



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

August 26, 2022 Board Meeting

Recent Government of Alberta Funding Announcements:

1. Curriculum Funding for Learning & Teaching Resources - WRSD has received \$101,835 for learning resources plus an additional \$98,400 for teacher preparation. This money will be used for classroom based resources for K-3 English Language Arts & Literacy, K-3 Mathematics and K-6 Physical Education & Wellness Resources. A resource scan and gap analysis is currently underway to be able to see what materials schools have and what needs to be topped up. Working with school administrators we are going to work and plan with the curriculum for a bit to see where gaps are and give time for publishers to develop more tools and options. We've been working on resourcing over the last year with the [Literacy](#) and [Numeracy](#) Strategy bins, [Heggerty](#) Phonemic Awareness program, [decodable books](#), [Land Based Learning Carts](#), and Money Kits.
2. Mental Health Grant: Alberta Education's call for proposals for \$10 million per year, over two-years, pilot projects is now open. Designed to address gaps in mental health supports and services, the funding for this new pilot will support successful applicants to provide students with access to a range of services, and participation in the pilot will help inform future policy and funding, more broadly. As both the funding and number of pilot projects is limited, evaluation of proposals will consider regional differences in available supports, and assessments of need. Proposals for this pilot project require a collaborative and innovative approach, bringing together school authorities, mental health service providers and other organizations to support the well-being of students. WRSD is looking at submitting a proposal together with some of our mental health partners.
3. Learning Loss Grades 2-4: We will be submitting numbers of students still *At Risk* based on June testing and any new students flagged by teachers by September 30. Alberta Education will then let us know our funding amount.
4. School Nutrition: Alberta's government is re-introducing a pilot to provide \$3 million to non-profit organizations to lead innovative school nutrition projects during the 2022/23 school year. As part of Alberta's Recovery Plan, non-profit organizations (NPOs) selected through a call for proposals will collaborate with schools to pilot innovative ways

to support vulnerable youth and reduce operating costs and the administrative burden on schools while ensuring students receive healthy, balanced meals. WRSD will continue to access this funding as we have in the past.

5. Low Incidence Supports and Services Grant Funding: We submitted our application for this funding on July 3, 2022 and are awaiting a response from Alberta Education. We have a Low Incidence Team currently in place and hope to garner funding to support these positions. Low Incidence refers to students who are Blind/Visually impaired, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, require Augmentative Alternative Communication or Orientation and Mobility. Currently we have 35 students accessing support for one or more of these categories.
6. Dual Credit Grant Funding: WRSD has received \$49,505 from this grant. This money will be used to start up new Dual Credit opportunities for our students with Northern Lakes College, Olds College and Lakeland College to start with. Other opportunities and partnerships will be explored.

2022-23 Public Health Nursing and Immunization Program in Schools: On June 14, 2022 all school Divisions received the following letter from Alberta Health Services regarding a 2022-23 Public Health Nursing and Immunization plan. Nurses will be connecting with all school principals to collaborate on developing a plan for the delivery of school immunizations for the 2022-23 school year and all high schools will have a nurse assigned with a focus on answering questions or concerns related to outbreaks. For further details, please see this [link](#).

Capital Project(s) Update:

Charlotte Small - Work continues on site in preparation for opening the school for the beginning of the school year. While the school is on track to be ready for occupancy, there will be numerous finishing touches that need to be completed over the following months.

David Thompson High School - Work continues with this site with extensive work being completed on the exterior of the building and site. This project remains on schedule.

Powerhouse Campus - This project is progressing well with the school foundations being completed, the gym wall construction well underway and preparations for the concrete slabs to begin being placed. Structural steel work is expected to be underway by the end of August. Site work continues in preparation for fall.

Summer CASS Conference: The Director of Instruction led a 2 day Summer CASS workshop on Leading Learning - Implementing New Curriculum with colleagues from Black Gold and Calgary Catholic School Divisions. It was attended by 50 school division leaders from around the province.

Summer School: Summer School celebrated the return of summer camp school with 70 students going to Hunter Valley Adventures for a week of outdoor education learning. Photos:

[Week 1](#), [Week 2](#), [Week 3](#). Students had a fantastic time outdoor cooking, orienteering, hiking, learning archery, horseback riding and more! The google course had over 130 students finish, CALM had 14 and Grade 10 Math Prep had 38.

Summer Institute: An August and staff summer institute took place August 22-26. Sessions in new curriculum and first aid are being offered.

Richardson's ground squirrels in Caroline: The treatment program that was started at the beginning of summer has resulted in a significant reduction of the number of ground squirrels on the school site. Work is underway to fill and level the burrows and fences will be taken down prior to the beginning of the school year. Further treatment will be required again in the spring.