



DEC BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

TO LEARN. TO GROW.
TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Tom Coffey and Yvonne Nickel

Community members, Tom Coffey and Yvonne Nickel presented concerns regarding **Policy 546 COVID-19 Harm Reduction Policy** and other MHPSD mitigation strategies. They presented opinions on the negative impacts of the policy on children (due to prolonged mask use) and believe there is an increased strain on children's mental health. They expressed concerns about the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine when administered to adults and children as well as the use of 72hr rapid testing, noting that the government didn't mandate the creation and implementation of this Policy. The delegation requested that the masking protocol be immediately stopped and that Policy 546 be rescinded. The Board requested additional information from the presenters. Chair Wilson noted the board has a responsibility to ensure the safety of the students, parents and staff. Government of Alberta and AHS guidance was integral to the development of this policy; it will be reviewed, as scheduled, at the April 2022 board meeting.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

Policies

Policy updates were approved as presented:

- **POLICY 530: COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY**
- **POLICY 503: WELCOMING, CARING, RESPECTFUL AND SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS**

RECOGNITION & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2. Medicine Hat College Partnership

Jennifer Kerslake from the Medicine Hat College (MHC) presented on the **Beej Project**, a partnership with MHPSD, Prairie Rose School Division, Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education and Medicine Hat Police Services (MHPS). The project intent is to provide mental health education and research to our community. Supports provided include mental health educational videos, and in partnership with MHPS, a new app called Health IM that will be launched in 2022. The app will provide first responders with access to individual mental health information and the ability to transfer data to the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Emergency Room.

The Bring Back the Music Program was introduced in 2012 as a way to bring music to students in the classroom. Participating schools include Elm Street School, Vincent Massey School and Dr. Ken Sauer School. Instruments provided include strings, guitar, choral and a drum line.

Entrepreneurship Development Centre (at MHHS) introduces entrepreneurship as a career choice to high school students. The "Think Box" exercise gives students an opportunity to build a business out of items supplied in the box. Mentor Monday's brings local professionals into the classroom to expose students to different career opportunities.

DATES TO REMEMBER

JAN 5 BACK TO SCHOOL

JAN 28 PD DAY - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

RECOGNITION & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence in STEM

Nicole Pocsik, high school team lead and Robin Duncan (now teaching in Edmonton) from Crescent Heights High School, are honoured with the Prime



Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Taking a fun and creative approach to teaching, they inspire students to get excited about learning and exploring, even outside of science.

"I love learning

and I want them to love learning and if they don't love learning just find something that you love in general. That's kind of what this (award) means to me, we've created an environment that allows for our students to focus on what could possibly be," said Nicole. Robin has moved to Edmonton, but her and Nicole still collaborate; they are working on a joint project between their classrooms, giving students the opportunity to exchange knowledge and their passion for science, innovation and technology.

TREATY 7 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy and the people of Treaty 7 Region in Southern Alberta. We honour and acknowledge the homeland of the Métis people. We are grateful for the traditional Knowledge Keepers and Elders who are still with us today and those who have gone before us.

FIVE UNIVERSAL GOALS

1. Provide **optimal learning environments** to all learners
2. Approach all people with an **inclusive mindset**
3. Foster a **culture of wellness**
4. Develop **leadership skills** among all members of the school community
5. Determined **focus on First Nations, Métis and Inuit student success**

MHPSD FAMILY WHERE KIDS COUNT!

NEXT BOARD MEETING

JAN 25, 2022 5:30 P.M.

Board meetings will be held virtually until further notice, contact joni.treen@sd76.ab.ca for a link to join. Visit mhpsd.ca for a board package.

