1. **Breakfast with the Board**
   On a monthly basis trustees meet with the staff of one District site for a continental breakfast. The informal meeting provides an opportunity for staff to share highlights of their work with trustees. Additionally, trustees can share information about District initiatives and respond to questions staff members may have.

   Breakfast with the Board has been scheduled for Nicholas Sheran School on Thursday, February 16th, 2017 from 7:45 – 8:15 a.m. Following the breakfast, Principal Deborah Constable will provide a tour of the school for trustees.

2. **Locally Developed Courses - Arabic Language and Culture Elective**
   In order to meet the needs of the Arabic language and culture in the Coalbanks Elementary School catchment area we will be offering an Arabic Language and Culture elective for Grade 1-5 students who are interested in further developing this interest. The K-12 course description has been developed by Northern Lights School Division No. 69 and further enhanced and shared with us by Palliser School Division No. 26. We will be modifying the course to meet the needs of our Grade 1-5 student body.

3. **Human Resources Career Fair**
   Lethbridge School District No. 51 Human Resources held their first ever Career Fair on December 19, 2016. Human Resources staff were on hand to provide information concerning jobs available, and provide job seekers with all the information necessary to apply for a position with the District.
The Career Fair was advertised in the Lethbridge Herald, on local radio and television stations, through Kijiji, as well as on work boards at both the University of Lethbridge and Lethbridge College.

The Job Fair saw 95 people attend and 44 people were hired which is a terrific success.

The Board congratulated the Human Resources team on their very successful first Career Fair.

4. Board Priorities Report
The District Office Leadership Team is committed to keeping the Board informed regarding progress in Board priority areas. A report on the progress of the priorities will be provided each month. The Board reviewed the January 2017 report.

2016-17 DISTRICT PRIORITIES
REPORT TO THE BOARD – January 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIORITY ONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Student Achievement and closing the achievement gap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy/ Numeracy (Karen, Cynthia, Morag)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The Literacy Work Plan has provided the framework for making literacy an ongoing priority.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Conversations have been initiated with administrators about strategies for maximizing class/schedule structure and numeracy instruction to improve achievement in mathematics. Also exploring transition strategies for grade 8 to 9.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The Literacy Resources purchased by the Board have now arrived and Literacy Lead Teacher, Bev Smith, is offering continued support to teachers in their use.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrator Mentorship Program (Teresa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Admin mentorship met on January 12th with Sharon Mezei and Rhonda Aos presenting on HR best practices and Cheryl Gilmore presenting on Instructional Leadership.</td>
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<tr>
<td>District Professional Learning and District Collaborative Communities (Karen/ Rhonda/ All)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• At this point, 18 Collaborative Communities have accessed additional time to work together between the two District Professional Learning Days.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent Education (all)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The January District School Council meeting included a professional learning session for parents focusing on how parents can engage their children in literacy at home. Our Literacy Lead Teacher, Bev Smith, delivered a session for grades K-3, and Lisa Gonsalvez, a teacher at Nicholas Sheran with extensive background in literacy, delivered a session for grades 4 - middle school.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• A parent and U of L professor, Joy Morris, launched the delivery of parent tutoring sessions in mathematics for middle grades. The sessions will be offered for 8 weeks. They are being hosted at G. S. Lakie Middle School.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher Induction Support for Quality Teaching (Sharon/ Teresa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Beginning teachers continue to use release time to engage in observation/feedback with their mentors. Next formal session is February 8th.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Learning (Isabelle)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
• District 51 is embarking in a pilot of the Early Years Evaluation (EYE) with 3 kindergarten teachers. Thus far, it has been a positive venture with helpful information regarding the strengths and needs of children within their kindergarten classes using a classroom-based assessment.

FNMI (Jackie/Morag)

• Lethbridge School District started a collaborative process of the development of Education Service Agreements with Kainai Board of Education. Lethbridge is working with surrounding district for consistency of service and seamless transitions of students.

Other Improvement Initiatives (all):

Human Resources - addressing shortage of subs
Sub/Casual Work Board - now active
It provides each qualified replacement an easy way to view and accept available dispatch jobs, 24x7x365.

PRIORITY TWO

Supporting the implementation of initiatives designed to develop innovative thinkers.

