

Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting highlights from Feb. 27 - Next meeting March 27

1. Edwin Parr Nomination

Sarah Williamson, a Grade 7 teacher at G.S. Lakie Middle School, was announced as this year's District nominee for the ASBA Edwin Parr Teaching Award. Williamson, accompanied by Lakie principal Sharon Mezei, provided a brief summary to the Board, which highlighted Williamson's accomplishments in her first year of teaching. Williamson, and other nominees from Zone 6 jurisdictions, will be recognized at the May 9, 2018 Zone 6 ASBA meeting in Taber. One nominee from the zone will then be selected as the zone nominee for the Fall General Meeting of the ASBA. Learn more about Williamson here: [EDWINPARR](#)

2. Fleetwood Bawden Nutrition

Alberta Education allocated funds to school districts to support Nutrition Programs for the 2017/2018 school year. Lethbridge School District No. 51 received \$141,000. The parameters of the funds required the District to support one K-6 school for the provision of a universal meal to all students in the school. The District was allowed to allocate the remaining funds to other schools to support breakfast or lunch programming. Schools submitted surveys that identified needs (current support and demographic need). Fleetwood-Bawden was selected for the universal meal program for this year. Principal Craig DeJong and Vice-principal Lenee Fyfe delivered a presentation regarding the progress made at Fleetwood-Bawden Elementary School with the universal meal program implemented this year.

The Board received the presentation as information. Learn more about the program here: [FLEETWOOD](#)

3. One District, One Book

A number of schools in Lethbridge School District No. 51 have participated in a literacy initiative called One School, One Book over the course of a number of years. A grassroots concept framed by a group of staff from different levels (elementary, middle and high school), One District, One Book would see an entire School District community engaged in exploring one book. If the initiative moves forward, Lethbridge School District would be the first Canadian school district to organize the initiative at this level.

Morgan Day, Catherine Thorsen, Michelle Dimnik, and Ruth McMahon presented the concept to the school administrators and elicited full support for the concept. The group presented the concept to the Board, with the goal of garnering support for the initiative at the Board level.

The Board received the presentation as information. The Board added discussion regarding Board support for the initiative will occur at a different time, after the Board has had opportunity for seeking any further information and discusses the concept fully. For more information on the One District One Book project, visit the [DISTRICT WEBSITE](#) on Friday morning.

4. Approval of International Trips

Chinook High School (CHS) is requesting approval to take a group of students on a tour of Japan in April of 2019. The trip would be organized through EF Tours, known worldwide as the most dependable student travel company. Information regarding the educational benefits of the trip and the proposed itinerary were attached for the Board. The estimated cost per student is \$4,474. Fundraising opportunities will be available to students to offset the cost of the trip.

4. Approval of International Trips

CHS also requested approval to take a group of students on a Grecian Odyssey Tour in the Spring of 2019. This trip would also be organized through EF Tours. Information regarding the educational benefits of the trip and the proposed itinerary were also attached. The estimated cost per student is \$4,110. Fundraising opportunities will be available to students to offset the cost of the trip.

The CHS tour of Japan and the tour of Greece in the spring of 2019 were approved, on the condition all district policies and procedures are strictly followed.

5. Policy Review

The Board adopted revisions to a number of policies as presented by the Policy Advisory Committee, or as amended, as per the policies listed below:

504.9 - Response to Crisis or Emergency Situations - Amended

609.3 - Placement Promotion and Retention - Amended

700.6 - Workplace Health and Safety – Emergency Response Planning - Amended

902.3 - Audio Video - First Reading (with amendments).

Changes to each policy can be found, starting on Page 20, in the [AGENDA](#).

6. Breakfast with the Board – March 6, 2018 - WCHS

Lethbridge School District No. 51 trustees have a long-standing practice of visiting District facilities in order to better understand the operations at each site. Visits by trustees are truly appreciated by staff.

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 at the WCHS on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 from 7:30-8 a.m.

The Board received the report as information.

7. Associate Superintendent Reports

Christine Lee (Associate Superintendent, Business Affairs), Rik Jesse (Associate Superintendent, Human Resources) and Morag Asquith (Associate Superintendent, Instructional Services) presented their respective reports, which were received as information by the Board.

Lee's report was highlighted by news the District's second annual scholarship breakfast, held Feb. 14, 2018, sold out again this year. In all, 220 tickets were sold - an increase of 40 from 2017.

Jesse's report included news on six new hires for teachers and 11 new support staff. The enrollment report was also presented, which included a total of 11,330 students.

Asquith's report was highlighted with information on Kindergarten registration numbers, the self-regulation work done by Laura Paiement with the District in February and the development of a new Wellness Policy.

8. Acknowledgement of Excellence

The Board has a long-standing practice of acknowledging the efforts of students and staff whose commitment to excellence has resulted in outstanding achievement. Details of accomplishments of note are provided as information. Congratulations to the following District staff and students:

WCHS Business Manager, Dianne Violini, qualified for the Alberta Provincial Open 5-pin Bowling Championships for a record 50th consecutive year. Her total score of 5,142 (257 average) for the 20-game qualifier not only was tops in the Ladies division, but it also topped the Men's division.

