

September 8, 2017

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Wolf Creek School Division No. 72 was called to order by the chair at 9:00 a.m. in the Learning Centre of the Ponoka office.

Present

Chair: L. Jess; Trustees: T. Bratland, P. Hansen, B. Huff, D. Peterson, B. Walker; Superintendent of Schools: J. Lovell; Assistant Superintendent of Schools: C. Thorsteinson; Secretary Treasurer: R. Hall; Director of People Services: A. Lovell; Recording Secretary: J. Haines

Agenda Item 1.1 - Treaty Six Land Acknowledgement Agreement

Trustee Peterson recited the Treaty Six Land Acknowledgement Agreement.

Agenda Item 1.2 - Adopt Agenda

208.17
Adopt Agenda

Moved by B. Walker that the Board approve the September 8, 2017 agenda as follows:

1. Call to Order
 - 1.1 Treaty Six Land Acknowledgement Agreement
 - 1.2 Adopt Agenda
2. In Camera
3. Appointment
 - 3.1 10:00 a.m. - Barb Reaney - Connect Parent Group Pilot Proposal
4. Superintendent's Report
5. Action Items
 - 5.1 Additions to the Agenda
 - 5.2 Minutes June 15, 2017
 - 5.3 Special Meeting Minutes August 28, 2017
 - 5.4 NWT/Alberta Legion Military Service Recognition Book
 - 5.5 Iron Ridge Intermediate Campus Playground
 - 5.6 Duty to Report Follow-Up
 - 5.7 PAT Gr. 6 -Timed Math Part A
 - 5.8 Welcome Back Lunch - September 21, 2017
 - 5.9 World Teacher Day
 - 5.10 Audit Committee Meeting Date
 - 5.11 Retirement Banquet/Induction
 - 5.12 Amend Motion 75.17
 - 5.13 Rikubetsu Invitation
 - 5.14 Trustee Ratification August 14, 2017
 - 5.15 Crestomere School Tour
6. Trustee Report
7. Information Items
 - 7.1 ASBA Zone 4
 - 7.2 PSBAA
 - 7.3 Alberta Education Meeting Update

Carried Unanimously.

Agenda Item 2.0 - In Camera

209.17
Meeting of the
Whole

Moved by P. Hansen that the Board hold a meeting of the whole with all persons excluded except Mr. Lovell, Mrs. Thorsteinson, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Lovell and Mrs. Haines.

Carried Unanimously.

Open Meeting

210.17
Open Meeting

Moved by D. Peterson that the Board revert back to an open meeting.

Carried Unanimously.

Mrs. Thortsteinson and Mrs. Lovell withdrew from the meeting.

Appointments

Agenda Item 3.1 - 10:00 a.m. - Connect Parent Group Pilot Proposal

Mrs. Barb Reaney, District Social Worker, and Mrs. Christy Wyse, Connect Parent Group, entered the meeting.

Mrs. Wyse made a presentation to the Board on the Connect Parent Group. Mrs. Wyse asked the Board to consider funding this parent pilot program for \$22,900.00.

Mrs. Reaney and Mrs. Wyse withdrew from the meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Agenda Item 4.1 - Superintendent's Report

Mr. Lovell spoke to the attached Superintendent's report and provided an update on the preliminary enrollment numbers.

211.17
Superintendent to
Undertake Vision
Process for RJSH

Moved by T. Bratland that the Board direct the Superintendent to undertake a visioning process for the Rimbey Jr/Sr High School and further undertake a review and cost analysis for potential modernization.

Carried Unanimously.

212.17
Hire 1.51 FTE
Certified Staff for Hot
Spots

Moved by T. Bratland that the Board direct the Superintendent to hire 1.51 FTE certified staff to address the hot spots in the division associated with start-up.

Carried Unanimously.

Action Items

Agenda Item 5.1 - Additions to the Agenda

213.17
Add Items to the
Agenda

Moved by P. Hansen that the Board add the following agenda items to the agenda:
Agenda Item 5.16 - Sr. Administration Compensation and Agenda Item 5.17 - Connect Parent Group.

Carried Unanimously.

Agenda Item 5.2 - Minutes June 15, 2017

214.17
June 15, 2017
Minutes Approved

Moved by D. Peterson that Board approve the minutes of June 15, 2017 as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

Agenda Item 5.3 - Special Meeting Minutes August 28, 2017

215.17
August 28, 2017
Special Meeting
Minutes Approved

Moved by T. Bratland that the Board approve the Special Meeting Minutes of August 28, 2017 as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

Agenda Item 5.4 - NWT/Alberta Legion Military Service Recognition Book

216.17
Purchase Ad in
Military Service
Recognition Book

Moved by T. Bratland that the Board support the NWT/Alberta Legion Military Service Recognition book with a purchase of a business card ad at a cost of \$285.00.

