

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES



Minutes of Regular Board Meeting

At 129 4th Ave SW, High River, AB

April 29, 2026

11:19 a.m. – In-Camera
1:00 p.m. – Public Welcome

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board of Trustees

Theresa Letendre, Board Chair, Ward 3
Lisa Penzo, Vice Chair, Ward 4
Sherry Butler, Trustee, Ward 2
Shanon Hines, Trustee, Ward 1
Sharon Nichols, Trustee, Ward 4
Jackie Roe, Trustee, Ward 5

Administration

Christopher Fuzessy, Superintendent of Schools
Allen Davidson, Assistant Superintendent, Employee Services
Caroline Roberts, Assistant Superintendent, Learning Services
Katelyn Nickel, Assistant Superintendent, Corporate Services

1. OPENING ITEMS

a. Meeting Called to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:19 a.m.

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Land Acknowledgement

The Foothills School Division Board of Trustees acknowledges the spirit, life and lessons this land and its ancestors teach us. We acknowledge the traditional territories of the Siksika, Piikani, Kainai, Tsuut'ina, Îyârhe Nakoda including the Bearspaw, Chiniki, and Good Stoney Nations and the Homeland of the Métis.

We honour and promote our responsibility to stewardship of the land, from the prairie grasslands that fold into the rolling foothills, to the Big Rock, "oh koto'ksko" and the buffalo jumps; through the cottonwood trees that grow along the Highwood and Sheep Rivers, "ispitsi", to the eastern slopes of the mountains. We acknowledge the land as an act of reconciliation that honors the truths of the Indigenous Peoples.

In our commitment to placing education at the center of a flourishing community, the Board of Trustees continues to advance educational opportunities that support reconciliation.

Purpose Statement

The Board of Trustees is committed to govern by assuring that our students and all who support them can flourish.

2. IN CAMERA

MOVED by Trustee Roe:

That the board move to in-camera at 11:19 a.m.

Carried

MOVED by Trustee Penzo:

That the board reconvene in public session at 11:54 a.m

Carried

The Board broke for lunch at 12:06 p.m.

3. PUBLIC MEETING

The regular board meeting was reconvened at 1:01 p.m.

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4. AGENDA

a. Additions to the Agenda:

Chair Remarks/ Board Correspondence

12.A Letter from Minister of Education and Childcare regarding a request for additional funding, sent November 13, 2025. (attached)

b. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED by Trustee Nichols:

That the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of April 29, 2026, be accepted as amended

Carried

5. MINUTES

a. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 15, 2026

MOVED by Trustee Butler:

That the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 15, 2026, be taken as written as presented

Carried

6. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

a. School Presentation: École Percy Pegler School Education Plan

Principal Rona Reid and Vice Principal Katlin Strand presented École Percy Pegler School's Year 2 Education Plan to the Board of Trustees, highlighting a strong focus on engagement, support, and success. The presentation emphasized relational and community-connected engagement, a whole-child continuum of supports, and meaningful, transferable learning experiences.

An invitation was extended to the Executive Team and Trustees to attend École Percy Pegler School's 50th anniversary celebration, including an opera and BBQ at the end of May.

The Board thanked the École Percy Pegler staff for their dedication, leadership, and ongoing commitment to fostering a welcoming and supportive learning environment for all students.

b. Manager Report: Risk and Materials

Manager of Risk and Materials, Dave Barton, provided the Board of Trustees with an update on scheduled Occupational Health and Safety and insurance risk inspections. The inspections are proactive in nature and focus on emergency preparedness, safety practices, and regulatory compliance. Early observations indicate that schools are well supported and prepared for these reviews.

The Board thanked Mr. Barton for his ongoing work in supporting safety and risk management across Foothills School Division.

c. Director Report: Technology Services

Director of Technology Services, Sally Smith, presented an update to the Board of Trustees on progress related to key technology initiatives. The presentation highlighted advancements in strategic priorities, community engagement, infrastructure improvements, security efforts, and cost efficiencies, while also identifying ongoing pressures related to aging equipment, cybersecurity risk, staffing capacity, and long-term sustainability.

The Board thanked Sally and the Technology Services team for their ongoing work in supporting learning, operations, and system reliability across Foothills School Division.

