

June 21, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians of BES and BCHS Students,

It has come to our attention that misinformation is being circulated throughout the community regarding the future planning for Banff Community High School (BCHS). The rumors range from BCHS becoming a hospitality institute to the school being closed.

The Board of Trustees states for the record, that this information is absolutely false. To be clear, at no point has the Board of Trustees or the Superintendent *ever* spoken about or even considered closing or repurposing Banff Community High School. In addition, the Superintendent has on numerous occasions spoken personally to the Banff High School staff about the bright future of the school. Never has there been any indication that the school was slated for closure. With the change in the government funding formula and our additional revenue streams, we are on a sound financial footing. The future of our schools has never looked brighter.

The Education Act outlines an extensive process, that requires multiple public consultation meetings, to close a school. Furthermore, a government funded public school cannot unilaterally be turned into a post secondary training institution. The Board of Trustees has always and continues to be committed to providing high quality education for all K-12 students of Banff Elementary School and Banff Community High School.

On May 4, 2022, the Board of Trustees organized a Community Education Network (CEN) meeting to discuss the preferred future for both our high schools. In attendance were a group of 37 parents, community stakeholders, educators, and students from across the division. Based on input from the CEN meeting and other information-gathering undertakings, a new direction is being embarked upon for both high schools. In part, the information gathered from the CEN community meeting helped inform administration's next steps as they plan future courses and programs. Some of these new courses will be in place for the 2022-23 school year.

The Board of Trustees remains committed and excited for the Futures Planning to support BCHS and CCHS students. Not only our students but our communities will benefit from the implementation of transformational programming. We point to the recent [staff announcements](#) regarding initial stages of Futures Planning to solidify our commitment to high quality education that looks to the future. Misinformation, regarding school closures, only hurts our local schools and the positive momentum we have strived to ignite. We invite you to join us in knowing the true facts as we build our preferred future.

Banff Community High School is a precious jewel in our crown. BCHS is not only required but is a necessity to keep our community vibrant.

If you hear misinformation regarding school closures, please assist us in dispelling this myth. One way of supporting us in getting the correct information into circulation is by sharing this communication far and wide.

Do not hesitate to contact administration if you have further questions.

Sincerely,



Arlene Rheaume, Chair
Board of Trustees



Brian Callaghan, Vice Chair
Board of Trustees