



**BOARD**  
MEMORANDUM

**Date:** February 9, 2022  
**To:** Board of Trustees  
**From:** Shawna Walter, Acting Superintendent  
**Originator(s):** Jonathan Konrad, Acting Deputy Superintendent, Education Services  
**Subject:** 2022 Alberta Rural Education Symposium (ARES) Four Winds Public School Presentation Update

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**Purpose:**

For information.

**Background:**

The annual Alberta Rural Education Symposium (ARES) will be hosted at the Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton on March 6-8, 2022. The theme this year is *Learning and Leading Through Appreciative Inquiry*. Since its inception, Four Winds Public School has been a leader in engaging students in meaningful work through inquiry learning, project building, and supporting their passions through STEAM, Dance, and Sport Academies.

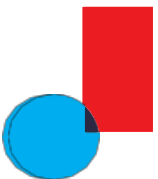
Dan Requa, Principal of Four Winds Public School, submitted a proposal to the ARES Planning Committee to bring a student led presentation to the Symposium. These students will showcase the great learning opportunities and experiences our students have at Four Winds Public School, and demonstrate a few of the projects they are most proud of. The submission has been reviewed and the Organization Committee has accepted the proposal. This is an exciting opportunity to celebrate the amazing work Four Winds staff and students are doing! Details on when the presentation will occur have not been released.

Administration is prepared to respond to questions at the February 9, 2022 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Sincerely,

Shawna Walter, M. Ed  
Acting Superintendent

Attachment



# FOUR WINDS PUBLIC SCHOOL

545 Grandin Drive, Morinville, AB T8R 2R3

Phone: 825-349-0021 Email: FWPS@sturgeon.ab.ca

www.fourwindsschool.ca



Principal: Dan Requa (drequa@sturgeon.ab.ca) VP: Michelle Wing(michelle.wing@sturgeon.ab.ca)

December 10, 2021

Dear ARES Representatives,

Please accept our proposal for the Alberta Rural Education Symposium (ARES).

The mission at Four Winds Public is:

Connect - Ignite - Rise

We are Firebirds.

Our staff, students and community co-constructed this mission by identifying what is best about education and envisioning a school for students to flourish with purpose. **Connect** refers to the recognition that a positive core is built on relationships, well-being and creating a positive atmosphere. **Ignite** is to spark an intrinsic motivation and desire to learn more through high quality inquiry learning. The word **Rise** acknowledges that this school will be a place where students can follow their passions and strive for excellence.

Four Winds Public School is an innovative grade five to nine school in Morinville, Alberta. Serving 420 students, we offer a variety of programming including French Immersion, Dance Academy, STEAM Academy, Sport for Life Academy, Knowledge and Employability and Strategies programming. The school honours local area women who were instrumental in bringing Public Education to Morinville, including the Donna Hunter Learning Commons, Thelma Chalifoux Learning Garden, and the Audri Kowalyk Science Lab.

We aim to engage students in meaningful work through the process of inquiry learning. Thought provoking questioning and guiding frameworks help students engage with, understand, and solve problems creatively and critically. The process honours the need for fundamental skills in literacy and numeracy as a tool deeply connected with each concept. Often these solutions require creation with digital resources and experiential education. Over the course of a year and a half, prior to our school opening, our teaching staff partnered with the Galileo Network and the Werklund School of Education at the University of Calgary to promote instruction that provides engaging work.

Students are encouraged to explore their personal interests at Four Winds Public School. We offer a variety of extra and co-curricular opportunities for our students to explore their passions. Our STEAM Academies offer students a chance to apply science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. Innovation is promoted through our robotics, makerspace, and coding. We recently added two new classes to our STEAM Academies

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to accommodate the interest in our community. All three classes now have waiting lists. Our Arts programming includes Music, Ukulele, Art, Musical Theatre, Theatre Makeup and Drama. At Four Winds, physical literacy is promoted through our Elementary and Jr. High Dance Academy, our Sport for Life Academy and a variety of Athletics programs.

As we continue to focus on well-being, Four Winds students participate in daily gratitude journaling, wellness classes which focus on mental health literacy and Social-emotional learning (SEL). Four Winds students all participate in nature based lessons at our divisional outdoor classroom through the Pioneer Trail North Foundation.

We have created a video series showcasing the amazing educational experiences happening at Four Winds Public School. Please see the following links

[▶ Steam Academy](#)

[▶ Numeracy](#)

[▶ Art Inquiry](#)

We appreciate your consideration for us to share the innovative initiatives and amazing rural public education happening at Four Winds Public School and in Sturgeon Public Schools.

Sincerely,



Dan Requa  
Principal  
Four Winds Public School