Trustee Penzo left the meeting at 3:08 pm

7. ACTION ITEMS

a. Calendar Change

At the request of the Government of Alberta to support the use of schools as voting locations, the Board is being asked to approve a change to the 2026–2027 calendar. Administration recommends moving the scheduled professional learning day from Friday, October 23, 2026, to Monday, October 19, 2026, to ensure a non-instructional day for students.

MOVED by Trustee Hines:

That the Board of Trustees approve the change to the 2026–2027 school year calendar, moving the professional learning day from Friday, October 23, 2026, to Monday, October 19, 2026, to support the use of school facilities for voting purposes.

Carried

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. School Council Reports

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Background: In the *School Council Report*, trustees have the opportunity to share system-wide issues, trends, or concerns, that are brought forward during the school council meetings they attend.

Council of School Councils (COSC) – April 27, 2026

The Council of School Councils (COSC) met on April 27, 2026, at École Secondaire Foothills Composite High School / Alberta High School of Fine Arts. COSC Chair Ashley Coolen guided the group through a full agenda, including updates on Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) memberships, a reminder of the Flourishing Foothills Community Award, and initial discussion regarding the potential development of a shared COSC Google Drive.

Representatives from the Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation joined for a presentation, including President Diana Froc and newly appointed Executive Director Alandra Corrigan. The Foundation highlighted grants awarded to schools over the past year and provided an update on the Literacy Playground initiative. While the Foundation was not successful in securing renewed funding through the Calgary Foundation, they remain committed to advancing this work and welcomed continued support.

The meeting concluded with an opportunity for school council chairs to provide feedback on the Fast Forward to Flourishing community engagement work. Discussions focused on five key areas—organizational culture, student supports, community, advocacy, and technology and AI—with council chairs sharing perspectives and insights gathered from their respective school communities.

b. Policy Review (none)

Background: The Policy Review Update is a standing agenda item aimed at providing assurance to the Foothills School Division and our community of stakeholders that board policies continue to be reflective of the values of the Board and the strategic direction of the Division.

c. Administrative Procedures Update (none)

d. Financial Update: Katelyn Nickel & Bryan Mason

Director of Financial Services and School Business, Bryan Mason, presented the March 31, 2026, financial report to the Board of Trustees, providing a year-to-date overview of revenues and expenditures for the 2025–2026 school year. The report highlighted key budget variances, the impact of labour action and salary recovery, and an adjusted year-to-date surplus.

The Board thanked Bryan for his ongoing work in maintaining fiscal accountability and supporting the overall financial health of Foothills School Division.

e. CASS 2026 Indigenous Gathering Summary and Learnings (attached)

Trustees Letendre, Penzo, and Nichols attended the College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Gathering, held April 22–24, 2026, alongside Foothills School Division Elder, Kohkum Virginia Aldoff-Pinay, whose presence helped ground the experience in relationship, protocol, and learning.

The gathering brought together system and community leaders through ceremony, keynote

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speakers, and breakout sessions focused on Indigenous student success, language and culture, and strengthening relationships with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community. Highlights included the opening Grand Entry and cultural teachings, which set the tone for the gathering and grounded the learning in respect and shared understanding.

Learning throughout the gathering emphasized the importance of voice, presence, and relationship, and reinforced that treaty education and reconciliation are ongoing, shared responsibilities.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS (none)

MOVED by Trustee Hines:

That the Board accepts Information Items A-E as presented

Carried

10. Board Committee Reports

a. **Awards Committee** - Trustee Letendre (attached)

The Awards Committee met on April 21, 2026, to plan the recognition of the Blackie Lions Club as the current recipient of the Flourishing Foothills Community Award. The Committee also began exploring opportunities to expand recognition across the Division, with a focus on developing a more inclusive approach that reflects the many contributions of staff and community members.

MOVED by Trustee Roe:

That the Board accepts the Board Committee Reports as presented

Carried

11. CHAIR'S REMARKS / BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. **Letter from Minister of Education and Childcare** (attached)

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12. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Trustee Hines:

That the regular board meeting of April 29, 2026, be adjourned at 3:56p.m.

Carried

Chair

Assistant Superintendent, Corporate Services