



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

March 3, 2025

Hello,

Welcome to the February 2025 edition of the Foothills School Division Monthly Newsletter. This regular communication directly from the Division Office into your inbox is a great way to stay connected with the activities, advocacy, opportunities, and stories from around the system.

Here is what we have for you this month:

- An update on the continuity of learning through labour action
- Footnotes February 2025: How we continue to advance innovation and design.
- FSD seeks your input for budget 2025-2026
- You did it! A new High School in Okotoks is coming!
- Save the date for Summer School registration
- Exciting summer and career opportunities await!
- Thank you for making first Heart of Education Gala a great success!

As always, if you have wonders or concerns about your child's learning, please connect with their teacher; if you wish to address a concern regarding learning environments or school operations, please connect with your child's school ([Resolving Concerns](#)).



Dear FSD Community,

I express my sincere appreciation, on behalf of everyone in the Division, for your patience, understanding, and collaboration during this challenging time.

I know that learning environments look and feel different right now, and that schools may not be able to respond as quickly as they normally would. I am grateful for your continued support and understanding as we navigate these challenges together.

The challenges this situation poses can be significant, and I wish to reiterate that the Division and our schools are committed to offering the maximum support to your children, within the safest learning environment resources allow. We shared an updated regarding the [continuity of learning during labour action at our website](#).

We met with the CUPE Local 5040 team on February 21 and 28, 2025, and negotiations are ongoing. Further dates have been schedule to meet back at the table. We aim to find resolution that meets the needs of the employee group while respecting the financial and negotiating frameworks the employer must maintain.

Thank you again for your continued cooperation, patience, and understanding. We will continue to provide updates and information as it becomes available. Please also contact your child's school for questions specific to your child's learning. All updates will also be posted on the [Labour Relations | CUPE page](#) at our website.

Yours in learning,

Chris

Chris Fuzessy
Superintendent of Schools
Foothills School Division

Continuity of learning during labour action update

Honesty is the foundation of trust and assurance. During our tenure as leaders in the Foothills School Division (FSD) community, we have always been honest and transparent in our communications.

On February 25, we first shared an update with the community regarding the progress of the Division's labour action contingency plan. We have added further details to this progress that can be read at our website: [Continuity of Learning During Labour Action](#)



Meet our Board of Trustees

Foothills School Division is governed by six elected officials who represent the five wards of the division. They set the strategic direction of the division and allocate resources to achieve the Education Plan. [You can learn about our Board of Trustees at our website.](#)

Board Meeting Dates

Public Board Meetings begin promptly at 1:00 pm.

- March 5, 2025
- March 26, 2025
- April 9, 2025
- April 30, 2025

To learn more about board operations, please see [Policy 6 – Board Operations](#)

Celebrating our Flourishing Community

Check out the Flourishing Community Reports shared at our Board Meetings:

February 2025

- [Longview School](#)
- [Foothills Digital School](#)
- [Employee Services](#)

January 2025

- [Technology Services](#)
- [Communications & Community Engagement](#)
- [École Okotoks Junior High](#)

Footnotes: How we continue to advance innovation & design

A frontrunner in innovative programming and design thinking, Foothills School Division continuously provides students opportunities to be engaged in their learning. From investing in innovative projects to career-focused programs, FSD offers pathways for all.

[Read more in the January 2025 edition of Footnotes.](#)

FOOTNOTES

steps toward a flourishing community

February 2025

HOW WE CONTINUE TO ADVANCE INNOVATION AND DESIGN

STEPS TO ADVANCING INNOVATION AND DESIGN

- SEPTEMBER 2016 - 2021**
Classroom Practice Innovative Projects (CPIP) The Board of Trustees committed \$1 million dollars over 5 years to projects and practices that optimize teaching and student learning, achievement, and success.
- OCTOBER 2019**
Re-envisioning Policy 1 - Foundational Statements the Board opened conversations about the underlying philosophy of CTS/CTF across FSD.
- MARCH 2021**
 The Board of Trustees met with the *UCP Skilled Trades Caucus* to share FSD's Career Futures document.
- SEPTEMBER 2021**
 Implementation of the **Innovation and Design Framework**
- APRIL 2023**
 Development of **AP 223** - Safety in Maker Centered Learning, Career and Technology Foundations and Career and Technology Studies
- JULY 2025**
 The second year of the FSD Summer School First Responder program expands into two levels, and offers hands-on career experience and training.

