



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

September 19, 2023 Board Meeting

1. **WRSD Divisional Professional Learning Day - Understanding the Spirit and Intent of Treaties:** On August 31 WRSD hosted a professional learning day for all staff focused on the history of treaties and their connection to truth and reconciliation. All of the speakers were from Treaty 6 Territory.

- Elder [Wilson Bearhead](#) began the day by helping us understand what land ownership looked like for First Nations people prior to the treaties and the strong connection Indigenous people have with the land.
- [Sharon Venne](#) taught us about the history of how treaties came into being. She also talked about the definition of the treaties as understood by the First Nations People compared to the definition of the treaties as understood by Europeans and how the treaties were based on a relationship of friendship and trust.
- [Dennis Paul](#) spoke about how land was distributed after the treaties and how this impacted Indigenous peoples.
- Last, [Chief Tony Alexis](#) shared details of what it is like in the present day for First Nations people as a result of the treaties. He also shared a message of perseverance and hope, explaining how his community has leveraged education in order to take full advantage of the kind of life the treaties originally promised to Indigenous peoples.

Each of the speakers gave us difficult truths to think about, but did so with humour and grace. We were reminded that learning leads to humility and that our voice is our greatest gift. As a school division we want to use our collective voice to advance the cause of truth and reconciliation in our schools and in our communities.

2. **Health & Safety Meeting:** On September 1, 2023 the WRSD Health & Safety Committee had their first meeting of the year. For the first hour of the meeting, the school Health & Safety Liaisons joined the meeting. Agenda items included:
- Roles and responsibilities as stated in the [Joint Worksite Health and Safety Committee \(HSC\) & Health & Safety Liaison \(HSL\) Terms of Reference](#)
 - purpose and process for semi-annual school inspections
 - Public School Works safety modules
 - Reporting health and safety concerns
 - Spill kits

- Disposal of sharps
 - Review of 2022-23 injuries and accidents
 - Health and safety related administrative procedures to be reviewed
- Our next Health & Safety meeting is scheduled for November 23, 2023.

3. **Capital Projects**

- Powerhouse Campus- Site work is proceeding with landscaping and paving in the near future. Interior construction continues.
- Breton School- The design contract has been awarded and a design kick off meeting is scheduled for mid September.

4. **New Curriculum:** There are 17 new curricula being implemented in 2023-2024:

- 4-6 Math
- 4-6 English Language Arts & Literature
- K-3 Science
- K-3 French Immersion Language Arts & Literature
- Some teachers are optionally implementing the new 4-6 Science, especially where there are new teachers or split classes.

Teachers have met twice in grade level groups to work on planning and preparing for the new curriculum, once last year and on August 29. We have been purchasing new resources and aligning the existing materials. We will continue to have professional learning sessions throughout the year as we learn about the new outcomes and support teachers along the way.

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- 2 student in grade 7 (Rocky Mountain House)
 - 1 students in grade 8 (Rocky Mountain House)
 - 1 student in grade 9 (Drayton Valley)

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