

FOOTNOTES

steps toward a flourishing community

January 2026

CONNECTED TO COMMUNITY

WHAT'S HAPPENING RIGHT NOW



COMMUNITY IN ACTION: RURAL SCHOOLS

Rural Schools: Rooted in Community

The Division recently highlighted the essential role rural schools play in our communities – not just as places of learning, but as hubs of belonging, pride, and connection.

[Read the Story](#)



LISTENING THROUGH ASSURANCE

Assurance Feedback: A Guiding Compass

Trustees are reviewing provincial and local assurance data – including results from the Alberta Education & Childcare Assurance Survey – to understand how families and students are experiencing teaching and learning. These insights help the Board monitor progress toward Division goals and ask informed questions about supports and opportunities for growth.

[Learn About Assurance Surveys](#)



BOARD ACTIONS: ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIPS

Conversations and Community Themes

At recent Board meetings, trustees have been discussing insights from across the Division – including emerging themes related to:

- community engagement and communication
- student supports and well-being
- long-range planning in a growing region

These conversations help shape priority focus areas for the year ahead. Trustees are engaging with provincial and municipal partners to represent Foothills perspectives.

[View Board Agendas](#)

[View Board Actions](#)

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.

January is a time to reconnect with purpose and shared understanding. Trustees remain closely connected to families, school councils, and community partners, while also engaging in evidence-based decision-making and public advocacy.

This edition of Footnotes highlights how that connection shapes Board actions, learning, and accountability.

[Read Past Editions of Footnotes](#)



BOARD WORK AT A GLANCE

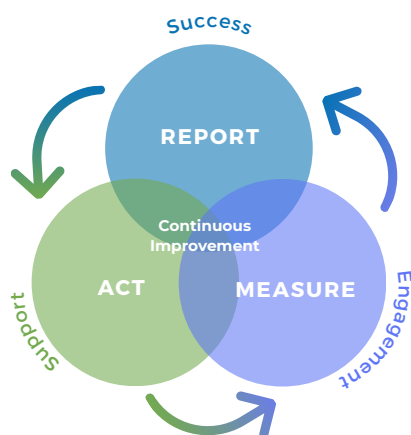


SCHOOL COUNCILS

- 🔗 Council of School Councils (COSC) Meeting
January 26

ASSURANCE SURVEYS

- Community Conversations
- Consultation Feedback



- 🔗 Our Assurance Cycle
Footnotes November 2025



REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 🔗 **Student Learning (JK-6) & Staff Development**
Dinah Van Donzel, Director
- 🔗 **Professional Learning & Education Partner Relations**
Chase Ellis, Director
- 🔗 **Inclusive Learning, Wellness and Well-being**
Cora-Leah Schmitt, Director
- 🔗 **Transportation Services**
Sandy Stewart, Acting Director
- 🔗 **Technology Services**
Sally Smith, Director
- 🔗 **Risk & Materials**
Dave Barton, Manager
- 🔗 **Communications & Community Engagement**
Sara Fox, Manager

ASSURANCE DATA

- 🔗 Annual Education Results Report
- 🔗 Audited Financial Statements



ENGAGING WITH PROVINCIAL BODIES

- Electoral Boundaries Commission
January 13
- ASBA Zone 5 Meeting
January 9
- Board Chair & Ministry Engagement
February 9

MUNICIPAL PARTNER MEETINGS

- Town of High River
February 3
- Town of Diamond Valley and Village of Longview
February 3
- Town of Okotoks
February 11
- Foothills County
February 24

PUBLIC BOARD DECISIONS

- 🔗 Public Board Meeting Minutes



WHAT'S NEXT

- Municipal partner meetings across Foothills communities to foster strong working relationships
- Trustee Tours of FSD schools and facilities to experience the engagement, support, and success of each learner within the school setting
- Approval of the 2026-2027 Instructional Calendar with your feedback in mind
- Continued advocacy on behalf of public education
🔗 [Read our Letters](#)
- Public reporting through Board meetings and assurance updates
🔗 [See upcoming Board Meetings](#)
- Building community partnerships for mutual flourishing and rural resilience
Coming soon

YOUR TRUSTEES

Ward 1	Shanon Hines
Ward 2	Sherry Butler
Ward 3	Theresa Letendre, Chair
Ward 4	Lisa Penzo, Vice Chair
Ward 4	Sharon Nichols
Ward 5	Jackie Roe

YOUR EXECUTIVE TEAM

Superintendent of Schools	Chris Fuzessy
Assistant Superintendent, Learning Services	Caroline Roberts
Assistant Superintendent, Employee Services	Allen Davidson
Assistant Superintendent, Corporate Services	
Secretary Treasurer	Katelyn Nickel