



## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

August 27, 2024 Board Meeting

**WRSD Administrator's Summer Conference:** On August 20 and 21, the WRSD school administrators and division office leadership team convened at the Sanctum Retreat near Caroline, Alberta, for an intensive session of professional learning and preparation for the upcoming school year. Kurtis Hewson from [Jigsaw Learning](#) facilitated a focused session on collaborative response, an important strategy within the [2022-26 WRSD Education Plan](#). In addition, several of our own school leaders conducted workshops aimed at enhancing leadership skills. The conference also provided an opportunity for in-depth discussions on preparations for the 2024-25 school year. The two days were marked by productive collaboration, insightful learning, and a collective commitment to excellence.

**2024-25 Busing:** WRSD would like to welcome First Student Busing to the Corridor region of the division starting the 2024-25 school year. First Student has been providing busing services in the Drayton Valley and Breton regions of the division for many years, but will be new to the South part of the division. Prairie Bus Lines will also continue to provide busing services in both the North and South parts of the division. WRSD has 31 routes operating in the north section of the division and 47 routes operating in the south section of the division. The WRSD Transportation Department communicates with both of these busing contractors over the summer months, ensuring they are ready for the new school year ahead.

**WRSD 2024 Summer Institute Sessions:** WRSD hosted the following summer institute sessions for staff on August 22nd and 23rd: Learning Services was able to welcome Adrienne Gear with support from CARC (Central Alberta Regional Consortia) who presented a workshop on non-fiction reading and writing strategies to K-8 teachers. 24 teachers in Drayton Valley on August 22nd and 28 teachers in Rocky Mountain House on August 23rd attended this session. Adrienne is a well respected teacher and author of literacy and had a plethora of ideas on how to support new curriculum and students in the classroom. All teachers found the session highly informative and valuable for teaching reading and writing in their classrooms. Inclusive Services provided First Aid training to 25 participants in Rocky Mountain House and 15 participants in Drayton Valley. As well, the Director & Coordinator of Inclusive Services provided SIVA training (Supporting Individuals through Value Attachments) for 16 participants across the division. SIVA

training is a 2 day program to help develop staff's ability to support students with challenging behaviour needs through both proactive and reactive strategies.

**First Rider Program:** The First Rider Program took place in Rocky Mountain House August 21 and in Drayton Valley August 22. The program is designed to teach new riders (and their parents) all about bus safety. Through the program, students and parents watch a Winnie the Pooh school bus safety video, learn how to ride the bus safely when the bus is moving, practice safely entering and exiting a school bus, experience a short school bus ride and participate in an emergency evacuation. It is thanks to our partnership with Chinook's Edge, Red Deer Public, Red Deer Catholic and Prairie Bus lines that we have had the opportunity to offer this program in our Division.

**Student Services Name Change:** Starting the 2024-25 school year, the Student Support Services Department is making a name change that better aligns with our division's mission and values to improve life chances through the creation of powerful, inclusive learning environments. Inclusion and meeting the needs of all students is at the heart of our core purpose in WRSD. As such the following name changes have been made:

- Student Services changed to Inclusive Services
- Student Support Facilitator (SSF) changed to Inclusive Learning Support Teacher (ILST)
- Director of Student Services changed to Director of Inclusive Services
- Coordinator of Student Services changed to Coordinator of Inclusive Services

**Capital Projects:**

- Powerhouse Campus
  - Landscaping continued throughout the summer with sod and grass seed being placed across the site. Trees, shrubs and other decorative vegetation were also installed as designed.
  - The play structures that were relocated from Drayton Christian School and HW Pickup Schools are on track to be installed by the beginning of the school year. The new equipment is scheduled to begin installation in early September.
- Breton School Modernization
  - Design work continues and it is anticipated that the design will be 90% complete by the end of August.
- HW Pickup and Drayton Christian School sites
  - The buildings have been completely removed and the final grade and seeding are to be completed in the coming weeks.