Carried Unanimously.

Agenda Item 5.5 - Iron Ridge Intermediate Campus Playground

No action was taken on this item.

Agenda Item 5.6 - Duty to Report Followup

Mr. Hall provided an update to the Duty to Report. It was the consensus of the Board to continue with current practices.

Agenda Item 5.7 - PAT Gr. 6 - Timed Math Part A

Mr. Lovell informed the Board that the Division has provided feedback to Alberta Education with regards to the "timing" aspect of the Gr. 6 PAT. No action was taken on this item.

Agenda Item 5.8 - Welcome Back Lunch - September 21, 2017

217.17
Board to Host
Welcome Back Lunch
September 21, 2017

Moved by B. Huff that the Board provide a Welcome Back lunch September 21, 2017 to the Division Office staff.

Carried Unanimously.

218.17
Item Added to
Agenda

Moved by P. Hansen that the Board add *Agenda Item 5.18 - October 5, 2017* to the meeting agenda.

Carried Unanimously.

Agenda Item 5.9 - World Teacher Day - October 5, 2017

219.17
Superintendent to
Produce Video for
World Teacher Day

Moved by B. Walker that the Board direct the Superintendent to produce, in conjunction with the Board Chair, a video for distribution to all certified staff on World Teach Day, October 5, 2017.

Carried Unanimously.

Agenda Item 5.10 - Audit Committee Meeting Date

220.17
Audit Committee
Meeting September
26, 2017

Moved by B. Huff that the Board hold an Audit Committee meeting on September 26, 2017 beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Carried Unanimously.

Agenda Item 5.11 - Retirement Banquet/Induction

221.17
Retirement
Banquet/ATA
Induction Evening
Add to ATA Liaison
Meeting

Moved by D. Peterson that the Board add the combining of the Retirement Banquet and ATA Induction evening as an agenda item to the first Board/ATA Liaison meeting.

Carried Unanimously.

Agenda Item 5.12 - Amend Motion 75.17

222.17
Motion 75.17
Expanded to Include
Mechanics

Moved by B. Walker that the Board expand Motion 75.17 to include Transportation Support Staff, including mechanics.

Carried Unanimously.

223.17
Amend Motion
223.17 to Specify
Vacation Day Carry
Overs

Moved by B. Walker that the Board amend motion 223.17 to include "And further that no more than five (5) vacation days be carried over from each year unless there is an agreement in place between the employee and supervisor due to extenuating circumstances."

Carried Unanimously.

Agenda Item 5.13 - Rikubetsu Invitation

224.17
Ward 5 Trustees
Authorized to Attend
Rikubetsu
Celebrations

Moved by T. Bratland that the Board authorize the Trustees Walker and Huff to attend the Rikubetsu celebrations.

Carried Unanimously.

Agenda Item 5.14 - Trustee Ratification August 14, 2017 - Policy Review

225.17
Ratify Attendance of
Chair at Policy
Review Meeting

Moved by B. Walker that the Board ratify the attendance of Chair Jess to the policy review meeting held August 14, 2017.

Carried Unanimously.

Agenda Item 5.15 Crestomere School Tour

This item was moved to the October 5, 2017 agenda.

Agenda Item 5.16 - Sr. Administration Compensation

226.17
Amend Motion
176.17

Moved by T. Bratland that the Board amend motion 176.17 to include the Secretary Treasurer.

Carried Unanimously.

Agenda Item 5.17 - Connect Parent Group Request

227.17
Superintendent to
Gather Data in
Relation to Student
Success

Moved by B. Walker that the Board direct the Superintendent to gather data on the impact this program has on student success and bring back to the Board.

Carried Unanimously.

Agenda Item 5.18 – October 5, 2017

228.17
October 5, 2017
Meeting Date Moved
to October 6, 2017

Moved by B. Huff that the Board move the October 5, 2017 Board meeting to October 6, 2017 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Carried Unanimously.

Trustee Reports

Trustees provided verbal reports.

Information Items

Agenda Item 7.1 - ASBA Zone 4

It was the consensus of the Board to ask Ms. Maureen Montegary, Principal, Centennial Centre Patients' School, to attend the ASBA Zone 4 meeting September 25, 2017 to showcase the great work that is being done with brain injury patients. In relation to the "Because you Cared" video distributed by Alberta Health Services, the Board will extend an invitation to Amanda Bert to attend/speak in relation to care she received at the Centennial Centre Patients' School.



Agenda Item 7.2 - PSBAA

Trustee Peterson reported on the PSBAA conference in Lac La Biche August 2017.

Meeting Adjourn

229.17
Meeting Adjourn

Moved by T. Bratland that the meeting adjourn. Time 2:25 p.m.

Carried Unanimously.