High School re-design (Cheryl)

• High schools continue to implement strategies as outlined in their high school re-design plans that were reviewed with Alberta Education.

Engagement in provincial curriculum development (Karen)

• The seven teachers from our District selected by Alberta Education continue to provide input on the creation of new "scopes and sequences" being developed for the six subjects (Math, Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, Wellness, Arts) in Kindergarten through grade 4.

Build the capacity of teachers and administrators: technology, online learning and digital learning (Rik)

• The 2017 Elementary Evergreen Cycle is now in progress. Priority 1 will be server replacements at all Elementary Sites, followed by Desktop exchanges.
• Planning to equip Coalbanks Elementary School with the latest technology continues, Access Points, Switches, Speakers, Phones and Servers have arrived and will be installed as soon as the District takes possession of the building.

Program Development

• Office 365 Education has recently released Microsoft Classroom, a single experience for managing all classes and assignment workflow for teachers and students. In the coming weeks Teachers and Students will have access to this exciting new technology.
• Education Technology Lead Teacher Jesse Sadlowski continues to work with classroom teachers to develop innovative ways to integrate technology into everyday lessons. Workshops on how to use Office 365 continue to be in high demand.
• (Spring 2017) Watch for the District wide deployment of Windows 10. All District owned PC’s will be updated to the latest version of Windows prior to the start of the 2017/2018 school year.
• On February 22, the District Technology Team will host a Technology Symposium at the Education Centre. Technical Support Specialists from across Southern Alberta will convene to hear presentations from Microsoft, IBM and Soft Landing. The one-day event will cover a variety of topics including:
  o MS Azure Services and Roadmap
  o MS Azure Site Recovery and Backup Solutions
PRIORITY THREE

Supporting Student Diversity

Wellness for All program (Morag)

- Mental Health awareness and illness prevention – formal instruction of the Well Aware teaching series for grades 4 – 8, Training for Wellness teams in the use of the GAIN SS Screening Tool from Alberta Health Services
- Universal strategies for dealing with stress and anxiety – teacher counsellors have been around to classes to teach these strategies, universally
- Promotion of awareness of our Mental Health supports in the District – Cayley gave presentation to District School Council
- Substance use awareness and alternatives – National Addictions Awareness Week activities happened in schools across the District, and universal lessons happened in many of the classrooms.

Inclusive Education (Cynthia)

- Reviewing allocation of individual iPads and process for tracking of iPads
- Promotion of meeting the needs of LGBTQ community of students and staff – presentation at the Learning Commons Facilitators Conference, meeting and planning of committee to host GSA conference in the Spring, individual presentations to school admin and counselling teams on action items and awareness.

ESL (Cynthia)

- Working extensively with students in ESL LFS program at Wilson to provide social, emotional and behavioural supports
- Collaborative Community focusing on course framework for English Language Leaners (ELL)
  - Build an ESL framework for Limited Formal Schooling Middle and High School
  - Develop Middle School ESL framework that creates general leaner outcomes for ESL Transition
  - Develop a High School Framework for Expository English 15, 25 and ESL Canadian Studies 15, 25

2016-17 DISTRICT PRIORITIES

PRIORITY ONE: Supporting Student Achievement and closing the achievement gap.

OUTCOMES:
1. Students achieve student learning outcomes with strong foundational skills in literacy and numeracy.
2. Teachers possess a deep understanding of pedagogy that develops literacy and numeracy.
3. Students are lifelong learners possessing the skills and attributes to successfully transition to further education, credentialing or the world of work.
4. First Nations, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) student achievement will meet or exceed provincial standards.
5. Teachers are highly skilled in all areas of the Teaching Quality Standard.
6. Effective learning and teaching is achieved through collaborative leadership and structures that build capacity to improve within and across schools.

**PRIORITY TWO: Supporting the implementation of initiatives designed to develop innovative thinkers.**

**OUTCOMES:**
1. Students demonstrate the attributes of innovation, creativity and critical thinking.
2. Learning is process-based supported by instructional practices that engage students in creative and critical thinking.
3. All learners effectively use technology as creative and critical thinkers capable of understanding digital information and creating knowledge.
4. All learners are responsible digital citizens.
5. A breadth of high quality programs within and outside the classroom foster innovative thinking.
6. The education system demonstrates collaboration and engagement.

