

# Board Happenings

*The following is a summary of the agenda items from the meetings of the Board of Trustees of Wolf Creek Public Schools, and should not be considered the official minutes.*

## **In attendance:**

Trustees: Trudy Bratland, Pam Hansen, Lorrie Jess, Barb Walker, Donna Peterson

Administration: Jayson Lovell (Acting Superintendent), Mark McWhinnie (Assistant Superintendent), Amber Hester (Assistant Superintendent), Joe Henderson (Secretary-Treasurer), Jackie Haines (Recording Secretary)

## **April 7, 2016**

### **Student Voice**

The Board's Student Voice Committee has reviewed the feedback gathered from students at the February 26, 2016 Student Voice Meeting. Specific enhancements to student programming and support have been identified and will be considered in the Board's budget and Three-Year Planning process. All student participants will receive a letter in May outlining how their input has been utilized to guide the Board in their decision-making.

### **Board Policy 22 - Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments *and* Code of Conduct**

The Board adopted new Policy 22 - Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments and Code of Conduct. This policy was developed to augment Administrative Procedure 308 - Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (adopted May, 2014) in response to legislative changes including *An Act to Amend the Alberta Bill of Rights to Protect our Children* (formerly Bill 10) which came into effect on June 1, 2015. In addition to enshrining sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in the Alberta Bill of Rights as protected grounds from discrimination, the Act amended the School Act to include:

- a definition of bullying;
- students', parents' and school boards' responsibilities, as they relate to welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments that respect diversity and nurture a sense of belonging and a positive sense of self;
- a requirement for school boards to support students to create gay-straight-alliances (GSAs) or queer straight alliances (QSAs) in their schools; and,
- a requirement for school boards to address bullying by creating and implementing a policy that includes a code of conduct for students. The code of conduct must be publicly available, reviewed

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every year, and provided to all staff, students and parents. The School Act outlines the elements which need to be contained in the code of conduct.

Further to the adoption of this policy a strategic plan will be developed and implemented across Wolf Creek Public Schools. Additional background can be found by visiting this Alberta Education [link](#).

## **Friends of Education Award**

The 2015-2016 WCPS Friends of Education Award will be presented to Lacombe Ford at the June 9, 2016 Board Recognition and Retirement night.

## **Superintendent Report Items**

### **Early Development Instrument (EDI) Update**

The Early Development Instrument (EDI) has been contracted to Offord Centre for Child Studies from McMaster University and school boards across Canada (including Alberta) have been asked to participate.

This Tri-Ministry initiative has been designed to gather early childhood information to better help the Ministries understand the needed support that these early learners, their families and communities need for early learners to be successful. Support measures for families are built through community agencies such as FCSS and Parent Link, among other programs, and they benefit from the results of this study.

In March, Wolf Creek school administrators were provided with information and background and consent letters were distributed to schools. Consent is required from parents in order to provide information in this study. Kindergarten teachers will be provided release time through substitute coverage to complete this study during April. The study will consist of checklist questions that the kindergarten teacher will answer about each child where consent has been gathered.

The (EDI) Early Development Instrument is a teacher-completed checklist that assesses children in the following areas:

- developmental health at school entry in five domains
- physical health and well-being
- social competence
- emotional maturity
- language and cognitive development, and
- communication skills and general knowledge.

Learning Coaches will be providing elbow to elbow support for our kindergarten teachers during this process around the online process using the digital assessment tools. Support and training for

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administering the EDI will come from Learning Coaches and the resources that Alberta Education provides. Kindergarten teachers will be the primary individuals responsible for collecting the data.

## **Literacy Summit - May 30 and 31**

Learning & Technology Services is putting together an event for school division staff and inviting other central Alberta school divisions to attend a Literacy Summit on **May 30 and 31**. This event will focus on the preparations needed for implementing strong literacy practices for the start of the upcoming school year. Plans are underway and a website outlining the plans is currently under construction and is available for viewing at: <http://www.igniteliteracy.ca/>

## **Small High School and Outreach Course Delivery Planning**

Learning Services continues to work on planning some of the details related to organizing a team of teachers to work this upcoming summer on preparing asynchronous course delivery for specific programs in our small high schools and Outreach programs. Jayson and Mark have met with school principals from Alix and Bentley and staff, parent and school visits to Bentley are scheduled in April. Jayson and Mark have also met with Lacombe Outreach and Ponoka Outreach staff in March to discuss programming recommendations from the task force related to program delivery.

## **Pre-Kindergarten Program Planning**

Learning Services continues to coordinate many of the plans related to the recommendations approved from the Early Years Programming. A name for this program has been selected and will be advertised soon to existing school programs as per the board motion in March. **Bright Futures Play Academy** will be the new name reference to district pre-k programs as we seek to implement these in existing programs and new communities, pending budget deliberations and approvals. Background planning in order to be prepared for the new school year is ongoing. Soon, we will be having a meeting with community partners and agency to discuss how we can work together. Mark and his team have already been in contact with many of these partners already.

## **Career and Technology Foundations (CTF) Planning**

The Minister of Education recently announced through a media release about the CTF initiative and Learning Services staff have been preparing for this for the past few months.

<http://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=414496E91E6D7-C8A1-2F7E-C49AFBE34F8C27DA>

This work will mean that Learning Services team members will need to work with our school principals in the coming year to meet this Alberta Education mandate around implementation of CTF on a district scale

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improving the options programs and connections from Grade 5-9 with our CTS programs in High Schools. Further details on this work can be found at: <http://albertactf.ca/>

## **Librarian Professional Development Support**

Staff from Learning and Technology Services will be providing our Librarians with some additional professional development on April 22 on the library software updates. Further support is being planning for the 2016-17 school year as we look at a discussion around library spaces and services in all of our schools.

## **IRIC New School Start-Up Support**

Team members from Learning and Technology Services have met with the new school admin team at Iron Ridge Intermediate Campus to provide support for program planning. A new website has been developed and is under construction to provide stronger communications with community stakeholders at <http://www.irc.wolfcreek.ab.ca/> Resources and school furniture and technology purchases to support learning needs are underway as well.

## **Education Week**

Education Week takes place May 2-6, 2016 and in keeping with Alberta Education's theme, **Learning Together**, the Board invites schools to submit pictures, videos or details of events happening in schools to be posted and shared. If you would like to highlight events on the website, please contact Dawn Bleskie.

## **For more information, please contact:**

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