Chair



Secretary-Treasurer

PILOT PROPOSAL - CONNECT PARENT GROUP

Prepared for: Wolf Creek Public Schools and Board of Trustees

Prepared by: Christy Wyse and Maria Myers

June 12, 2017

Objective

Implementation of an attachment based program to support parents of children ages 8-18 as a pilot opportunity by Wolf Creek School Division Board in addition to a partnership with FCSS.

Project Outline

Connect is a 10 week program consisting of ten 1.5 hour sessions. Each session will have between 10-12 participants and two leaders. The information covered in each session and the role plays done are based on the 9 principles developed by Dr. Marlene Moretti, the primary founder of the *Connect* Program. Dr. Moretti is a Professor in the Psychology Department of Simon Fraser University and Canadian Institutes of Health Research Senior Research Chair.

The 9 Principles of *Connect* are:

1. All Behaviour Has Meaning
2. Attachment is for Life
3. Conflict is Part of Attachment
4. Autonomy Includes Connection
5. Empathy - The Heartbeat of Attachment
6. Balancing Our Needs with the Needs of Others
7. Change: Understanding It and What it Takes
8. Celebrating Attachment
9. Two Steps Forward, One Step Back: Staying the Course

The 10th session is the Integration and feedback session. Additionally there are two, 120 minute Booster sessions that will be offered to participants, if needed, as a refresher of the 9 principles. Administrators and other stake-holders are welcome to join us for the feedback session which will be part of the last session.



Connect Parent Group

Attachment-Based Approach To Supporting Parents of Teens

Group Leaders: Christy Wyse and Maria Myers

Course Term: 10 weeks beginning Jan 2018

Location: Lacombe, AB



Attachment is part of everyone's life – it is our bond with others, particularly those people we turn to when we are afraid or in need of comfort.

-Dr. Marlene Moretti, Connect Parent Group 2012, page 43



Connect[®] (Moretti, Braber & Obsuth 2009; Moretti & Obsuth 2009) is a 10-week manualized program for parents (or alternative caregivers) of pre-teens and teens who struggle with significant behaviour problems and other mental health problems. The program focuses on the enhancement of the core components of secure attachment: parental sensitivity and cooperation; reflective capacity; and dyadic affect regulation. These components of parenting are the 'building blocks' of secure attachment and have been demonstrated to exert sizeable influence on children's social, emotional and behavioural adjustment.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ Connect is delivered in a 10-session manualized format by two leaders. Each session begins with the presentation of an attachment principle that helps parents acquire new knowledge about attachment and development from infancy through adolescence.
- ✚ Connect is a developmentally-informed intervention. Parents acquire knowledge about the ways in which attachment is important to child development from infancy through adolescence.
- ✚ Connect adopts a relational and systemic perspective. Past experiences within relationships shape how parents and children understand and respond to new events, but new experiences also reshape our understanding of the past. Parents and children are also influenced by the larger system in which they are embedded, including their family and community context. In Connect, parents are introduced to these notions and invited to consider the ways in which they and their child influence each other over time within their broader social-cultural contexts.
- ✚ Connect is a 'principle-based' program. Connect does not teach the A-B-C's of parenting; instead it helps parents to understand the basic principles of attachment, relationships, and child development, which can then be applied across a broad range of situations and relational contexts. Once parents understand and feel more confident in working relationally with their child, they can draw on basic parenting techniques to achieve shared goals.
- ✚ Connect is strength-focused and future-oriented. Many parents come to the program with a history of difficulties in parenting and failed attempts to make productive changes. Rather than find weaknesses and reasons for past failures, Connect leaders are trained to meet parents where they are, to recognize the skills that they possess, and to move forward from there.
- ✚ Connect is inclusive and integrates therapeutic techniques to achieve set goals. Intervention techniques derived from cognitive-behaviour therapy, emotion-focused therapy, relational approaches, and mindfulness training are strategically used to reach goals that are specified for each session.
- ✚ Connect adopts a structured, psycho-educational approach with opportunities for hands-on learning and self-reflection in a supportive context. Connect is a structured program that is supportive to parents but is not a 'support group' in the traditional sense. Parents share some information about their challenges in parenting; however, the focus is on learning, moving forward, and trying new approaches, rather than on in-depth exploration of personal problems.

Program Structure:

Connect Program Structure

- ❖ **Each week:** Key attachment principle related to adolescence, attachment and parenting guides role plays/reflection exercises.
- ❖ **Format:** Structured but with focus on learning through experience and dialogue – Role Plays & Reflection Exercises
- ❖ **Collaborative & Strength Focused:** Not prescriptive; not about teaching the 'right way' but about learning together; focuses on strengths of every caregiver and family

Prior to starting the 10 week *Connect* course, there will be a pre-inclusion interview for each parent or caregiver to help leaders motivate parents to attend the group and to identify and collaboratively resolve barriers.

