



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

December 21, 2021 Board Meeting

WRSD Vaccination Status or Testing Update

At our November 23, 2021 Board meeting, the WRSD Board of Trustees passed a motion to implement a [COVID-19 Vaccination Status or Testing procedure](#) for all staff, volunteers and contractors, starting January 5th, 2022. This procedure gives these individuals a choice between providing proof of vaccination or proof of a negative rapid test to be self-administered twice weekly in the privacy of their own home. The Board was able to provide all staff choosing the testing option with a free rapid test kit that will cover the period from January 5 through to March 25, 2022.

Some of the reasons for the Board's decision to implement this procedure were:

- Alberta Occupational Health & Safety had declared COVID-19 as a workplace hazard.
- Alberta Health Services, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta and the Chief Medical Officer of Health have all repeatedly stated that vaccines are safe and continue to be the most effective strategy against COVID-19.
- The Minister of Health and Minister of Education sent a letter to all school divisions, strongly recommending that school divisions implement a vaccination or test policy.

Based on this expert advice, the Board felt a responsibility to adhere to their recommendation, knowing that the province's health professionals are continuously monitoring COVID-19 vaccination data and will make adjustments to their recommendations as required. Ultimately, the Board made this decision believing that following the recommendations of our provincial health authorities is the best way to maximize the safety of all students and staff in our schools.

Umbrella School Council Meeting

On November 25, 2021, the WRSD Board of Trustees and administration held an umbrella school council meeting. Seventeen parents representing seven school councils took part in this meeting to share promising practices and to discuss the following topics:

- WRSD 2020-21 Annual Education Results Report
- Board priorities for their 2021-25 term of service
- K-6 draft curriculum
- Proof of Vaccination or Negative COVID Test Procedure

A full summary of these discussions can be found at this link: [Nov 25, 2021 Umbrella School Council Summary](#). Our second and final umbrella school council meeting for the 2021-22 school year is scheduled for March 10, 2022. If COVID-19 restrictions permit, this may be an in-person meeting in Drayton Valley. If not, then it will be held virtually once again. More information will be sent to all school councils in February.

Repsol Donation

In November, 2021, Repsol made a generous donation of \$10 000 to WRSD that is being used to create land based learning carts full of learning tools and supplies to get students learning outdoors. Using these supplies, students spend time outside setting goals, exploring strategies and curricular outcomes to learn from the land. Land-based learning enhances traditional and cultural values such as identity, kinship, language and ceremonies. By exploring their relationship with the land and community, students make their own meaning and create their own stories. With Repsol's support we are able to support a land based learning cart at each of our elementary schools.

Obsidian Energy Christmas Donation

On December 13, 2021, Obsidian Energy presented WRSD Director of Wellness and Superintendent of Schools with a cheque for \$10 000 to support our Purpose Hope Dignity Program. This project was started by Division Office support staff and grew from the leadership message – “every child deserves a sense of Purpose, Hope and Dignity.” We understand the day to day struggles that many students experience due to financial situations through no fault of their own and the impact this has on their education and young lives. Education is a means to ensure “purpose” while access to support and supplies lends to “hope and dignity”. This committee believes all children are a product of our community and that no student in any classroom should be distracted or restricted by poverty. Thus the committee raises money to ensure no child/youth goes without the basic necessities. Thank-you Obsidian Energy for your generous contribution to this program.

Capital Projects Update

Charlotte Small Elementary - The structural steel is almost complete and work is well underway to close up the structure for interior work to continue through the winter. A section of the building is already being heated with the frost removed from the ground so in-ground mechanical and electrical work can continue in preparation for concrete slab installation. Recent construction pictures can be found on the division's Facebook page.



David Thompson High School Replacement - Structural steel has arrived on site and installation will begin immediately. Once the steel erection starts, it will be staged in order to allow sections of the building to be closed in, heated and interior construction to continue as soon as possible. Recent construction pictures can be found on the division's Facebook page. Both sites will be



shut down for the Christmas break and work will resume after New Years.

Powerhouse Campus - The contract has been awarded, however the contract will need to be finalized before announcing the successful contractor.

Building Teacher Capacity in Learning Services

- Professional Learning Days Nov. 22-26: The WRSD Director of Instruction and the WRSD Learning Services Coordinator held professional learning sessions supporting the learning disruption grant with grade 2/3 teachers across the division. There were approximately 65 teachers who participated in the sessions focused on teaching strategies for students who may be struggling. The half day sessions were divided into two sections, with a literacy hour and a numeracy hour.
- Numeracy Champions: We have approximately 23 Numeracy Champions, split into 2 groups this year. The K-8 cohort focused on numeracy progressions in a half day session with Cathy Coers from CARC. The Grades 9-12 cohort focused on transition between the different levels of math in high school and mitigating COVID learning loss in a half day session with Chris Zarski from CARC.
- Literacy Champions: K-12 Literacy Champions have been focussing on Miriam Ramzy and Michelle Bence's work on the [Layers of Reading](#). The Learning Services Coordinator is co-facilitating a video series in partnership with CARC with literacy champions, administrators, and other leaders from across zone 4 based off of Miriam and Michelle's work. Miriam and Michelle have live coaching sessions 3 times throughout the year with the group to answer questions and work through problems of practice with the group.

French Immersion Video Series

WRSD's French Immersion program is being highlighted through a series of videos all about the structured literacy program. In partnership with CARC, led by Mme Morin, a series of videos are being produced to share aspects of structured literacy to share with other French Immersion programs around the province. École Rocky Elementary's work on phonological awareness allows students to internalize the sounds (phonemes) of the French language orally. It is a systematic and explicit approach to develop students' foundational skills of decoding to support reading and writing in the future.

Drayton Valley Community School Resource Officer Position Update

RCMP have filled the CSRO position in the North (Drayton Valley) - Constable Spencer Raynard is scheduled to start at the beginning to mid February. He was born and raised in BC however has been working out of the Drayton Valley detachment for the last while. The current RCMP officers assigned to Drayton Valley Schools will still stay connected even once the CSRO officially resumes the role.

Elders Circle

On December 15, 2021 members of WRSD administration met with indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers to discuss a variety of topics including:

- Strategies to help indigenous students succeed in WRSD schools
- Ways schools can acknowledge the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th each year
- Protocol regarding Treaty Six and Métis flag ceremonies for schools

We were honored to seek and receive wisdom on these topics from Elder Dale BigChild, Elder Alice Berger, Knowledge Keeper Howard Mustus Jr., and Elder Wilson Bearhead. We look forward to further building this relationship for the ongoing purpose of teaching WRSD students and staff the importance of truth and reconciliation.