Wilson Middle School Robotics Clubs as well as students from Gilbert Paterson Middle School received the THINK AWARD at the First Tech Challenge Championship recently at the Edmonton Science Center.

Rawley Selk, G.S. Lakie student, earned a silver medal at a Wrestling tournament at the U of A.

Tayte LeDahl, G.S. Lakie student, earned a silver medal at a Wrestling tournament at the U of A.

Churchill Grade 12 student Eloise Therien was selected to be a Journalist for a Day through the Career Transitions and Global Lethbridge contest.

8. Acknowledgement of Excellence

Churchill students and staff were the largest delegation going to the University of Lethbridge Model UN Conference. Student were Yannis Boenn, Wade Zhang, Shannon Morgan, Jack Harding, Nicolas Parra, Ben Hall, Ryan Bruce, David Basil, and Jack Derbich. Staff members were Kevin McBeath, Craig Findlay, Don Philpott, and Lettie Croskery.

Churchill sent the largest contingent in Southwest Alberta to the annual Epic Career Exploration in February with 42 students attending.

WCHS Human Rights Club held a Coldest Night event in February to raise awareness about homelessness in Lethbridge. Students Yannis Boenn, Wade Zhang, Danika Tarasewich, Alyk Vander Linden, Faith Ono, Lauren Platz, and staff Joel Bryant, Craig Findlay and Trena Parkyn stayed out in the cold from 7 pm until midnight and slept on the school hallway floor to raise \$400 in pledges to give to the Streets Alive Mission of Lethbridge.

Churchill students captured Tae Kwon Do medals at the Kootenay tournament in February: David Ha (Gold sparring, silver patterns), Reshma Gurung (Silver sparring), Heman Monger (Silver patterns, bronze sparring), and Jaxon Burdett (Silver sparring).

9. Snacks with the Superintendents – March 7, 2018 – Westminster

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 Westminster Elementary School have been invited to have Snacks with the Superintendents on Wednesday, March 7 beginning at noon.

The Board received the report as information.

10. Early Education Programming and Registration Process

Every year in January Lethbridge School District No. 51 opens up Early Education registrations for the following year for four year olds. This is a four-day-a-week program Lethbridge School District offers at most elementary schools based on space available in the facility (Lakeview, General Stewart and Lethbridge Christian do not house programs). Once PUF (Program Unit Funded) students and four-year-old children have been placed in a program, any remaining spots are opened up for three-year-old registrations. This occurs the first week in February (for two-day-a-week programs). The School Act states a board or an approved school authority may provide an ECS program to a child who is younger than six years of age as of September 1.

Early Education Programs evolved in Alberta Schools primarily to provide consistent services and supports to students identified under the umbrella as “PUF” (Program Unit Funding). Daycare is also an option (Early Education Program) for families of children who are three or four years old.

This year the final step of registration (open spots for three year olds) was a challenge at a few of the schools with more parents desiring the program for their children at a specific site than available spots. Although many of the locations do not have a line up or waiting list, there are a few locations where popularity of the program outstrips available spots. Space limitations in our schools prevent expansion at these popular sites. It can be noted a parent can choose to enroll their child in a different EEP program where space is available should their preferred site be full.

Some background regarding EEP programming and registration was presented to the Board.

Instructional Services is looking at strategies that will address line-ups that start forming in the middle of the night at one or two of the locations.

The Board received the report as information.

11. Committee Reports

Trustee Donna Hunt delivered a report of the District Wellness Committee, which focused on the District-wide health program (WHIP) and the Healthy Nutrition Policy, which is currently under development.

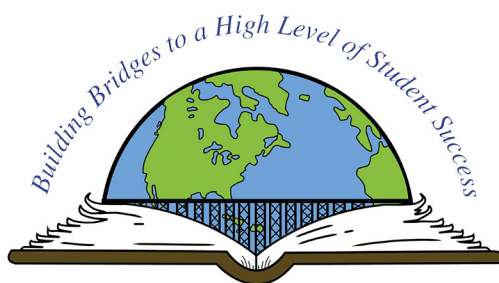
Trustee Jan Foster reported on the Lethbridge Community and Social Development Committee (CSD) meeting. Four presentations were made, which requested funding through the CSD unallocated funds. Seniors and Kids Intergenerational Program, Hoarding Outreach Management and Education, the Southern Alberta Ethic Association and the Indigenous Supporting Father Involvement Program made presentations.

Trustee Doug James spoke about the FNMI Advisory Committee meeting, which included a review of the 2015-2018 FNMI Strategic Work Plan, which will be completed this June. The new three-year plan will begin in September of 2018, whereupon the new strategies and goals will be developed and put into action.

Trustee Lola Major provided a report on the Policy Advisory Committee.

12. Correspondence Received - Opportunity Knocks

The Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce sent information on the Opportunity Knocks Career and Job Fair, which returns for 2018 to help local organizations find employees. Each year, over 1,000 job seekers attend Opportunity Knocks. Opportunity Knocks is coming up on April 26 at the Lethbridge Lodge Hotel and Conference Centre.



Lethbridge School District No. 51

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