The interview has four components:

1. **BUILD** a collaborative relationship with each potential *Connect* participant
2. **MOTIVATE** to facilitate change and growth: to inspire hope that the program will be helpful; to create interest in the caregiver-youth relationship and how it might be strengthened.
3. **INFORM** parents and caregivers about the upcoming *Connect* group (ie: time, location, format, online questionnaires before and at the end of the group).
4. **IDENTIFY AND PROBLEM SOLVE** around the potential barriers to treatment that might interfere with attendance or full participation in the group.

How does Connect work?

Development of Connect

Goals:

1. Targets factors that determine adolescent mental health;
2. Strength-focused;
3. Designed to engage "difficult to reach families";
4. Portable across communities and can be delivered by a wide range of mental health and education practitioners;
5. Structured to promote program fidelity but dynamic and flexible;
6. Designed around feasibility to promote strong uptake and sustainability.

www.st.louis.edu/centerforadolescentmentalhealth

CONNECT INTERVENTION TARGETS: Strengthening the Building Blocks of Attachment Security

Reflective Functioning • "Stepping Back" - Mindfulness: Reflecting on what is in the child's mind (feelings & thoughts); What is in the parent's mind (feeling & thoughts).	Caregiver Sensitivity • "Stepping Forward" Skills needed to think about the child's attachment needs and how these are communicated through behavior.
Dyadic Affect Regulation • Skills needed to identify and tolerate difficult emotional states in themselves and with their teen.	Shared Partnership & Mutuality • Negotiation and providing safe and secure base while promoting teen autonomy

JS

The Attachment System

■ "CRADLE TO GRAVE" BUT IT IS EXPRESSED DIFFERENTLY

- Across age & development
- Across culture
- Across individuals as a result of their experiences in relationships; their learning challenges; mental health challenges
- When threat is not present, relationships can provide 'secure base' for exploration and development.

and DPG READING MICHIGAN MIDDLE

Therapeutic Goals of Connect

The Connect Parent Group focuses on strengthening the building blocks of attachment security. This means enhancing:

- caregivers' sensitivity
- caregivers' reflective functioning
- caregivers' ability to manage difficult emotional states in themselves and their children (dyadic affect regulation)
- shared partnership and mutuality in the caregiver-child relationship

Program Benefits

For over 8 years the Connect Parent Group Program has been evaluated to ensure its effectiveness. The results of this evaluations have shown that there are a number of measurable benefits for parents who complete the Connect Parent Group program and their youth. These benefits include:

- Increased sense of competence as a parent
- Increased sense of effectiveness as a parent
- Reductions in caregiver's stress or strain
- Decreased internalizing problems among youth (e.g., depression, anxiety)
- Decreased externalizing problems among youth (e.g., conduct problems)



Preliminary Findings from Current Research & Moving Forward

Margie M. Morels, Rachelle A. Yu, & Stephanie G. Cray
Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, Canada



BACKGROUND

Adaptation is a complex phenomenon that involves physiological, psychological, and behavioral changes in response to environmental demands. Adaptation mechanisms are often studied in the context of physical activity, where individuals must adjust to new physical demands. Adaptation mechanisms are often studied in the context of physical activity, where individuals must adjust to new physical demands. Adaptation mechanisms are often studied in the context of physical activity, where individuals must adjust to new physical demands.

METHODS:

MECHANISMS AND MODERATORS OF CHANGE

Participants were recruited from various sources, including community-based organizations, and were screened for eligibility. The study was conducted over a period of 12 weeks, with participants completing various measures at baseline and follow-up. Data were analyzed using statistical methods to identify significant changes and moderators of change.

PARTICIPANTS

MEASUREMENT	RESULTS
PROCESSES & OUTCOMES	Reduced symptoms (20% reduction) over 12 weeks
YOUTH	Mean Age: 15 Yrs 50% Male / 50% Female

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research was supported by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) through a grant to Margie M. Morels. We thank the research assistants and participants who made this study possible.

PARENT REPORT OUTCOMES

MEASUREMENT	RESULTS
ADAPTATION	Significant improvement in adaptation scores over 12 weeks
YOUTH	Mean Age: 15 Yrs 50% Male / 50% Female

Figure 1 and 2: Preliminary findings of parent report of youth symptoms and adaptation.

YOUTH REPORT OUTCOMES

MEASUREMENT	RESULTS
ADAPTATION	Significant improvement in adaptation scores over 12 weeks
YOUTH	Mean Age: 15 Yrs 50% Male / 50% Female

Figure 3 and 4: Preliminary findings of youth report on symptoms and adaptation.

PROGRAM ADAPTATIONS

Program adaptations were made based on feedback from participants and researchers. These adaptations included changes to the program structure and content to better meet the needs of the participants.

