

# SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

## JUNE 2025



*This is the last update for the 2024-25 school year! Hu sukiṭukni, kukstsémc, maarsii, thank you to all those who supported the growth and development of our learners this year across all Rocky Mountain schools.*

## INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL LAUNCHES IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN



*Members of the Indigenous Education Council gathered in May at St. Eugene Resort to discuss their mandate and define their terms of reference. They were supported by Denise Augustine, former BC Superintendent of Indigenous Education, and Secretariat Jenny Reid.*



*The new Indigenous Education Council review terms of reference at their recent meeting.*

The new Indigenous Education Council (IEC) for the Rocky Mountain School District held their first in person meetings on May 22-23 at the historical St. Eugene Resort. These foundational sessions marked a crucial step in operationalizing recent amendments to the *School Act* which emphasizes a greater shift of power to Indigenous Peoples in guiding the education of Indigenous students.

During their meetings, IEC members with representatives from Shuswap, ᑭᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴ, ᑭᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴ, Columbia Valley Métis, and Non-Local Indigenous communities, alongside district staff, engaged in vital discussions centered on understanding new mandates, defining their role, Indigenous student well-being and voice, and other operational items including budget, terms of reference and communications.

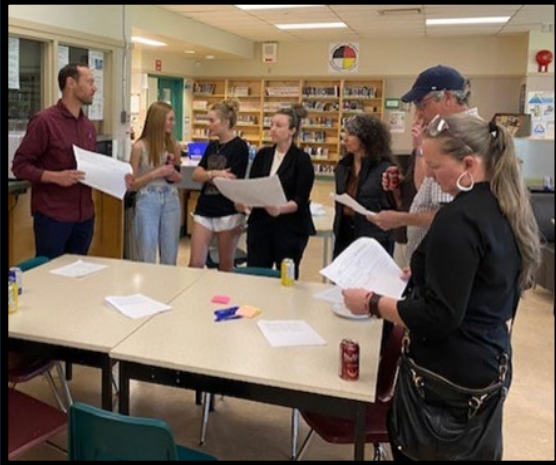
The IEC aims to work in close partnership with the Board of Education of Rocky Mountain School District to ensure Indigenous priorities are effectively addressed. Some short term next steps for the council include reviewing student evidence to inform future priorities and defining key goals for the council.

The dedication and collaborative spirit shown at these initial meetings signal a positive path forward, and school communities will be kept updated in 2025-26 on the IEC's progress and its evolving role in our schools.





## STUDENT VOICE AT SELKIRK SECONDARY



Parents and staff from Selkirk Secondary School recently met to review student evidence and goals for 2025-26.

Throughout the year, students at Selkirk Secondary were encouraged to think more critically and to consistently justify their thinking across all areas of their education, including personal and social responsibility. Staff also aimed to strengthen student voice through Leadership classes and the Student Focus Group. Survey results from students and parents, along with anecdotal feedback from staff, indicated meaningful improvement in these areas.

During recent parent and staff engagement sessions held at the school, participants reviewed and discussed schoolwide goals and were able to celebrate the progress made. The school will maintain a focus on these priorities next year, while also aligning more closely with the key elements of B.C.'s Learning Pathways.

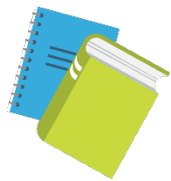
## FOOD RECOVERY PROGRAM A SUCCESS IN KIMBERLEY

Universal, stigma-free food programming has been a focus this year in Rocky Mountain School District, aligning with the Board's 'Stewardship for the Future' strategic priority. In the community of Kimberley, a local partnership has had a big impact on growth in this area.

Earlier this year, **Kimberley Food Recovery** joined forces with McKim Middle School to provide one meal per week to students at the school as part of the Feeding Futures Program. In May, delivery expanded to both Lindsay Park Elementary and Marysville Elementary. In all locations, students are benefitting from Kimberley Food Recovery's commitment to divert food waste from local landfills and make healthy food choices more accessible.

Initial feedback on the program has been very positive, and schools are already asking to further grow the offerings in the future. Rocky Mountain's School Food Coordinator Eric Larocque shared "We are in the process of drafting a Memorandum of Understanding with Healthy Kimberley, the parent organization of Kimberley Food Recovery, for the 2025-26 school year. They have been an outstanding partner in support of students and in addressing community food insecurities."





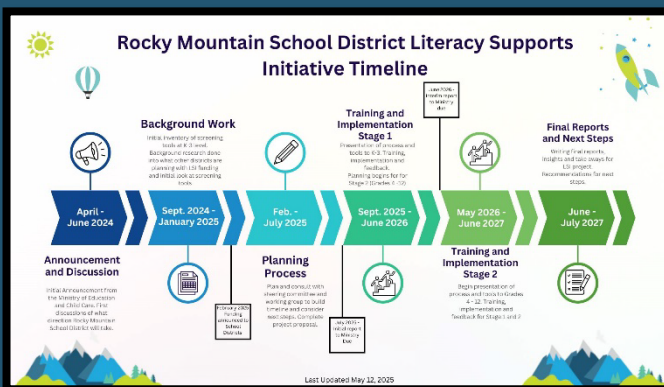
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# WORKING GROUP MOVES ‘LITERACY SUPPORTS’ INITIATIVE FORWARD

First introduced by the Ministry of Education and Child Care in April 2024, the Literacy Supports Initiative has been a focus in the district under the ‘Success for Each Learner’ priority area. Specifically, the objectives of this initiative include building capacity for literacy focused evidence-based screening tools, instruction and intervention.

