

FOOTNOTES

steps toward a flourishing community

April 2026

A SHARED COMMITMENT TO SAFETY



A CONDITION FOR LEARNING

In Foothills School Division, the safety and well-being of students and staff is **foundational to everything we do.**

As a Board, we continue to reflect on what it means to ensure that every school is safe, welcoming, and inclusive. This commitment is reflected in Policy 14 - A Place for All.

Safety is not separate from learning—it is a shared responsibility and a condition for success.

ENHANCING OUR SAFE SPACES

With FSD, work to support safe learning environments is ongoing and evolves to incorporate best practices and meet the needs of our learning community. Schools follow established practices and procedures, with a focus on both physical safety and a strong sense of belonging and support for every student.

Across Alberta, school divisions have been asked to review safety practices—providing an opportunity to further strengthen the systems, practices, and environments already in place.

A part of this province-wide review includes identifying any gaps or limitations in school facilities, as well as noting the upgrades that may be needed over time to continue improving safety.

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.

As the school year moves into April, the Board of Trustees continues to reflect on its priorities and areas of focus. Exhibited in recent governance work, school and student safety remains an important and consistent area of attention.

While safety is continuously assessed and addressed by the Division, it is further strengthened through ongoing reflection, collaboration, and alignment with provincial direction.

WHAT YOU MAY NOTICE



School doors open at set times



Supervised access into the school



Visitors check in and out at the front office



Collaboration meetings with local RCMP at schools

These practices help schools stay **welcoming and safe at the same time.**

KEEPING SCHOOLS SAFE IS SOMETHING WE ALL DO TOGETHER



WHAT WE ARE HEARING...

- Families want **clear, timely information**
- Students need **safety and belonging**
- Questions arise when information is limited
- Community voice shapes our thinking



WHAT WE KNOW...

- Safety work is often **not visible**
- **Privacy laws** and other safety considerations limit what can be shared publicly
 - Protection of Privacy Act (POPA)
 - Access to Information Act (ATIA)
- Strong systems guide responses
- Safety and belonging are connected
- Clear procedures support consistent responses in all situations



WHAT THE DIVISION IS DOING...

- Continuing to review and strengthen safety practices
- Completing **school safety audits**
- Piloting **secure access systems**
- Expanding RCMP School Action for Emergencies (SAFE) partnerships
- Updated the Division's **Critical Incident Response Manual**, including a quick reference plan for schools
- Developing resources to help staff and families better understand how schools respond to incidents



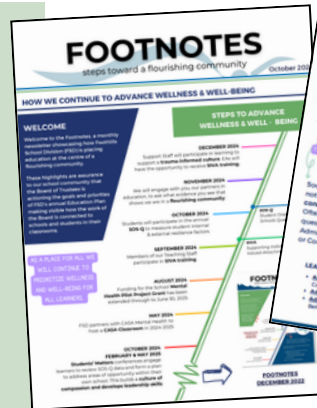
WHAT'S NEXT

The Board of Trustees will continue to focus on student safety and well-being across Foothills School Division.

This includes continuing to review and strengthen practices, aligning with provincial direction, and staying connected to the experiences of students, staff, and families.

In the coming months:

- Continued review of safety practices
- Ongoing school visits and engagement
- Expansion of community partnerships
- Monitoring facility and access improvements



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- Ward 2 Sherry Butler
- Ward 3 Theresa Letendre, Chair
- Ward 4 Lisa Penzo, Vice Chair
- Ward 4 Sharon Nichols
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- Assistant Superintendent, Learning Services Caroline Roberts
- Assistant Superintendent, Employee Services Allen Davidson
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