



Siksika Board of Education

P.O. Box 1099

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August 31, 2026

Welcome Back, Siksika Families, Students, and Community Members,

There's nothing quite like the first day of a new school year — the mix of excitement, a few butterflies, and that special sense of possibility. Whether you're starting your very first day in our schools or returning for your final year, I want you to know: we're so glad you're here, and you belong.

Over the past year, our community has shown remarkable strength and resilience. We've celebrated successes, navigated big changes, and faced challenges head-on — always grounded in the Siksikaitsitapi values of respect, kindness, humility, generosity, community, and responsibility. I see these values in action every day, in every classroom, hallway, and gathering. Thank you for your courage, your patience, and your commitment to learning and to each other.

This year is particularly meaningful, as 2026 marks 30 years since the closure of residential schools in Canada. To honour the resilience, strength, and healing of our community, the Siksika Board of Education is launching **Aohkaniin A'po'takssini** — a special commemoration project. The SBE Painted Bison Project will be a community-based public art installation that recognizes 30 years of resilience and creates a space for reflection, celebration, and healing. We invite everyone to participate and help us tell our collective story.

Looking ahead, I'm filled with hope and ambition for what we can achieve together. This year brings important new initiatives: updated SBE Policies and Training, revised Administrative Regulations, and curriculum changes. Your voices helped shape these changes — thank you to everyone who participated in our MNP policy review engagements.

We are also launching system-wide learning for staff. Our book study, "Reclaiming Youth at Risk: Our Hope for the Future," and the Starr Commonwealth Trauma Training will help us better support every child's mental, emotional, and academic well-being. Our Nutrition Program is expanding, and we're strengthening infrastructure: from new boilers and a planned roof replacement at COSS to network upgrades and school buses equipped with cameras for added safety.

Our vision as the Siksika Board of Education is to be a trusted leader in education, where Siksikaitsitapi students are empowered by their culture and values to achieve academic excellence



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and well-being. Our mission is to nurture lifelong learners in a safe, inclusive environment rooted in Siksikaitsitapi ways of knowing.

This year, I invite you to get involved and help shape our path forward. Superintendent Advisory Groups — for students, parents, and Elders — will meet regularly. Watch for information on how you can participate. The SBE Future Initiative Fund, our fundraising body, will also support new projects and community-led programs. As a qualified donee, we can provide official donation receipts for contributions that help us provide broader opportunities and experiences for our students.

Most importantly, our commitment to safety and well-being remains at the heart of everything we do. From nutrition and mental health supports to security improvements, we're focused on creating environments where every student and family feels safe, valued, and supported.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our incredible staff, the energy and ideas of our students, and the trust and encouragement of families and community members. Thank you for all you do, every single day.

If you have questions, need help, or want to learn more, please reach out to your school or visit our website. We're here for you, and together, we'll make this year one of growth, celebration, and community.

Here's to a wonderful school year — and to each of you, **thank you for being an important part of the Siksika Board of Education family.**

With gratitude and excitement,

Christopher Scout

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Superintendent of Education

Siksika Board of Education