APPROVED CPIP PROJECTS INCLUDED:

- Indigenous Student Support Initiative
- Foothills Emergency Services Program
- Spiraling Math
- Stories Matter
- Student-led Sustainability Project
- MicroSociety - Bringing Real Life to Learning
- Photography - Digital Recording
- Outdoor Education - An Intervention for Students at Risk
- Transforming Classrooms into Thinking Cultures
- Thoughtbooks
- Project Zero – Cross-curricular Visible Thinking Routines Cultures of thinking
- Development and implementation of STEAM
- Place-based, Nature-based Learning Initiative

WELCOME

Welcome to the Footnotes, a monthly newsletter showcasing how Foothills School Division (FSD) is placing education at the centre of a flourishing community.

These highlights are assurance to our school community that the Board of Trustees is actioning the goals and priorities of FSD's annual Education Plan making visible how the work of the Board is connected to schools and students in their classrooms.

INNOVATION & DESIGN PROGRAMMING IN FSD

MAKER - CENTERED LEARNING
K-4

CAREER & TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATIONS
5-9

CAREER & TECHNOLOGY STUDIES
10-12



BUDGET PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Do you have ideas that make cents?

FSD wants to know your funding priorities for the 2025-2026 school year. The provincial government released their 2025-2026 budget on February 27, and we anticipate learning what this means for FSD and students in the coming weeks.

While we plan for the year ahead, we want to hear from you. To help understand your funding priorities for the upcoming year, we invite you to participate in a short 10-question engagement at FSDConnect.com/ideas-that-make-cents. Your responses will help inform decisions regarding the 2025-2026 budget that will be released at the end of May 2025.



Your advocacy in action: new high school construction announced!

We are pleased to announce that on February 15, 2025, we received notice of construction funding for a new high school in Okotoks, Alberta. This news marks a significant milestone for the rapidly growing community of Okotoks, addressing the critical need for enhanced educational facilities that continue to offer choice in education.

The innovative high school will be built south of FSD's Meadow Ridge School along 32nd Street in Okotoks. This high school will meet the learning needs of the community with an opening capacity of 1,020 spaces for students in grades 10 to 12 who are from Okotoks and the surrounding areas, including youth from as far as Priddis. The school will be designed to support the diverse educational needs of the community, fostering both academic and personal growth among students.

This announcement follows the recognition and support FSD received from Alberta's government, which allocated design funding for this high school project in the 2024 budget. This new commitment of funding is an exemplar of the Government of Alberta's pledge to accelerate school construction projects and provide much-needed relief to the current capacity situations at several schools across Alberta including FSD's École Secondaire Foothills Composite High School | Alberta High School of Fine Arts in Okotoks.

The Foothills School Division Board of Trustees extends its gratitude to the local MLAs and the Honourable Minister of Education, Demetrios Nicolaides, for their continued commitment to supporting education across the province. Board Chair Theresa Letendre expressed the Board's appreciation, stating: "We are grateful to Alberta Education for recognizing and addressing the critical need for educational infrastructure in Okotoks. Once constructed, the new high school will alleviate pressures at ÉSFCHS | ASHFA and complement our existing high school by providing additional capacity and thoughtfully designed spaces to inspire learning and support student success. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would also like to thank our partners in education who have steadfastly advocated for this high school since it became a capital priority for the Division in 2015." The Division eagerly anticipates collaborating with its education partners, the Town of Okotoks, and Alberta Education to make this long-awaited vision a reality.

Further details about this capital project, and how the public can inform decisions will be shared on the project's engagement website, FSDConnect.com/OkotoksHS



A Thank You from the Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation

Wow – what an unforgettable evening! We just want to take a moment to send a *huge* thank you to everyone who attended and supported the Heart of Education Gala. Your presence, energy, and generosity truly made the night something special.