**PRIORITY THREE: Supporting Student Diversity**

**OUTCOMES:**
1. Schools are welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments.
2. Schools are inclusive learning environments.
3. Schools are learning environments that promote healthy lifestyles.
4. Students with diverse learning and social needs are supported.

5. **Snacks with the Superintendents**
   At the beginning of each school year, Executive Council members are designated as school liaisons for each of the District schools. As a liaison, the Executive Council members represent the District at school functions. It has also been a long standing practice for Executive Council members to visit schools and classrooms on a regular basis, observing first-hand the activities that take place in the school. Visits by Executive Council members are appreciated by staff.

   On a monthly basis Executive Council as a whole meets with the staff of one school for snacks. The informal meeting provides an opportunity for staff to share highlights of their school. Additionally, Executive Council members can share information about District initiatives and respond to questions staff members may have.

   All the staff of Mike Mountain Horse School have been invited to Snacks with the Superintendents on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 beginning at 7:45 a.m.

6. **Donations and Support**
   Lethbridge School District No. 51 is fortunate to be in a community that strongly supports programs and services for students. The District is appreciative of the difference the support makes to the lives of children. These partnerships and support
further the efforts of helping children come to school ready to learn, providing opportunities for engagement, and facilitating student growth and well-being.

*Dr. Probe’s One School, One Book Project* sponsors **Ryan and Tanya Miller of Teamworks Training Ltd.** and **Dr. Ryan Johnson of Signature Dentistry** gave substantial donations providing all the books for Dr. Probe families to keep. The University of Lethbridge bookstore provided the best deal possible on the books.

7. **Board Reports**

2. Community Engagement – January 11, 2017
3. ASBA Zone 6 General Meeting – January 11, 2017
4. ATA Local 41 Meeting – January 11, 2017
5. District School Council Meeting – January 16, 2017
6. Joint City of Lethbridge/Schools Boards Meeting – January 18, 2017

Congratulations!

To...

**Emma Kirk**, a Grade 4 student at Senator Buchanan, who organized a clothing drive before Christmas to help Lethbridge homeless through Streets Alive.

**Lyla Holinatiy**, a Grade 7 student at Wilson Middle School, who earned five ribbons at Special Olympics Swimming.

**Brett Clifton**, a Wilson teacher, who defended his Masters’ Thesis in History and was nominated for the Governor General’s Gold Medal.

**24 Winston Churchill High School grade 10 and 11 K & E students** who were very successful in their Work Placement round in December. Thank you to key staff members **Patrick Shackleford, Angela Tavernini, JJ Ondrus, Omar Kadir, Joel Bryant** and **Pam Tinordi** for securing placements and on-site visits.

- The overall average for the students was 89%
- 22 students scored 80% or above
- 19 students scored 90% or above
• 1 student secured new part-time employment
• 6 students were offered future placements and possible employment opportunities

Churchill grade 12 IB Art students on their portfolio exhibition January 11. A major component of the IB Art program has students create a significant portfolio of works over a 2-year period that displays not only their artistic abilities, but also their work in a variety of mediums. Angellie Estranero, Cathrys Estranero, Rhiannon Fletcher and Mythaa Lamose presented their works in a gallery quality display to students, staff and community members during the all day event.

32 grade 9-12 Churchill students who participated in the Canadian Senior and Intermediate Mathematics Contests put on by University of Waterloo. The highest scoring student who met a set standard in each contest earned a medallion. All students who achieved an even higher standard received a Certificate of Distinction (Top 25% of all contest writers). Shelly Lee received a medal and certificate in the Senior Contest. Andy Sun received a medal and certificate in the Intermediate Contest, and Lauren Platz received a certificate in the Intermediate contest. Our top performer was grade 10 student Andy Sun, who ranked 43rd out of 7905. Congratulations to all who participated.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Board Meetings. They begin at 3:30 p.m. and are held in the Education Centre Board Room located at 433 - 15 St. S. If you can't make it at 3:30, you can drop by at any time during the meeting. They usually end at around 6:00 p.m.