GENETIC MODERATORS

Genetic factors were explored as potential moderators of the program's effectiveness. Preliminary findings suggest that certain genetic markers may be associated with better outcomes.

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The Connect® Program: What We Know So Far

Marlene M. Moretti, Rachel A. Yu, & Stephanie G. Ong
Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, Canada



BACKGROUND

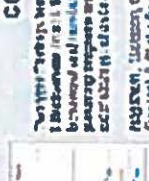
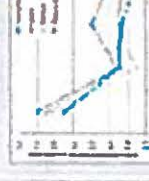
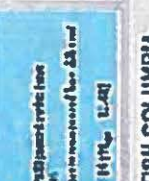
Attachment is a natural developmental process, but many children with attachment difficulties have serious mental health problems. These children often have a history of abuse, neglect, and/or loss. Attachment-based interventions have been shown to be effective in helping these children develop secure attachments and improve their mental health. The Connect Parent Group is a leading provider of attachment-based interventions for children with attachment difficulties.

WHAT IS CONNECT?

Connect is an attachment-based, evidence-based, manualized, 12-week program for parents of children with attachment difficulties. The program is designed to help parents understand their child's attachment needs and develop strategies to meet those needs. The program is delivered in a group format and includes a manual, a workbook, and a video. The program is available in both English and Spanish.

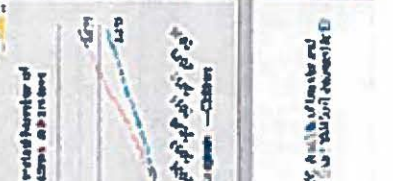
PARTICIPANTS

The Connect Parent Group has been implemented in a variety of settings, including community centers, libraries, and schools. The program has been shown to be effective in helping parents of children with attachment difficulties develop secure attachments and improve their mental health. The program is available in both English and Spanish.



CONNECT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Connect Parent Group has been implemented in a variety of settings in British Columbia, including community centers, libraries, and schools. The program has been shown to be effective in helping parents of children with attachment difficulties develop secure attachments and improve their mental health. The program is available in both English and Spanish.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Connect Parent Group is a program of the Attachment Based Treatment Manual. We would like to thank the following individuals for their support and assistance in the development and implementation of the program: [List of names]



References:

Dr. Marlene Moretti, Karla Braber (2013). *Connect Parent Group, Attachment Based Treatment Manual, 10-11, 23,*

Leaders:

Christy Wyse

After successfully completing the *Connect* leader training in May of 2017, with the oversight of Dr. Marlene Moretti and Dr. Jody Carrington, Christy is a certified *Connect* Group Leader.

Additionally, she has a Bachelor Degree in Education and has taught with Wolf Creek School Division since 2004 in various schools and behaviour/family programs within the division. Christy is from Lacombe and her family has been in the area for 5 generations. She and her husband are raising three children ages 7, 10 and 14. She has a passion for people but more specifically those with struggles. After having one conversation with Christy on the *Connect* Program, it is very easy to see her passion, emotion and belief in the program as well as her confidence that it will change lives. Her contagious passion, her deep roots in the community and depth of dedication to her students creates an unparalleled atmosphere of comfort, support and sincerity.

Maria Myers

After successfully completing the *Connect* leader training in May of 2017, with the oversight of Dr. Marlene Moretti and Dr. Jody Carrington, Maria is a certified *Connect* Group Leader. After serving 14 years with the RCMP, Maria was medically discharged in September 2015 after sustaining an on duty injury. She and her husband are raising three children ages 3, 6 and 9 near Lacombe, AB. In addition to running her own company as an Investigator/Consultant, she provides constant support to her spouse who has severe Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Her unique skill set in both her professional and personal life, creates a deep understanding and empathy for people.

Further information on Connect:

<http://connectparentgroup.org>

http://www.adolescenthealth.ca/?page_id=654

<http://www.drjodycarrington.com>

Christy 403-505-0671

Maria 403-307-6221

School Districts and Areas Using Connect

- Chinooks Edge - Wanda Christensen wchristensen@cesd73.ca
- Wildrose - Darlene Ferris darlene.ferris@wrsd.ca
- Province of B.C. provides support for Connect Parent Groups as a government run initiative
- The Connect program has received the B.C. Premier's Award for Promoting Innovation and Excellence



Requested Board Support

- Provide an appropriate classroom space for the duration of the 10 week program
- Provide access to parents of students in need of support. Referrals to be made in mid October 2017 following parental consent and FOIP forms being provided. Contact would be made through the FSLW and School Administration to reach those families in need or interested.
- Funding for initial launch of the program. One time cost of initial launch fee to cover the video recorded mentorship portion of the first course which creates accountability and ensures the integrity of the program is maintained for its intended use.
- Cover costs of leaders approximately 6-8 hours per week for the training phase (1-2 hour prep; 1.5 hours running group; 1.5 hours tape review; 1 hour supervision; 1-2 hours additional group support. After initial mentorship session, leaders require approximately 3-4 hours per week to run the group, including set up, take down and notes.
- Cost of transportation of course participants in need of support; mileage cost
- Cost for course material
- One board member to attend the feedback session at the end of the 10 weeks to assess benefit & need for program based on participating parental feedback.

