

# 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](#)

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**CONNECTED TO COMMUNITY. GUIDED BY EVIDENCE. INFORMED BY ACTION.**

# BOARD WORK AT A GLANCE

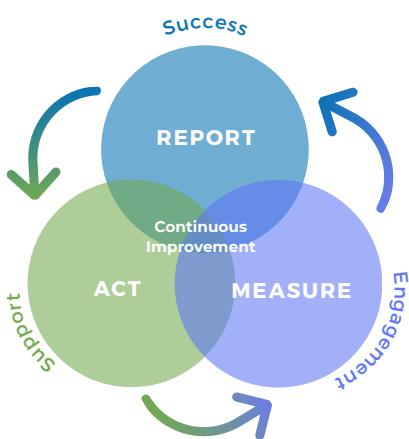


## SCHOOL COUNCILS

- ⌚ 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

⌚ [See Consultation](#)

- 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