



Foothills School Board Trustee- Sharon Nichols



Board of Trustee Report to School Councils – January 2022

We honour the spirit, life, and lessons this land and its ancestors teach us. We acknowledge the traditional territories of the Siksika, Piikani, Kainai, Tsuut’ina, and Îyârhe Nakoda and the Metis Nation Region 3.

[Board Agendas and Meetings](#)

ENGAGEMENT	SUPPORT	SUCCESS
BOARD HIGHLIGHTS		

- Thank you for continuing to support our students and staff as we continue to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. As a Board, we continue to address the new challenges as a result of the COVID -19 Omicron variant. We fully support the return to in-person learning starting January 10 and advocated for this return with the Minister of Education and our MLAs.
- [Board of Trustees January 5, 2022 Statement on Extended Winter Break](#)
- The updated COVID – 19 Handbook is linked for you here with key updates highlighted in yellow. [COVID – 19 Handbook – Updated January 8, 2022.](#)
- In November, the Board gave approval of the Audited Financial Statements. In the report we note that by end of this fiscal year we must have a balanced budget. This is in response to Provincial mandate that School Boards to reduce their reserves to 3.1% of their budget. This will impact the budget decisions going forward. Link to [info graphic](#) provides a visual representation of the Financial Statement.
As we continue to plan forward to meet set a budget for the coming year, we will be to engaging with our staff team, families and the public to decide on a course of action that will be best for our students and community.
The Board received the [November Financial Update](#) at the January 5, 2022 Board Meeting.
- Update on the additional \$373 490.00 grant FSD received from Alberta Education to support Literacy and Numeracy targeted supports for identified students in grade 2 and 3 across the Division. In December 2021, 18 FTE EAs and 2 Teachers were hired and began training January 3-14, 2022. Literacy and Numeracy assessments will take place in January for grade one students. Additional professional learning sessions are taking place from January through June for K-9 teachers and for Elementary EAs.
- The Board approved the [2022- 2023 School Calendar](#)
- Cameron Crossing has relocated to the Arts and Learning Commons in Okotoks and began classes there January 10, 2022.
- Blackie School Modernization is complete, and all classes are back in the newly renovated spaces.
- The Town of Okotoks has approved hiring a new peace officer to work with FSD and CTR school divisions. More information will follow as the collaborative partnership is developed.

The FSD Board of Trustees Purpose Statement: *To govern by holding space so that our students and all who support them can flourish.*

- Update on [New Curriculum](#) Announcement from Minister of Education, Adriana LaGrange December 13, 2021.
- In September 2022 four subjects (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Physical Education and Wellness) will be implemented.
- The new K-6 curriculum for social studies, French immersion and francophone language arts, science and fine arts will be delayed.
- Concern about the social studies draft has prompted the working copy to be discarded, and a new blueprint drawn up rearranging the order the information should be taught in.
- The government said more changes could be coming to address the concerns of Indigenous and Francophone Albertans.
- The introduction of a new curriculum for junior and senior high has been pushed back.

PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS

Lead team learning with Cynthia Glaicar, Director of Staff and Wellness Learning

- Cynthia provided a workshop on Deep and Transferable Learning Principles that is the ongoing Professional Learning work throughout the Division.

Rhonda Bymak, Principal of Longview School present the [Longview School Education Plan](#) with stories of student wellness, engagement, support and success.

Dr. Miriam Ramzy, Director of Student Learning (JK-6) presented an update on the work of [teaching and learning in literacy and numeracy](#) across the division highlighting the professional learning opportunities with Garfield Gini-Newman.

Shelley Zorn, French Services Facilitator presented an update on the [professional learning and student learning activities](#) taking place across the division highlighting the opportunities for students to work with buddy classes from different schools. The French Immersion Program Review is this year. Shelley has been engaging stakeholders through online surveys and small focus groups to begin to gather information about program growth and plans.

CELEBRATIONS

- Congratulations to the COVID-19 Response team for the excellent work they have done and continue to do in response to the COVID-19 pandemic featured in a CASS Connections magazine article this month. The article is “Team Resilience and Community Trust”.
<https://cass.ab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CASS-Connection-Fall-2021.pdf>
- Congratulations to Trustee Letendre in her election as Chair of ASBA Zone 5 where her leadership will guide engagement in advocacy initiatives to that impact the quality of education for students in Alberta.
- Congratulations to Trustee Irwin for representing FSD on the governing board of the Rural Caucus.

LOOKING AHEAD

January 19, 2022

- Board Meeting
- Meeting with Towns of Black Diamond, Longview and Turner Valley

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