



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Feb 19, 2019 Board Meeting

- 1. Evergreen Replacement School Update:** On February 13, 2019, WRSD Secretary Treasurer, Director of Facilities and Maintenance met with Alberta Infrastructure, ONPA architects and Chandos for the first onsite start-up meeting. Piles are being drilled for the foundation and the project is still on schedule.
- 2. Corridor School's Capital Plan update:** On February 5, 2019, a Joint Community Fundraising Committee for Corridor Education held an initial meeting to discuss fundraising possibilities that would help enhance the Wild Rose School Division capital plan for the corridor schools. This committee included representation from the communities of Condor, Leslieville, Evergreen, Alhambra, Aurora, Gimlet, Hespero, Withrow and David Thompson Rec Board as well as representation from Clearwater County and WRSD administration. In addition, the Clearwater County Council will be discussing possible support for enhancements to the WRSD corridor capital plan at their February strategic planning session. These partnerships will not only enhance our corridor schools but also have the potential to increase the chances of our plan being approved and funded by Alberta Education.
- 3. Health & Safety Committee update:** On January 25, 2019, Wild Rose School Division submitted a request to the Ministry of Labour asking for an approval to vary from certain provisions within the joint work site health and safety committee (HSC) requirements found in the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act. We also submitted our [HSC terms of reference](#). Our submission was accompanied by letters of support from the Timbreline ATA local, CAAMSE local and IUOE local. We are now waiting to hear back from the Ministry of Labour.
- 4. Holland Bloorview Research Study: How Children Use Technology:** The [Holland Bloorview Research Institute](#) (Toronto, Ontario) is conducting a [survey](#) on technology use in children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder. They are reaching out to school divisions, asking permission to publicize their survey to our parents and students. WRSD has given permission for Bloorview Research Institute to contact our schools for this purpose. Our schools and families are under no obligation to participate. If a school does agree to participate, the proposed distribution plan is for parents to be provided with the study link via parent email and/or newsletter. Each parent can decide whether or not to include

their child in the research, by providing them with the link. The link will not be directly disseminated to the youth. There is no collection of personal/identifiable information in this study and participation is entirely confidential for both parents and youth. However, there is an informed consent page included on both the parent and youth questionnaires that must be agreed to before participation in the study.

5. **Vaping Concerns:** On Jan 29, 2019, WRSD sent a [letter](#) to each of the municipalities within our boundaries to express concerns regarding the increase in vaping in schools and on school grounds and a request for their support via municipal bylaws and fines for individuals caught vaping in schools or on school grounds. Traditional school consequences seem to not be working. Our schools will continue to inform students about the dangers and health risks associated with vaping.
6. **Assistant Deputy Minister visit:** On January 25, 2019, WRSD Superintendent of Schools was given the opportunity to provide a tour of our Drayton Valley schools to the Alberta Education Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for Program and System Support. We discussed the capital plan for our Drayton Valley schools and our commitment to increase our utilization rates once the new Evergreen replacement school is built. We also discussed our capital plans for other areas of Wild Rose School Division and our commitment to increase utilization rates through our capital planning process.
7. **Utilization Rates & Grade Configurations in WRSD:** On February 5, 2019 the WRSD board of trustees met for their quarterly Governance & Priorities meeting. One of the key items discussed was an overall look at utilization rates and grade configurations across the division. Funding from Alberta Education for plant operations and maintenance is based primarily on student enrollment. Our division has experienced a significant decline in enrollment over the past 4 years while the number of school buildings we operate and maintain has remained unchanged. This has resulted in several of our schools being underutilized as well as deficit spending in our plant operations and maintenance budget. The board discussed the possibility of reducing the number of school buildings we operate by redistributing students and grade levels into other schools within each region of the division. Although no decisions were made, the board will continue to investigate this issue as well as potential solutions.
8. **[Resilient Schools Put Educators First:](#)** Our Director of Wellness, Darlene Ferris, along with Jody Carrington, was published in the AASA School Administrator Magazine this month. The article highlights wellness in Wild Rose School Division.
9. **Pioneer Middle School Teacher Wins National Music Award:** On Feb 5, 2019 a film crew from Toronto arrived at Pioneer Middle School to surprise Ms. Kim Hastings with the news that she was this year's recipient of the national MusiCounts Teacher of the Year Award. Ms. Hastings possesses incredible passion for teaching music and has advocated tirelessly for music education over the years. Ms. Hastings has been invited to accept her award at

the 2019 Juno Awards, hosted by Sarah McLachlan in London, Ontario on March 17. For more information see [Pioneer Teacher Wins Prestigious National Music Award!](#)

10. New Curriculum Planning - The new [K-4 curriculum DRAFT](#) has been approved by the Minister of Education for field testing and preparation. WRSD is working with a group of 15 school divisions to look at planning, assessment and resourcing. Working with others provides invaluable connections and resources for a small school division. K-6 teachers are coming together on March 1 and 8 to look at the new outcomes and plan forward to help teachers feel comfortable and confident with the new curriculum. Music Teachers are coming together in February to look at the new fine arts outcomes to see how specialist teachers can be supported and be leaders in new curriculum implementation.

11. Indigenous Languages in Education:

Wahkotowin: (Cree) meaning everything is related

Interconnectedness through Languages: We have received conditional approval for this grant: \$100,000.00. In collaboration with our community partners WRSD plans to orchestrate the recording of traditional stories based on cultural teaching from Elders and Knowledge Keepers residing in our surrounding First Nations and Metis communities. Once recorded these stories will be illustrated by either our high school art students or local indigenous artists. Other opportunities created as a result of our connections will be the possible development of other resources such as flashcards or simple games that allow for the practice of simple phrases or words. The revised grant will be resubmitted on Thursday February 14, so we should hear back from them shortly after that.

12. Early Learning

We are very excited to expand our Early Learning opportunities by offering four Pre Kindergarten programs for the 2019-2020 school year. Our PreK programs are designed to provide enriching educational programming to children who would benefit from early learning opportunities prior to entering kindergarten. These PreK programs will be offered at Ecole Rocky Elementary, Caroline School, Lochearn School and Drayton Christian School. These ECS programs will focus on providing an enriching developmental appropriate play based program while allowing families the opportunity to access onsite supports for speech and language, occupational therapy and behavioural challenges.