

FOOTNOTES

steps toward a flourishing community

November 2024

HOW EVIDENCE-INFORMED DECISIONS ADVANCE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

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.

WHAT ABOUT THAT NEW HIGH SCHOOL FOR OKOTOKS?

Foothills School Division was awarded **design funding** in the 2023-2024 budget for a new high school in Okotoks. With Alberta Infrastructure leading the design meetings, the Board is taking steps to ensure FSD is ready for when **construction funding** is announced.



SO WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

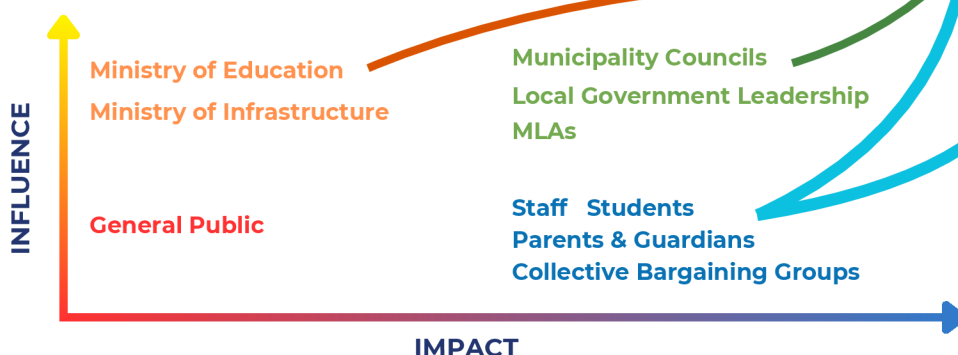
The **green light!** As the local decision-making authority, the Board of Trustees' work begins when the provincial decision-making authorities complete their work and invite us in.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE NEW BUILD

As partners in education you can make a big **impact** by sharing your voice to advocate for approval of construction funding. This includes sending letters to high-influence entities like the Minister of Education and your MLA.

The design, programming, and name of the facility will be evidence-informed based on your participation in engagement opportunities. FSD will conduct surveys and events to gather your feedback, once we are able to proceed with the facility planning process.

INFLUENCE & IMPACT



Ministry of Education

Decides:

- If a new school is needed
- When construction funding will be announced

Alberta Infrastructure

Decides:

- Where and what size of school (how many students) will be built
- Architect, Contractor, and Type of Build

FSD Board of Trustees

Decides:

- Type of programming offered at the school
- Student attendance boundary
- Facility Name

Voice that we need the new high school now: bit.ly/FSDAdvocacy

PARENTS & GUARDIANS: PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

MAKING EVIDENCE-INFORMED DECISIONS

88%

Parents & guardians were active partners in their child's learning in October.

Every month, our Learning Services team sends a friendly reminder to families to check their child's gradebook. These reminders result in a 16% increase in activity on our student information system, Edsembl. Regularly communicating with your child's teacher, and being aware of a learner's successes and challenges, is just one way to make informed decisions about your child's education.

INFORMING EVIDENCE-BASED DECISIONS

Parents and guardians inform decision-making through their participation in assurance surveys. To enhance the results and accuracy of needs in our learning communities, FSD conducts its own FSD Assurance Survey.

Other measurables, such as the Intellectual Engagement survey, SOS-Q, and even attendance, are analyzed throughout the year, offering ongoing, real-time data for FSD to make informed decisions on a continual basis.

Data from **28%** of families versus **3%** of families better informs our strategic actions to advance your child's learning

2,554

Families of FSD students in K - 12 participated in the **FSD Assurance Survey**, providing valuable insight into academic, resource, and governance matters.

335

Families of FSD students in grades 4, 7, and 10 participated in the **Alberta Education Assurance Measure** survey.



In generalizing to a population, it is vital that the survey uses a representative sample of the entire population.

-Auditor General of Canada

SCHOOL COUNCILS INFORM SCHOOL-BASED DECISIONS



School Councils are important contributors to school success. They meet once a month to help bridge the gap between the school and community and can advise on school improvement planning, enhancing student learning and engagement.

By participating in School Councils, you can directly contribute to creating a supportive and enriching educational environment for all learners.

Learn More: bit.ly/FSD_SchoolCouncil

YOUR TRUSTEES

WARD 1 - Jack Molyneux
WARD 2 - John Evans
WARD 3 - Theresa Letendre, Chair
WARD 4 - Lisa Penzo, Vice Chair
WARD 4 - Sharon Nichols
WARD 5 - Phil Irwin

YOUR EXECUTIVE TEAM

Superintendent of Schools - Chris Fuzessy
Assistant Superintendent, Corporate Services - Drew Chipman
Assistant Superintendent, Learning Services - Caroline Roberts
Assistant Superintendent, Employee Services - Allen Davidson