



Key Messages: January 27, 2021

## District Priority 1: Student Learning

- ✓ Board Chair Rosadiuk recognized January 27<sup>th</sup> is Family Literacy Day – raising awareness of the importance of reading and doing literacy-related activities as a family: “Parents and caregivers are important partners in this education journey and taking time to build in literacy activities at home helps to reinforce and deepen our Division’s strong focus on reading and critical thinking - all in support of our Board’s first priority – Student Learning!”
- ✓ On behalf of the Trustees, Chair Rosadiuk offered encouragement to high school students across the Division who are beginning their second semester or third term courses next week.
- ✓ GYPSD is offering a range of innovative learning opportunities for students and families throughout our communities. The Division is now an official Home Education provider within the province, in addition to the Christian Learning pilot, and the Learn-at-Home option that offers both virtual access and/or paper products.

## District Priority 2: Teaching and Leadership Excellence

- ✓ Superintendent Lewis led a comprehensive and research-based discussion around the Division’s assessment and evaluation processes, praising GYPSD teachers and principals for their leadership in ensuring fair, balanced, responsive and accurate assessment practices that support and improve students’ growth; “Our teachers are providing top rate, world-class education, providing our students a foundation for success while taking into consideration current conditions and ensuring they are prepared for their next steps.”
- ✓ Key highlights from the Superintendent’s Report include:
  - Development of *CAMPUS GYPSD* – a centralized platform to house the Division’s alternative, distance, and personalized learning options
  - New for Fall 2021: Montessori early learning program (Jr Kindergarten/Kindergarten) at Ecole Westhaven Elementary in Edson; Indigenous Language and Culture Program partnership with the Hinton Friendship Centre at Crescent Valley Elementary
  - PD for leaders across the province: Palisades’ Indigenous Camp in April – featuring Keynote Speaker Senator Patti LaBoucane-Benson, and presentations by Dr. Dwayne Donald and Dr. Sean Lessard

## District Priority 3: Community Engagement

- ✓ Board Chair Rosadiuk, Vice Chair Zaporosky, Trustees Fate, Karpluk, Aust, Caputo and Fowler are committed to leading advocacy for strong public education, building collaborative relationships and developing solution-focused partnerships to ensure success for our GYPSD students and community. Highlights include:
  - ✓ Praise for the inclusivity of Public Education and to the teachers, principals and support staff of GYPSD to welcome all students – returning and new – into Division schools and programs.
  - ✓ Support for the recognition of outstanding efforts and success of students, staff, Trustees, and citizens who contribute to public education in Alberta through nominations for awards from the Alberta School Boards’ Association (ASBA) and the Public School Boards’ Association of Alberta (PSBA).
  - ✓ Attendance and participation at PSBAAs Special Meeting of January 12<sup>th</sup> – Keynote featured former Ministers of Education David Hancock and David King; Executive Committee members endorsed new recognition award promoting and advancing the recommendations of the TRC in Alberta as it relates to Education.
  - ✓ Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Advocacy Coffee Conversation, January 21<sup>st</sup>.