For the last few months a Working Group consisting of K-12 educators, school and district administrators, and district specialists have collaborated to advise on screening tools, specific outcomes and the timeline for implementation in drafting a multi-year district plan.

The proposed plan is nearing completion and broader engagement with teachers, principals, union reps, and specialists will soon be taking place. The first stage of the plan is set to support implementation of early literacy screening tools in all K-3 settings.



*This Spring a district **Literacy Working Group** supported the development of a draft multi-year K-12 Literacy implementation plan. Broad engagement will begin soon and extend into the fall.*



*Kimberley Primary students recently participated in ‘Take Me Outside’ Day in partnership with Selkirk Secondary.*

## TAKE ME OUTSIDE!

Place-based learning opportunities are a regular occurrence for students at Lindsay Park Elementary. This year, staff were curious about how learning outside enhanced student regulation. On May 26, students from LPES joined all of the other primary students in Kimberley for Take Me Outside Day activities at Wycliffe Regional Park. With the support of Selkirk Secondary Teacher Jenn Meens along with her students, a number of engaging activities were offered, each with connections to inspiration, relaxation, focus, and celebration.

This collaborative day was a special opportunity for primary and secondary students to connect, with Lindsay Park staff providing additional support for individual student needs. SSS Teacher Jenn Meens shared, *"I am very proud of the hard work, creativity, and flexibility demonstrated by all involved. Primary teachers often lend a hand, or ask a leading question, to help the day stay on track and work best for their students."*





## CELEBRATING DEAF & HARD OF HEARING STUDENT EXPERIENCES



*At the Vancouver Aquarium's wet lab, students have the opportunity to engage in hands-on learning by touching sea stars and closely observing sea urchins.*



*At Kootenay Connection students engage with Blue Lake Camp staff as they explain the canoeing activity in spoken English, accompanied by ASL interpretation to support inclusive communication.*

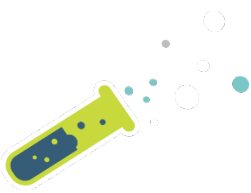
Recently Rocky Mountain School District d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) students participated in annual events sponsored by the Provincial Outreach Program (POP).

In April, three students joined the Spotlight Communication Contest and Friendship Day. The theme, "My Dream for a DHH-friendly World," inspired powerful speeches on inclusion, equity, and access. Presenters used American Sign Language (ASL) and spoken English, while the audience engaged through interpreters, captions, or remote mics—ensuring full access! Friendship Day took place at the Vancouver Aquarium, welcoming over 300 DHH students from across BC. DHH Proud offers students a chance to connect, share experiences, feel seen, and enjoy accessible communication.

In May, students attended the Kootenay Connection at Blue Lake Camp—a 3-day regional event for DHH students from nearby districts. Students had a chance to connect with peers across the Kootenays, and activities included canoeing, ASL workshops, and the Kootenay Challenge with mental and physical tasks. Senior students led activities, and all explored diverse communication styles.

All of these experiences support the students' IEP goals in the core competency areas of Communication, Positive Personal & Cultural Identity, and Personal Awareness & Responsibility. Many thanks to everyone who made these trips possible!





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## ‘BECAUSE’... MARYSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL’S MAGIC WORD



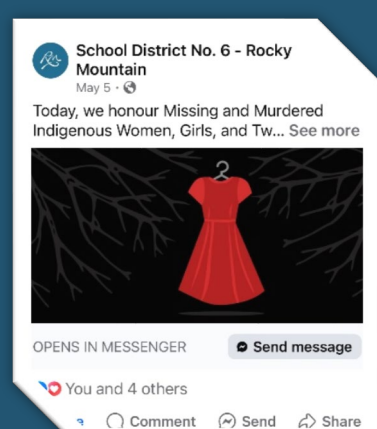
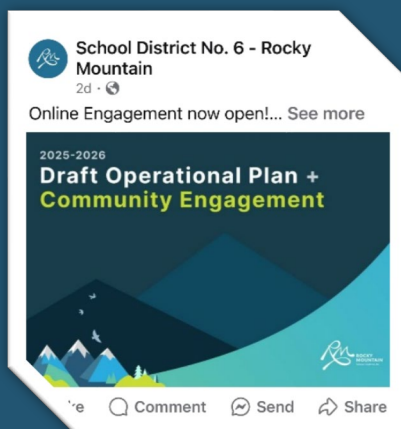
*Students participating in the Marysville Elementary Multicultural Fair expand upon their thinking using the word ‘because’. Hundreds attended the event which showcased information and food from cultures around the globe.*

The over-arching goal this year at Marysville Elementary School was “to improve student *meaning making* through summarizing and justification.

At last spring’s community engagement meeting, parents had provided feedback that they wanted their children to better explain their thinking in general conversations, but also in relation to numeracy, literacy and when solving problems and conflicts. Teachers also observed that explaining thinking was an area of improvement on student numeracy and literacy assessments.

Across all grade levels this year, students were encouraged to use the word ‘because’ as a strategy to expand upon their thinking, and it has proven hugely successful. In one Kindergarten classroom, BECAUSE was known as a magic word!

Recently during the school’s annual Grade 2-3 Multicultural Fair, students shared information and food from various cultures. Students practiced public speaking using the word, “because”, to explain facts about their chosen country. Hundreds visited the fair this year – including parents, care givers, grandparents and other community member - to learn from the students!



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