With a near-sellout crowd, amazing food, and a stunning venue, the night was full of laughter, connection, and inspiration. A special highlight was the incredible acoustic performance by *the one and only* George Canyon – what a treat!

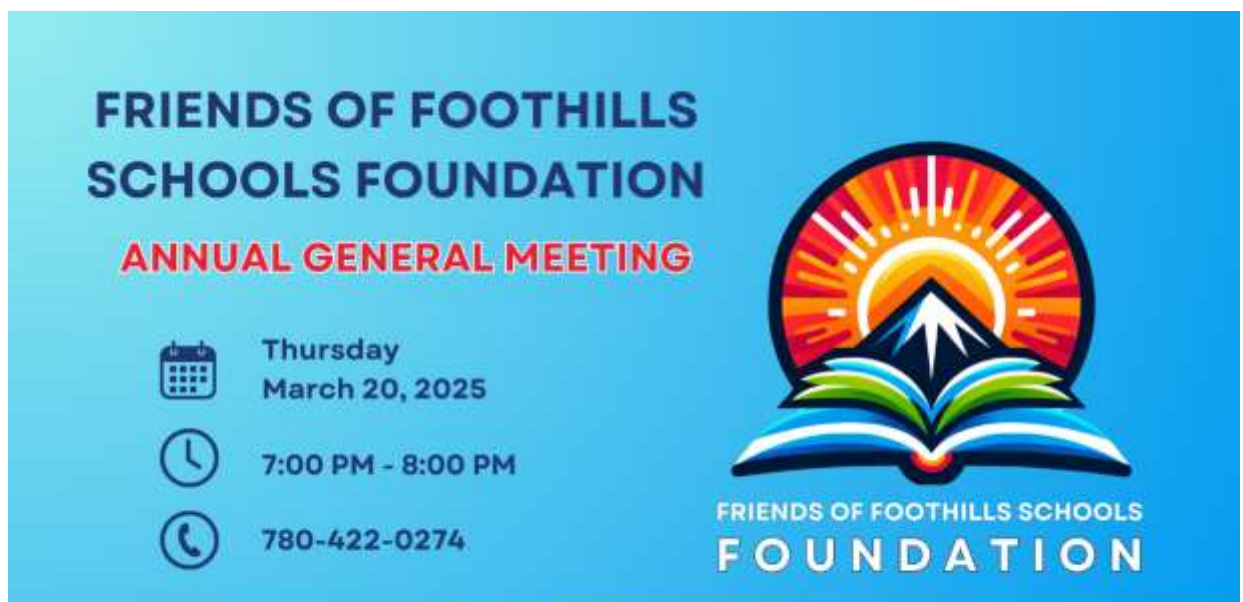
Thanks to all of you, we raised an outstanding \$9,200 for the students of the Foothills School Division! This generous support is moving us even closer to making the Foundation's vision a reality: "Every learner has an equal opportunity to succeed; to thrive within a supportive community and to achieve their full potential."

Because of your contributions, we've been able to support some amazing initiatives, such as the purchase of a Shapeoko Pro CNC router for Okotoks Jr. High, a contribution to the theatre lighting system at Highwood High, and helping to provide a Versa Cold Food Table at Senator Riley. *And this is just the beginning!*

With your continued support, we're able to provide even more opportunities for our students and stay focused on advancing our strategic priorities. The future is bright, and we couldn't be more excited for what's ahead.

Thank you for helping us make a real difference. Together, we're building a supportive community where every student has the chance to succeed!

To learn more about the FFSF and how it helps students of FSD visit foothillsfriends.ca

A promotional poster for the Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation Annual General Meeting. The background is a gradient of light blue to dark blue. On the left, there are three icons: a calendar, a clock, and a telephone. To the right of these icons is the text: "Thursday March 20, 2025", "7:00 PM - 8:00 PM", and "780-422-0274". On the right side of the poster is a large logo featuring a stylized sun rising over a mountain range, with an open book in front of it. Below the logo, the text "FRIENDS OF FOOTHILLS SCHOOLS FOUNDATION" is written in white capital letters.

