal Services Division  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor, 10011 – 109 Street  
Edmonton, AB T5J 3S8

Dear Abid:

On behalf of our locally elected public, separate and francophone school board members, Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) appreciates the work undertaken to complete the Fatality Inquiry Reports. ASBA has reviewed a copy of the Honourable Judge J.E. Schaffter's three reports to the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General on the deaths of four young persons: TDM, TCM, TMB and DB.

ASBA was saddened by the tragic circumstances surrounding the deaths of the young persons detailed in these reports. Additionally, ASBA appreciates the importance of thorough reviews with comprehensive recommendations for stakeholders to prevent similar incidents going forward.

The Fatality Inquiry Reports indicate one recommendation that impacts ASBA and its school board members. The recommendation to "encourage school administrators to use the services of the Office of Student Attendance and Re-engagement (OSAR) when attendance issues first arise with a youth and prior to proceeding to suspension or expulsion" is accepted by ASBA.

While ASBA supports its school board members, it is important to note that ASBA is not a governing body and that the direction and creation of policies within schools or boards is beyond the scope of the Association. Individual school boards have the autonomy to determine the best approach for their community, including services such as the OSAR. However, ASBA is fully committed to encouraging its school board members to utilize the support services available through the OSAR.

ASBA appreciates the complexity of these issues and the importance of stakeholders working collaboratively to support all communities. We will continue to work with our education partners to support the safety and well-being of all students.

Sincerely,



Dr. Vivian Abboud,  
CEO, ASBA

cc: Lorrie Jess, President, Alberta School Boards Association