Additional Community Partnerships Provided

- FCSS support pending to provide \$750 for the 10 weeks to cover cost of food for each participant
- Community volunteers will be sought for child care; if required



Requested Board Support (cont...)

1st 10-week session:

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Cost
Launch fee for mandated program supervision (one time)	1	\$2500	\$2500
Hourly contractor rate for facilitator based on 8 hours/week for 10 weeks	80	\$70	\$5600
Hourly contractor rate for facilitator based on 8 hours/week for 10 weeks	80	\$70	\$5600
Course materials	1	\$200	\$200
TOTAL			\$13,900

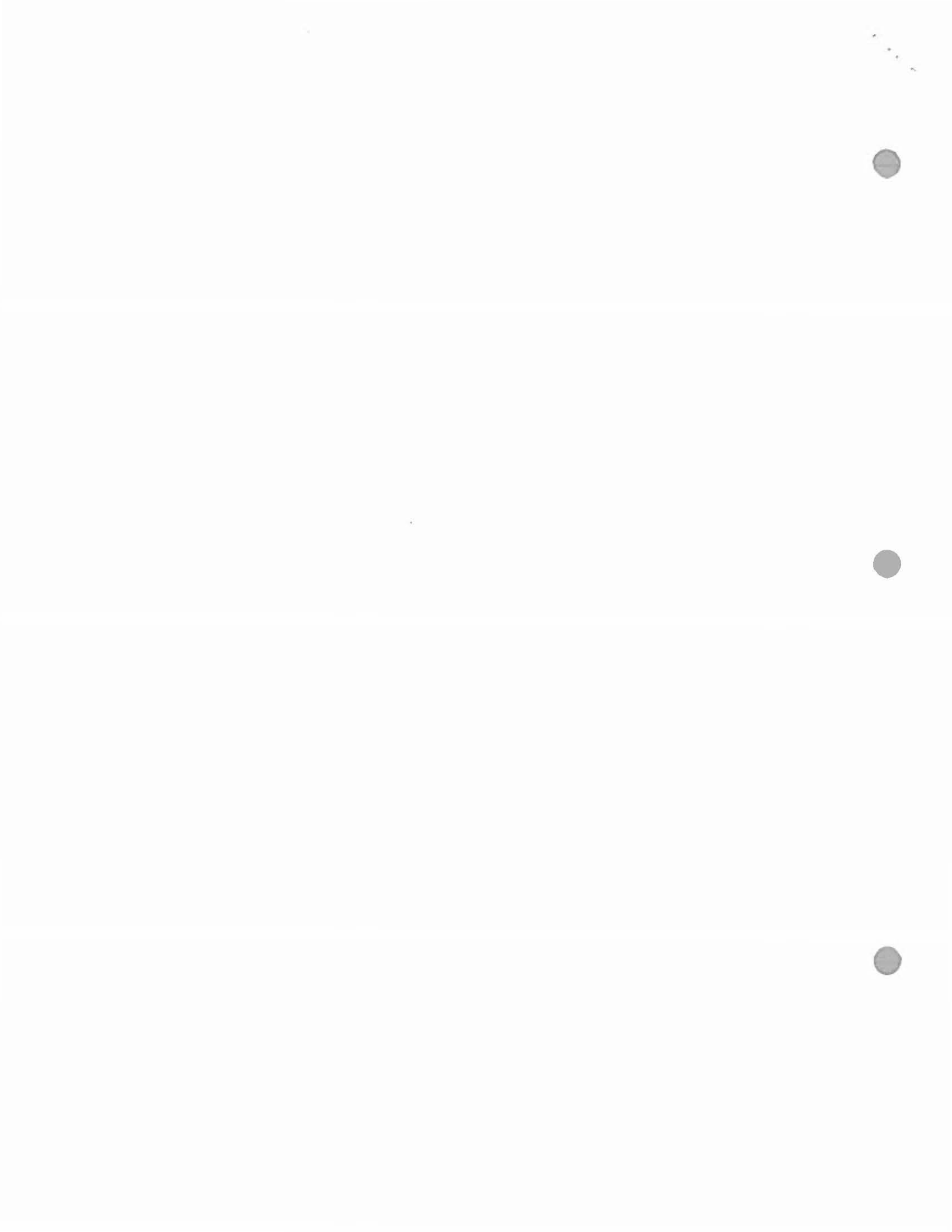
Upcoming 10 week sessions:

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Cost
Hourly contractor rate for facilitator based on 6 hours/week for 10 weeks	60	\$70	\$4200
Hourly contractor rate for facilitator based on 6 hours/week for 10 weeks	60	\$70	\$4200
Course materials	1	\$200	\$200
TOTAL			\$8600

Requested Board Support (cont...)

