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February 1, 2024

Honourable Demetrios Nicolaidis
Minister of Education
228 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

RE: Support for Wolf Creek Public Schools Letter: 'Complaint Process to the Commission' (Oct. 2023)

Dear Minister Nicolaidis,

On behalf of the Foothills School Division Board of Trustees, I am writing to you today requesting renewed focus on the concerns highlighted in the letter dated October 23, 2023, from Luci Henry, Chair of the Wolf Creek School Division Board of Trustees.

As we mark one year under the 'new' complaint process facilitated by the Alberta Teaching Profession Commission, the FSD Board of Trustees is reiterating the call for a reconsideration of this process. FSD shares the original concerns outlined by the Wolf Creek School Division including; the ease and lack of transparency around filing a complaint, the absence of a timeline if a matter has been referred to investigation, the apparent overlap in oversight – specifically, the incidents of concurrent investigations at School Division and Provincial levels, and finally the steadily accumulating financial cost since the complaint process came into effect in 2023. While we recognize the underlying intention to improve accountability and streamline processes, it is important to note that there remain several consequences – unintended or not, affecting students and staff in schools across the province.

In light of your mandate letter from Premier Smith, which emphasizes the exploration of "...incentives to support the recruitment and retention of teachers, educational assistants and support staff...", the Foothills School Division Board of Trustees reaffirms our support for Wolf Creek School Division's call for a comprehensive review of this process as a review is essential to



implementing corrective measures that prioritize the dignified, humane, and professional treatment of staff.

Thank you for your attention and consideration. We await your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Theresa Letendre." The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Theresa Letendre

Board Chair, Board of Trustees | Ward 3
Foothills School Division

Cc: Board Chair Luci Henry, Wolf Creek School Division
Dr. Christopher Fuzessy, Foothills School Division Superintendent
MLAs for Foothills School Division
Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA)

