** Sharon Nichols – FSD Trustee -Ward 4 **

**Trustee Report to School Councils – September - October 2021**

*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.*

**ENGAGEMENT SUPPORT SUCCESS**

* Thank you to the FSD school communities, students, staff and families for all the efforts made to ensure a successful start to the 2021-2022 school year. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to shape the ways we organize our schools to provide the safe, caring and welcoming spaces that are vital to the well-being of students and staff each day. **Information about the ALBERTA PUBLIC HEALTH measures are in effect for our schools are available here** [**FSD School Renewal Plan Update**](https://www.foothillsschooldivision.ca/_ci/p/5176) **and on the FSD website for you.**

Additionally: Commencing on October 6, Alberta Health began posting information publicly about COVID-19 cases in schools.  You can access this provincial information [here](https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-school-status-map.aspx).

[FSD COVID-19 Dashboard](https://www.foothillsschooldivision.ca/page/6011/covid-19-dashboard) reported numbers only include cases that were self-disclosed to us.  We anticipate that there will be a discrepancy between FSD and the new provincial reporting until AHS begins to reach out and notify us of all cases affecting our schools.  This process is expected to begin on October 12.

**BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**

* Advocacy Item:
  + The Board of Trustees communicated in writing with the Minister of Education expressing its concerns and frustrations with the decision-making process imposed on school divisions and the lack of leadership by the Government of Alberta related to COVID health restrictions including mask use within schools, resulting in greater uncertainty and division within our communities. The letter was copied to MLA Sigurdson, MLA Reid and MLA Ros.
  + The Trustees and the Executive Team met with MLA Sigurdson, MLA Reid and MLA Rosin on September 29 to share the details of the impact of COVID-19 in our schools and asked for their advocacy to support us in receiving guidance from the provincial level on health guided decisions.
* September 30 – National Truth and Reconciliation Day
* The Board adjusted the 2021-2022 school calendar to recognize and honor September 30, 2021 as The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and, that September 30, 2021 be adjusted as a non-attendance day for students and staff. The Board will also review upcoming school calendars and include September 30 as a non-attendance day moving forward.
* August 2021, the Minister of Education announced that School Councils in Alberta will be receiving an [Alberta School Council Grant](https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/news/post/enhancing-parent-engagement-in-alberta-schools) of $500.00 to enhance collaboration between parents and schools on education priorities.
* FSD has recently received funding totaling $530,000 from the Public Health Agency of Canada and an RBC Mental Health grant. We will be using these dollars to support wellness initiatives across our schools.
* We are in the process of hiring for two limited term positions to support this work, a Mental Health Navigator and Student Health Facilitator. These roles will promote and facilitate a coordinated and integrated approach to health and wellbeing for our students, their families, and our staff team.
* The Board continues to work on updating the Policies of FSD. A committee will be struck to review celebration of days of significance to align with Policy 16 – Welcoming, Safe, Caring , Inclusive and Respectful Learning Environments.

**PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS**

* Report from Charity Tegler, Indigenous Learning Facilitator
  + - * formation of FSD Indigenous Advisory Council
      * Truth and Reconciliation Learning Success Toolkit developed and being used in schools
      * the Board submitted the Toolkit for an ASBA School Board Innovation and Excellence award.
    - Report from Cynthia Glaicar, Director of Staff and Wellness Learning
      * Update of professional learning opportunities for staff to support learning for transfer and staff wellness.
      * Advancing our commitment to curriculum development with work commencing for a Curriculum working group to prepare for the Fall of 2022
      * Innovative learning tools like access to Streamable Learning platforms for every classroom. These are hundreds of K-12 interactive livestreams sourced from educational institutions from around the world and delivered by subject matter experts.
    - Report from Wanda le Roux, Director of Transportation
      * Provided an overview of the transportation in the Division
* Report from Dr. Miriam Ramsay, Director of Student Learning Jr. K - 6
  + Update of the work of teachers in advancing First Nations Metis and Inuit Student Success; of Learning for Transfer and Literacy and Numeracy.
* Report from Lori Isberg, Innovation and Design Facilitator
  + Provided a comprehensive overview of the Maker Space/ CTF and CTS programs in our schools.
* Planning update of Capital and Supportive Projects
  + New High School – Okotoks: FSD received approval for a $100,000 planning budget to meet with the Town of Okotoks to begin the planning process.
  + Completion of the Cameron Crossing portion of the Okotoks Arts and Learning Campus with a November/December date set for the opening.

**CELEBRATIONS**

* Congratulations on the opening of three new learning opportunities for FSD students: the Nature Based Learning Alternative School for grade K – 6 students; Full-day Kindergarten at three FSD sites; and Hub@Home for grade 1 – 12 students.
* Congratulations to England Metcalfe (FCHS) on her appointment to the Minister's Youth Council. The Minister's Youth Council gives students opportunities to share input and perspectives on provincial programs and initiatives.

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