Description	Cost
1st 10 week session	\$13,900
Future 10 week sessions	\$8600
Course materials for both sessions	\$400
TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$22,900

JJ





SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Office of the Superintendent
for
September 8, 2017

Alberta Infrastructure Tours Rimbey Junior/Senior High School

On July 26, 2017 two Alberta Infrastructure representatives met with Superintendent Jayson Lovell, Secretary-Treasurer Roger Hall and Rimbey Jr/Sr High Principal Tim Lekas to conduct a comprehensive tour of Rimbey Jr/Sr High School. The purpose of the tour was to discuss Wolf Creek's capital plan request of a school modernization with a specific focus on the Career and Technologies spaces in the school. Such aspects of the facility as current health and safety concerns, enrolment trends and community use of the school were discussed. Important next steps and requirements were shared to ensure Wolf Creek's capital plan submission supporting Rimbey Jr/Sr High School remains strong in advance of the next round of government's capital plan approvals in February, 2018.

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Enhanced Student Support in Ponoka Sector

Additional resources have been allocated in all three Ponoka schools starting September 5, 2017 to enhance front-line support for First Nations, Metis and Inuit students. The Board's additional allocation from their Spring budget will provide the following additional part-time staff:

- First Nations, Métis and Inuit Lead Teacher (Ponoka Secondary Campus).
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit Grad Coach (Ponoka Secondary Campus).
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit Lead Teacher (Ponoka Elementary School)
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit Lead Teacher (Ponoka Outreach School)
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit Lead Attendance Liaison (Ponoka Outreach and Ponoka Elementary School).

The specific roles, responsibilities and indicators of success of these additional school support roles are designed to close the achievement gap for our First Nations, Métis and Inuit students.

Leadership Development for Wolf Creek District Office Staff - Partnership with the University of Alberta School of Business

With the hiring of many key leadership positions last spring including the Secretary-Treasurer, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Facilities Manager, Assistant Facilities Manager, and Custodian Foreman, a formal leadership development program has been planned and will be facilitated through an instructor from the University of Alberta - Alberta School of Business for the upcoming school year. In addition to the staff new to their roles other key district office leaders have requested an opportunity to develop their leadership skills to set them up for success. Four days of targeted leadership programming will be provided this fall with a focus on leadership style, team dynamics, communication, motivation, and conflict resolution to ensure a culture of strong and effective leadership is formed with all leaders leading in their respective department.

Inclusive Learning Services (ILS) Welcomes New Staff:

- **New ILS Staff:** We welcome Irene Donaldson, Coordinator of Inclusive Learning Services, to the ILS Team!
- **New Inclusion Coaches:** We welcome Karri-Lynn Knudsen, Deejay Bowoade, Keri Hove-Steiner, and Abbey Cruikshank to the Inclusion Coach Team!
- **New School Social Workers:** We welcome Erika Cissell, Christie Kijewski, and Trish Uloth to the School Social Work Team!
- **New Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA):** We welcome Tara Brigley as our new SLPA who will be working alongside Jillayne Douglas. School assignments are yet to be determined, however, a communication will be sent out to schools in the near future. Both Jillayne and Tara will be supporting students throughout WCPS who require augmentative communication or assistive tech for communication.
- The following document is list of each school and the **ILS staff connected to each site.**
[2017-18 Inclusive Learning Services, Inclusion Coach, & School Social Worker Staff List](#)

ILS Professional Development for 2017-18 and Registration Links

In June ILS shared with schools a matrix of professional development days and a variety of sessions that will be offered by ILS over the 2017-18 school year. There have been a few changes to the offerings.

The following link provides the PD topic and the link for registration:

[ILS Professional Development and Registration](#)

Safe and Caring Schools Review Process

The Safe and Caring Schools and Communities Provincial organization, in partnership with the University of Alberta, will work directly with Wolf Creek schools to collaboratively create a review



process to examine schools in terms of the prevalence of safe, respectful, welcoming, and caring environments. A pilot of this review process occurred in three WCPS schools in the spring. Feedback was provided and revisions are currently being completed on the documents and the process. A schedule will be set up with school principals to determine dates in the upcoming school year for all schools to take part in this review process. Members of the review committee with Safe and Caring Schools will be attending the Sept. 20th Administrator's Association meeting to provide an overview of the process and data to be collected. A schedule will also be shared that shows review dates for all schools.

