



Ecole Secondaire Highwood High School  
School Council Meeting  
January 19, 2026, 6:30pm  
Minutes

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Attendees: Dave Roberts, Ian Whitworth, Tanya Franklin, Cole Russell, Cathy King, Maez Ben Ronnd Cane, Arwa Jabali

- 1) Welcome and Introductions
- 2) Land Acknowledgements, by Ian W
- 3) Additions to Agenda, none
- 4) Approval of Agenda
  - a. Motion by Ian, Second by Tanya
- 5) Report: Student Matters, Cole Russell  
Working to increase awareness and engagement in different school clubs. Instead of having a group club day, they will be promoting a different one weekly

6) Report: Administration, Dave Roberts

Semester 2 is coming to an end Friday. Monday and Tuesday next week are turn around days and we hit the ground running with Semester 2 January 28th. The next few weeks will be busy with timetable change requests, and it is hard to believe we are ½ way.

My announcement came out last week (Dave is retiring). Timelines and procedures will be out soon.

Our AERR was posted just before Christmas. This is the look at data from all the last year's sources and evaluation of our goals. Our data was great – we have a very supportive community. Again, grade 9 transition seems to be our main focus every year, especially the first semester. We get great feedback on our educational quality, communication, great teachers, and great opportunities for students. We will look at this again when we design next year's Education Plan.

Budget is currently on the table, and we will start next year's timetable over the next few weeks. We hope to have all this done by Reading Week/Teacher Convention Feb 16-20.

Basketball is in full swing. Rugby and Badminton will start in about a month. Our play has wrapped up and our one-act theater productions/competitions will fire up semester 2. Our Christmas band concert was amazing (best band program in Western Canada – no really!). They are off to Vancouver/Whistler in April. Our France Trip heads out March 25-April5. Lots going on.

Again, no final exams this semester. With the extra 2 weeks added, teachers are appreciative of the extra time and have been able to complete their courses. Especially important for grade 12's. No Diploma Exams, but Semester 2 will probably be back to "normal". Nothing otherwise from Alberta Education at this point in time.

7) Report: Trustee, Jackie Roe (FSD Trustee Ward 5)

**Jackie Roe – FSD Trustee Ward 5**

**Trustee Report to School Councils – December 2025 & January 2026**

**ENGAGEMENT - SUPPORT – SUCCESS**

**BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**

- Progress being made on the New High School in Okotoks.
- Discussion regarding the Okotoks & Area Boundary Review. The Board is recommending to defer the boundary review to the 2027 school year and direct administration to action it at that time. This decision ensures that when boundaries are reviewed, the most up to date, applicable, and relevant information will be used. This also provides the Division with more time to participate in a broader engagement process and allows for a more comprehensive and wholesome review.
- Board chair made a presentation this week on the electoral boundary revisions being proposed by the GoA. Particular concerns around how this will affect schools across the province.
- Division Calendar is in the works and public engagement is invited. Should start tomorrow, with feedback available on FSD website will have ability to provide feedback on January 15<sup>th</sup> to January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD**

**December 2025**

- Dinah Van Donzel Learning To Read: Early Literacy Intervention and the AMIRA program, an AI tool used to support students in and out of the classroom with the involvement of staff.
- Dorothy Paskowski and Meridith Bambrick shared successes in the cultural shift happening at Okotoks Junior High School
- Kevin Gushulak, Director of Facility Services, reported on capital projects completed and plans for 26/27 school year.

**January 2026**

- Doug Stevens provided a comprehensive AI presentation to the board that outlined the steps planned to ensure safe and effective use of AI tools for staff and students. The goal is to ensure there is clear communication regarding the use. Stressed this is not a means to reduce teachers, highlighting, “Artificial intelligence can personalize learning; only human teachers can humanize it”.
- RDL School presentation featured their success in community and school engagement.
- Director of Professional Learning & Education Partner Relations, Chase Ellis shared a report on Professional Learning and Partner Relations
- Sara Fox, Manager of Communications and Community Engagement, addressed steps towards further engagement of families in the Foothills Community

## ACTIVITY UPDATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- Enjoyed Holliday concerts at Spitzee, Joe Clark and Highwood schools.
- Attended Zone 5 ASBA meeting on January 9th.
- The Foothills School Division Council of School Councils (COSC) will hold its first meeting on January 26, 2026, with the aim of connecting School Council Chairs from across the Division, providing support for 'new to the position' council members, and electing a new COSC Chair.
- The **ASBA Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award** and the **Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Student Award** are open for nominations.
  - *These awards recognize First Nations, Métis and Inuit students who model strength and commitment in the pursuit of their personal education path and embrace their own gifts, strengths and potential while celebrating the ways of their people.*
  - *The Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Student Award recognizes nine students (Grade 6, 9 and 11) who attend a school in Alberta, under the jurisdiction of an ASBA member school board, who have shown tremendous growth in developing skills to better themselves through determination, initiative and independence, leading to their improvement and success both academically and personally. (Deadline: April 13, 2026)*

### *2026 ASBA awards and deadlines*

- Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award | Deadline: February 9, 2026
- Edwin Parr Teacher Award | Deadline: March 18, 2026
- Friends of Education Award | Deadline: March 18, 2026
- Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Student Award | Deadline: April 13, 2026
- Community Engagement Award | Deadline: September 16, 2026
- School Board Innovation and Excellence Award | Deadline: September 16, 2026
- Distinguished Service Award | Deadline: September 16, 2026
- Young Author's Conference will be on Saturday, May 9 at Holy Trinity Academy

8) Next Meeting: February 23, 2026

9) Adjournment: 7:09pm