



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

September 18, 2018 Board Meeting

- 1. Corridor Schools Capital Plan update:** On April 1, 2018, like all school divisions in Alberta, Wild Rose School Division submitted its 2018-19 capital plan to Alberta Education. At that time, our number one priority was to close David Thompson High School and move all of our K-12 students in the corridor area into Condor School and Leslieville School. However, our plan at that time did not have much detail as to the best way to move forward. On April 19-20, 2018, Alberta Education led us through a value management in order to determine the best possible solution regarding our plan. Based on the value management report we received from Alberta Education and support from Clearwater County for our plan, we submitted an updated corridor capital plan to Alberta Education on September 6 that included the following:
 - David Thompson High School will be closed by December 31, 2021 and the sewage lagoon will be remediated by December 31, 2022.
 - We requested a modernization to Condor School as a K - 6 elementary school with a capacity of 325 students.
 - We requested a replacement school at Leslieville in order to replace the current elementary school with a high school in order to offer programming for all grade 7 - 12 students in the corridor with a capacity of 300 students.

We have reminded Alberta Education that Alberta Municipal Affairs has given us until December 31, 2021 to vacate David Thompson High School. As such, the sooner we can get started on the modernization of Condor Elementary School and the new construction of Leslieville High School, the less complications and interruptions we will have to student learning. If our plan receives approval in the spring of 2019, the work can begin and possibly completed by the time we are required to vacate David Thompson High School.

- 2. Municipal Partnerships:** On August 30, 2018, Wild Rose School Division Superintendent of Schools attended the Caroline Community Open House & Visioning session. The village of Caroline along with Clearwater County are in the process of reviewing their Municipal Development Plans as well as their Intermunicipal Development Plans. Wild Rose School Division believes education needs to be a key consideration when developing these plans. In addition, the new new Municipal Government Act recently mandated the creation of Joint Use Planning Agreements (JUPAs) between municipalities and school divisions within their boundaries. Wild Rose School Division is committed to building partnerships with each of our municipalities to maximize resources and to ensure 21st century schools and programming are available to all K-12 students within our boundaries.

- 3. ARES 2019 (Alberta Rural Education Symposium):** This year's symposium is scheduled from March 3-5, 2019 at West Edmonton Mall. Our 2019 theme is "Rural Schools & Communities - Partners in Action". Our work at this symposium will focus on motivating and assisting education and municipal leaders in the creation of partnerships that are mutually beneficial to both the local school and the community. The recently updated Municipal Government Act contains a new mandate regarding the creation of Joint Use and Planning Agreements (JUPAs) between school divisions and municipalities. Our 2019 symposium will assist education and municipal leaders in starting this important work. We know that so much more can be accomplished when ministries work together, sharing resources and ideas.
- 4. Professional Learning:** On August 23 & 24, 2018 seven members of the Wild Rose School Division education leadership team attended the Calgary Visible Learning Institute workshop featuring educational researcher and author [John Hattie](#). This two-day event focused on the examination of effective instructional practices that have demonstrated the greatest possible impact on student learning. Our team plans on sharing these important ideas with our school administrators and teachers as we work with them throughout the year and as we focus together on student learning.
- 5. 2018-19 Student Enrollment:** As of September 12, 2018 our enrollment for the 2018-19 school year was 4,571 students in our regular K-12 schools plus 155 students in our two Outreach Schools for a total of 4726 students. Although this is 65 students less than our September 30, 2017 enrollment count from the previous year, it is 42 full time equivalent students more than the projections we used to build our spring budget for the 2018-19 school year (21 more students in our regular K-12 schools plus 21 more students in our outreach schools). These additional funds will need to be allocated in our updated fall budget which will come to the Board for approval at our November 27 Board meeting. Please note that our actual enrollment as of September 30, 2018 is the official count for funding purposes. As such, these numbers will change slightly between now and the official count.
- 6. Summer Institute:** Student Services offered Non Violent Crisis Intervention and First Aid workshops in August (full certification and recertification). We had 23 staff members participate in NVCI and 20 in First Aid. Learning Services offered a high school Literacy session, in partnership with CARC, with 11 participants, two literacy refresher sessions with 20 participants and the coding and computational thinking session with over 80 participants.
- 7. Weekdays till 6:** The Wild Rose School Division Wellness Committee recently discussed the idea of staff wellness as it relates to evening and weekend work-related email. This is based on the principle that staff wellness may be inadvertently minimized or lowered by sending work related emails during those times of the day and the week when employees need time for themselves to be refreshed and away from work responsibilities. As such, the senior leadership team is currently experimenting with a commitment to not send work-related emails on weekends or after 6pm on weekdays. Although we have shared this information with our school administrators, we have not mandated this practice to the entire division.

- 8. Strategic Planning:** On September 11, 2018 the Wild Rose School Division senior leadership team spent the day working with a consultant to refine and sharpen our strategic planning process. This planning will not only ensure alignment with the provincial business plan and the division three year education plan, but more importantly, will focus and maximize the effectiveness of our actions and support to school administrators and staff. This in turn will positively impact student wellness and learning, helping us meet our mandate of improving the life chances of all students in WRSD.
- 9. PSBAA Fall Student Voice:** The staff and students in each of our high schools has been provided information regarding the [PSBAA Fall Student Voice](#) workshop scheduled for Oct 24 & 25, 2018. Last fall we had 3 students from Frank Maddock High School take part in this leadership opportunity. After the event, they attended our November Board meeting to report on their experience. We hope to attract more students to this event this fall.
- 10. Resilient Youth in Stressed Environments project update:** The [RYSE project](#) is a 5-year (2016-2021) multinational research project that explores patterns of resilience in young people in changing environments. The town of Drayton Valley was chosen as one of three sites in the world for this research to take place due to the economic impact from oil and gas extraction/production and the town's rate of growth relative to oil prices. In years 2-4 of this project, researchers are working with volunteer youth in Drayton Valley to collect personal, biological and ecological data. Most recently the RYSE researchers are working with the WRSD facilities department to install air quality monitors on the roof of two of our schools: H.W. Pickup School and Eldorado School. Once installed, the air quality data will not only be used by the researchers, but will also be available online publically to our students and the community.
- 11. First Nations, Métis, Inuit recognition:** Wild Rose School Division has purchased a 24 x 36" canvas to be hung in each of its sites displaying a treaty six land acknowledgement along with a beautiful background picture. In addition we have purchased for each site a 79" x 32" portable banner that can be moved where needed within the school for public events or meetings. Finally we have sent to each site a 12" x 17" copy of the Federal Government's statement of apology. This is part of our 2018-19 strategy to ensure all students, teachers and school leaders learn about the First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives and experiences, treaties, and the history and legacy of residential schools as well as the importance of reconciliation.
- 12. 2018-19 Research Studies in WRSD:** In addition to the ongoing RYSE study in Drayton Valley, Wild Rose School Division superintendent of schools has granted permission to the following two additional research requests during the 2018-19 school year:

 - a. University of Alberta study on Computational Thinking Skills: This study is designed to assess Grade 5-12 students' computational thinking skills and investigate the impact that incorporating computational thinking activities into the classroom can have on these skills and perceptions.
 - b. Inadequate Funding Models for Small Rural School Divisions in Alberta: This needs assessment is an analysis of gaps in the provincial funding formula and the implications on small rural school boards that are impacted by the Alberta funding formula.

For each of these studies, all privacy and consent requirements have been met and there is not cost to Wild Rose School Division. Staff and student participation in these studies is totally voluntary. It is our belief that the results of these studies will provide useful information to Wild Rose School Division in our mandate to improve the life chances of all students.