

FOOTNOTES

steps toward a flourishing community

April 2025

GOOD GOVERNANCE: BEHIND THE SCENES OF STUDENT SUCCESS

WELCOME

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

These highlights provide important context for the decisions ahead, ensuring our school community understands how funding realities impact our division. The Board remains committed to a balanced and strategic approach—making decisions that align with the Foothills School Division's goals and priorities.

WHAT DOES GOVERNANCE MEAN?

Governance guides how decisions are made in a school division. In FSD, this means our Board of Trustees works together to set direction, guide policy, and make sure the division stays focussed on the engagement, support, and success of each learner.

This big-picture planning and guidance has a real impact on what happens in your child's classroom every single day.

WHAT IS A TRUSTEE?

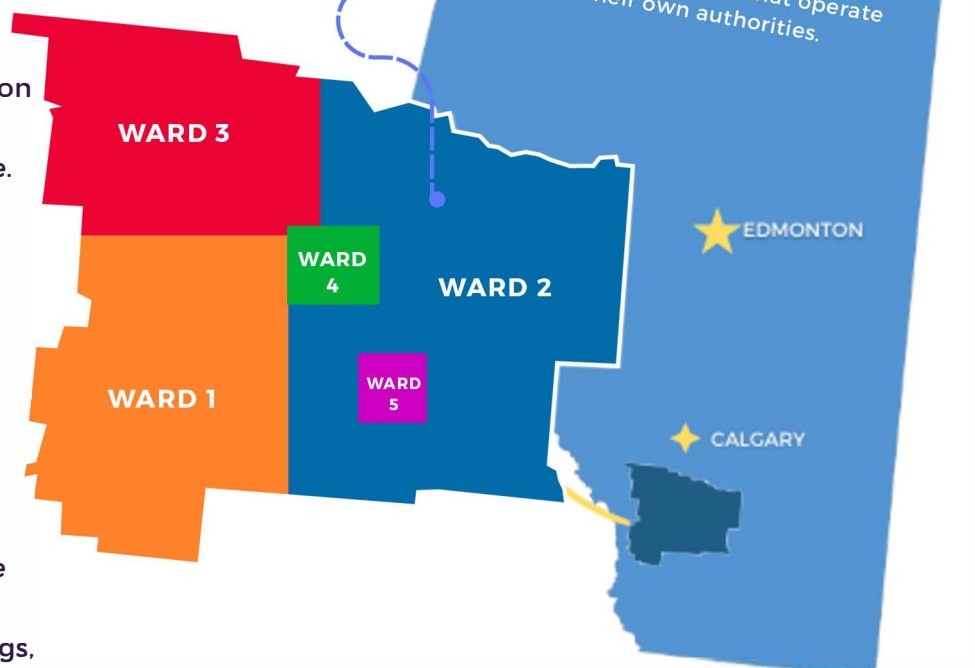
Trustees are elected leaders. They are not involved in school day to day operations—that's the role of the superintendent, division and school leaders—but they do set the direction and hold the system accountable. In FSD, trustees:

- Approve and monitor the Division's strategic priorities
- Build and review policies that guide schools procedures
- Approve the annual budget
- Meet regularly to discuss issues and opportunities in education
- Represent your voice at the Board table and on the provincial stage
- They also attend school council meetings, visit schools, and stay connected to the communities they serve.

FSD has 6 elected Trustees who govern through 5 Wards

Alberta has 63 school authorities. These authorities include public, separate (Catholic), and Francophone school boards. These authorities are grouped into zones. **FSD is a part of Zone 5.**

There are also charter schools and independent schools that operate as their own authorities.



LEARN MORE: [BIT.LY/FSD_WARDS](https://bit.ly/FSD_WARDS)

GOOD GOVERNANCE IN FOOTHILLS SCHOOL DIVISION

Here are some of the ways good governance is working behind the scenes in Foothills School Division:



SETTING PRIORITIES THAT PUT STUDENTS FIRST

The Board's commitment to equity, belonging, and student achievement helped guide the development of our Education Plan. The Education Plan is revised annually and shapes everything from identifying classroom supports to how we measure success.

LEARN MORE: [BIT.LY/FSD_EDPLAN](https://bit.ly/FSD_EDPLAN)

MAKING SMART DECISIONS ABOUT BUDGET

When the Board approved last year's budget, it protected funding for classroom learning, mental health, and student supports—even in the face of rising costs.

ED PLAN & BUDGET



LEARN MORE: [BIT.LY/FSD_BUDGET](https://bit.ly/FSD_BUDGET)



ACCOUNTABILITY

FSD operates within Alberta Education's Assurance Framework—a system that asks school divisions to show how they're meeting local needs while aligning with provincial goals. That means the Board is not just setting direction, but constantly reviewing progress and reporting back to families and the public.

In Foothills, you can see that in:

- Our Annual Education Results Report
- Updates to our Division Priorities
- Regular engagement with parents, councils, and community groups

LEARN MORE: [BIT.LY/FSD_AERR](https://bit.ly/FSD_AERR)



FOCUSING ON REAL NEEDS IN OUR SCHOOLS

Whether it's advocating for a new Grades 10-12 high school in Okotoks or supporting rural schools with transportation challenges, trustees make sure the community's voice is part of the decisions that affect schools.

LEARN MORE: [BIT.LY/FSDADVOCACY](https://bit.ly/FSDADVOCACY)

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

There are many ways to be part of the governance story:

- **Stay informed:** Read Footnotes, check Board agendas, and follow along with meeting updates.
- **Attend school council or Board meetings:** Share your perspective.
- **Vote in the trustee election:** Coming up on **October 20, 2025**
- **Consider running for trustee:** If you care about education, this is your chance to help shape its future.
- Check out our **Trustee Guide to Good Governance** for more details.

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