



## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

January 24, 2023 Board Meeting

- 1. Indigenous Education Committee:** The WRSD Indigenous Education Committee met on January 16. Treaty 6 and Metis Flags will be purchased for all of the schools and Division Office. Indigenous graduates may choose to be honored with blankets at their school graduation ceremonies. Math Specialist Lisa Lunnie-Borden will support teachers in embedding Indigenous culture into math lessons on February 7 with a 90 minute virtual session for the K-12 Numeracy Champions and then again on February 27 with a full day in person for Grade 7-12 math teachers.
- 2. Student Support Services:** On June 7, 2022 the provincial government announced \$1.8 million to support the increasing costs and highly specialized services required for children with low incidence disabilities (blind, deaf, complex communication) through the Low Incidence Support and Service Grant (LISS). Wild Rose School Division was successful in acquiring an additional \$48,000 to support these students. The provincial government has extended the application deadline for the Specialized Assessment grant until June 2024, therefore WRSD will be putting through an additional 30 applications. We expect to save approximately \$60,000 by accessing this provincial grant. We were approved for 15 assessments prior to November. We continue to have feedback from staff and families with young children (ages 3-5) regarding the loss of funding for Family Orientated Programming due to the changes with Program Unit Funding from Alberta Education. Therefore, we have submitted grant applications to both the Clearwater and Drayton Valley/Brazeau County Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) to provide this programming. We have been approved for \$4000.00 for Drayton Valley & Breton and are waiting to hear from Clearwater FCSS.
- 3. Learning Disruption Grant:** 6 EAs (AU\EV, EVD\CS, BE, CS, CA, LO\ERE) have been hired to support grade 2-4 students in three - 6 week intervention cycles between now and the end of June. After several days of training, the EAs will start with small groups of students on January 23. Students will be post-tested after the intervention and results shared with Alberta Education to meet the requirements of the grant.
- 4. Dewey Decimal System Change:** School learning commons will be switching from the Dewey Decimal System to the Book Industry Standards And Communications (BISAC)

system for non fiction classification. This transition is because of cultural bias in the Dewey system and ease of finding materials in the BISAC system. [More information here.](#)

- 5. IT Services:** Following 2022 site visits from Northern Gateway Public Schools, Chinook's Edge School Division, and The Calgary Board of Education, in January WRSD IT entertained a site visit from Edmonton Public School Board. The tours were requested as other Districts are interested in a number of WRSD IT strategies such as our migration to cloud services, identity and access management consolidation and the shift to browser based computing using Chrome based devices. As Boards face similar budget challenges around IT, coupled with increasing regulatory requirements, many are looking at the efficiencies we've been able to achieve.