Code of Conduct Expectation Reminder

At the June Administrator's Association meeting school codes of conduct were discussed to outline the review and posting process on school websites. Each school will develop and communicate to Barb Reaney, by October 15th, the process they will use to ensure clear communication with parents and students so they are aware of the code of conduct at each school. A task force will be developed this year of administrators to see if there are systematic ways in which we want to communicate school codes of conduct for upcoming years.

Thought Exchange: Opportunity for ILS to Connect with Parents of Diverse Students

ILS is excited to have the opportunity this year to use *thoughtexchange* to seek information from parents and guardians of diverse learners in WCPS. *Thoughtexchange* is an online tool that is used to gather thoughts and opinions from a variety of stakeholders. ILS Staff will be working with *thoughtexchange* to determine the questions to be asked and the appropriate timing for requesting this information from parents. The intent is to survey all parents of students who have specialized learning plans.

Learning Services Update to School Staff

Near the end of August an update was provided to school staff on the key support areas from the WCPS District 3 Year Plan that the Learning Services team is continuing to support. The Learning Services team has met several times to plan supports for the 2017-2018 school year and communicated these support plans to schools. The division focus on literacy continues with support for all students, intentional supports around career planning with dual credit partnerships and CTF support which echoes the requests from recent Thought Exchange data, support for early learning needs through professional development and pre-kindergarten and support for curriculum needs with the Enhanced Learning Model.

Fall Staff Professional Development Opportunities

A number of fall start-up PD events are scheduled to support staff with additional implementation of Leveled Literacy Intervention, English Language Learners, Kindergarten, MyBlueprint and Assessment. Staff from Learning Services is coordinating this support along with our partners from CARC.

Bright Futures Play Academy Update

Nearly 450 children are currently registered across WCPS within 18 different pre-kindergarten classrooms. This program has seen an increase of interest from parents and families in all



communities and programs now have waitlists started for further interested families. It is exciting to see our typically developing children supported with strong starts to literacy and social skills alongside our mild-moderate and severe needs children in an inclusive environment. Teachers and staff from BFPA programs are being provided some inservices this fall and staggered entry for children begins the week of September 11.

Library Advisory Committee Recommendations

The Library Advisory Committee completed their report in June and forwarded their recommendations to the Superintendent. These recommendations have been reviewed and will be shared with the board and school administration in the coming weeks. Many of these recommendations will be achieved through some long term strategic planning.

Assignable Time Collective Agreement Requirements

In June, division office leaders met with school administrators and utilized a spreadsheet to keep track of assignable time and instructional time. There are several factors that are involved in the calculation of assignable time which have a direct influence on ensuring we adhere to the terms of the teacher collective agreement. We continue to work with school administrators in the coming weeks to ensure the plans for assignable time are collected and accurate in order to be in a position to report accurately.

Substitute Teacher Orientation Sessions

Over 140 Substitute Teachers have attended five Substitute Teacher Orientation Sessions between August 28 and September 5. These mandatory sessions have covered the use of the new Atrieve Absence Management System, Health & Safety Training, WCPS Policies, Procedures and expectations for Substitute Teachers. Feedback has been excellent from those who have attended. The next sessions are scheduled for September 29 and October 18.

Atrieve Absence Management System

The new Atrieve Absence Management System was rolled out on August 31 to all teaching staff in WCPS. This system replaces the former Breeze Sub Booking System and will be the way that all teachers log their absences and book substitute teachers. People Services have created 15 Tutorial Videos to assist all user groups with accessing and using the system. These have been shared with staff and are available

New Teacher & Administrator Cohorts

This year all of our of our People Services cohort sessions will centre around the WCPS three year plan. We look forward to working collaboratively with Inclusive Learning Services, Learning Services and Technology Services in the delivery of this year's cohort sessions.

Aspiring Leaders

We are thrilled to welcome a new two-year cohort of WCPS Aspiring Leaders to our program. This year's Aspiring Leaders cohort will explore all facets of school-based leadership. This



cohort also provides an opportunity for aspiring leaders to network across the division as well as with several neighbouring Zone 4 School Divisions



School	Sept 7/17	Projected Sept 30/17	Difference	Sept 30/16	Difference from Sept 30/16 to Sept 7/17
Alix-MAC	254	263	-9	247	7
Bentley	393	389	4	367	26
Bluffton	122	123	-1	124	-2
Clive	217	219	-2	215	2
Crestomere	142	152	-10	141	1
Eckville Elementary	145	150	-5	142	3
Eckville Jr/Sr High	104	115	-11	110	-6
JS McCormick	518	512	6	535	-17
Lacombe Upper Elementary	384	396	-12	363	21
Lacombe Junior High	451	446	5	464	-13
Lacombe Compositie High	856	856	0	861	-5
Iron Ridge Elementary	408	482	-74	488	-80