**FRIENDS OF FOOTHILLS
SCHOOLS FOUNDATION**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday
March 20, 2025

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

780-422-0274

FRIENDS OF FOOTHILLS SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION

foothillsfriends.ca

FFSF Annual General Meeting

FFSF Annual General Meeting
7:00PM, March 20, 2025
Boardroom, Spitzee Crossing
2nd Floor, 129 4th Avenue SW, High River

The Annual General Meeting for the Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation is coming up on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 7pm at the Foothills Schools Division boardroom. It's a great chance to hear about what the Foundation has been up to this past year, ask questions, and vote on some important matters. We'll be sharing updates on our activities, achievements, and progress, plus discussing potential changes to the bylaws and incorporation objects. We'll also give an overview of the organization's financial health and future plans.

If you're interested in joining the Board of Directors, feel free to reach out to the [Executive Director](#) to learn more about the process. We'll also be going over role descriptions for board and volunteer roles, so it's a perfect time to get more involved.

See the exciting work of the Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation at their website or follow them on Instagram @friendsoffoothillsschools



Summer School

Looking to catch up, keep up, get ahead, or explore a career? Check out the offerings through FSD Summer School!

Summer school is a great environment focused on a positive learning culture, with dedicated, experienced teachers & tutors available on demand during the day. Students will engage in one subject at a time, participate in small group and individual learning sessions, and find a place to build confidence.

**Summer School 2025 will run from July 2 to 29
Registration opens April 15, 2025, at our website**

What courses are available?

- Math 15 (Math 10C prep)
- Math 10C, 20-1, 20-2, 30-1, 30-2, 10-3, 20-3, 30-3
- Science 10, 20, 30, 14, 24
- Biology 20, 30
- Chemistry 20, 30
- Physics 20, 30
- English Language Arts (10-1, 10-2, 20-1, 20-2, 30-1, 30-2)
- Social Studies (10-1, 10-2, 20-1, 20-2, 30-1, 30-2)
- Physical Education (PE) 10 & HCS 3000 (Workplace Safety Systems)
- CALM (Career and Life Management) & HCS 3000 (Workplace Safety Systems)

For the full course listing, credits, and prerequisites, [visit our website](#).

Additional career-focused programs for 2025 are also available

- First Responder Program
- Career Education Summer Programs



First Responder Program: Level 1 & Level 2

Offered during Summer School: July 2 - 29, 2025

Registration opens April 15, 2025

The aim of the First Responder Program is to foster an understanding and appreciation of the first responder community and the agencies that work within it.

Certifications available upon successful completion of the program:

- Standard First Aid – Level C with CPR & AED
- Airway Management
- Oxygen Therapy
- BLS CPR

Skills gained:

- knowledge and skills necessary in an emergency to help sustain life and manage an emergency scene and prioritize injury management and patient care.
- minimize the consequences of injury or sudden illness for those functioning as a member of the health care team in a pre-hospital setting.

Ideal for students exploring careers in:

- First Responder (EMS, Fire, Police)
- Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy
- Medicine, Nursing
- & more.

Interested and want more details? [Check out our website!](#)



Career Education Summer Programs

The Foothills School Division offers several summer career education opportunities that allow students to explore and experience the world of work while earning high school credits. Supervised by an off-campus coordinator, students can follow their passions and interests and ready themselves for success. Some Career Education Summer Programs can start in May; apply today!

Off-Campus Summer Programs

Speak with your Career & Academic Advisor

- Work Experience 15, 25, 35
- Registered Apprenticeship Program
- Green Certificate Program

[Explore Off Campus Programs](#)

Introduction to Trades Summer Program

Speak with your Career & Academic Advisor

- Introduction to Ironworker
- Introduction to Electrical Trades
- Trades Training: Introduction to Carpentry
- Trades Training: Introduction to Pipe Trades
- Trades Training: Introduction to Boilermaker

[Explore Trades Programs](#)

Stay Connected

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