

Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting highlights from Dec. 19 - Next meeting Jan. 23

1. Provincial Champions Recognized

The Lethbridge School District No. 51 Board of Trustees recognized cross country and volleyball provincial champions. Each player and coach received a certificate to commemorate their achievement. The Immanuel Christian Secondary School Eagles won the ASAA 2A Boys Volleyball Provincial Championship. Team members included Ryan Degner, Wade Withage, Justin Withage, Levi Vroom, Steven Veldman, Seth Leenstra, Nathan Hall, Kyle Elgersma and Andy Ravelojaona. The coach was Nathan Watson.

Chinook High School's Solen Wood is the Cross Country Provincial Champion for the second consecutive year.

2. Westminster Full Day Kindergarten Program Presentation

Westminster Elementary School is in its third year of a three-year pilot full-day Kindergarten program. Westminster was selected for the project based on identified need as evidenced in the provincial Early Childhood Development Initiative mapping. Additionally, Westminster only had one Kindergarten program - not typical of most Lethbridge School District No. 51 schools. As such, accommodating a full-day program was not a burden on space. Principal Angela Wilde and vice principal Teri Smith, along with Isabelle Plomp, the District's early childhood services co-ordinator, provided a report to the Board, which highlighted outcomes of the program. Wilde told the Board the big advantage to the full-day Kindergarten program revolves around the skills they learn in Kindergarten, which better prepare them for Grade 1. Wilde said Westminster is a huge fan of full-day Kindergarten, as she added there is not a parent she has spoken to that does not love full-day Kindergarten. The Board of Trustees received the report as information.

3. Approval of International Trip

G. S. Lakie Middle School requested approval to take a group of Grade 7 and 8 Wind and String music students on a four night, five-day trip to the Magic Music Days at Disneyland in Anaheim, California in April of 2018. The estimated cost per student is \$1,650. Fundraising opportunities will be available to students to offset the cost of the trip. Lakie teacher Don Ponech explained the trip will allow students to see the inner workings of the theme park, with a behind-the-scenes tour. Students will also visit a recording studio to spend an hour and a half with professional composers, as they will record a film score. Students will also do a 30-minute performance in one of the theme parks.

The G. S. Lakie Middle School music trip to Magic Music Days at Disneyland in Anaheim, California in April of 2018 was approved, on the condition that all district policies and procedures are strictly followed.

4. 2018-19 School Year Calendar

The revised 2018-2019 school year calendar will be reviewed for Board consideration. The request for revision derives from elementary administrators who have expressed a desire to structure teacher collaborative time for collective professional inquiry targeting the Board priorities. This is in keeping with collaborative time already accommodated at the middle school level (early dismissal on Wednesdays) and high school level (flexible blocks for engagement under high school re-design).

The Board approved the revised 2018-2019 School Year Calendars, in a 4-1 vote, as presented.

5. Policy Review

District policies are reviewed on a continuous basis to ensure they reflect the position of the Board. The Policy Advisory Committee has representation from the Board, District School Council, each of the employee groups, and District and school administration. Teresa Loewen attended the Board meeting and provided an overview of each policy, and shared any feedback that was received.

The Board adopted the revisions to the policies as presented by the Policy Advisory Committee, or as amended, which included:

501.6 Resident Students - Amended

501.7 Non-Resident Students - Amended

601.6 Instructional Time - Amended

605.3 English as a Second Language - Amended

802.2 Student Fees - second and third reading (the old policy was deleted prior to third reading)

6. Board Donations in Lieu of Christmas Treats

For the past number of years, the Board has made donations on behalf of each staff to charities identified by each school. This practice was put into place in lieu of some form of token of appreciation from the Board such as chocolate to acknowledge the efforts of staff. The Board will continue with this practice, making a \$50 donation on behalf of each staff to a charitable organization identified by the staff. A list of the charitable organizations the Board will make donations to on behalf of the respective staff groups was presented at the meeting.

7. Breakfast with the Board – École Agnes Davidson – January 16, 2018

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 École Agnes Davidson School on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 from 7:45-8:15 a.m. Following the breakfast, principal Broc Higginson will provide a tour of the school for trustees.

The Board received the report as information.

8. Business Affairs Report

Christine Lee, Associate Superintendent of Business Affairs, reported the southeast Lethbridge elementary school site at the Canals at Fairmont is fully serviced and ready for construction. Construction documents are 50-per-cent complete. West Lethbridge middle school construction is at 70-per-cent complete and on target for school opening in September of 2018.

9. Human Resources Report - Enrolment Summary

On December 5, the Human Resources Department hosted its second Hiring Fair of the school year to fill a number of positions for teachers and educational assistants. In all, 42 teachers attended the event. As a result, 28 new teachers (pending reference checks) could be added to the sub list (a 19 per cent increase). Four teachers expressed interest in joining the EA sub list as they complete their degree. There were 21 new applicants for the Educational Assistant sub list, and 12 moved to reference checks.

In terms of enrollment, as of Nov. 30, the District recorded a total of 11,269 students. Chinook High School remains the largest high school with 1,139 students, while G.S. Lakie tops all middle schools at 908. Dr. Probe has the most elementary students, at 604.

10. Early Education Fees

The Board voted to increase fees for the District's Early Education programs. Starting for the 2018/2019 school year, the fee has been increased from \$150 to \$175.

11. Board Priorities Report

The District Office Leadership Team is committed to keeping the Board informed regarding progress in Board priority areas. An update on progress was provided in the form of a report, which can be found on Page 39 of the [AGENDA](#). The Board received the report as information.

12. Acknowledgements 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:

G.S. Lakie Grade 8 teacher, **Deana Dypolt** was named Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce's Top 40 Under 40. Immanuel Christian Secondary School student **Kariya Lepko** won the Tramp & Tumbling athlete award from the Alberta Gymnastics Federation.

Lethbridge Independent Order of Odd Fellows hosted their Open Speech competition recently and the following district students competed:

- First Prize: **DeWuni deSilva** (WCHS), topic Anxiety
- Second Prize: **Andy Sun** (WCHS), topic E Commerce
- **Mathieu LeBon-Volia** (LCI), topic Refugees
- **Oddessa Hudson** (LCI), topic Words & Definitions

G.S. Lakie students placed in the top eight per cent of the 200 Provincial competitors in the Youth Climbing Competition held at the Wilson Climbing Centre in Edmonton. Competitors were **Spence Kitagawa** (11th), **Sofia Daminato** (13th), **Meredith Franks** (15th), and **Katie Franks** (16th).

Thirty-four Churchill students and two staff members successfully tested for new Tae Kwon-Do belts in December. Students have been preparing for the testing since early September. Special recognition to Grade 11 student **Heman Monger** who successfully challenged two levels.

Churchill staff members **Morgan Day** and **Kade Hogg** on their roles in the recent Rotary Club Christmas Fundraising presentation of It's a Wonderful Life, presented on stage modelling a live radio show.

13. Snacks with the Superintendents – Senator Buchanan – January 17, 2018

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 meet 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 Senator Buchanan School have been invited to have Snacks with the Superintendents on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 beginning at 7.45 a.m.

The Board received the summary as information.

14. 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. Listed below and attached are the donations and support received by the district.

- Park Meadows School Playground Project received a \$10,000 Community Priorities Grant from the Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta.

The Board received the report as information.

15. Community Engagement Committee – November 29, 2017

Feb. 14, 2018 has been set for the second annual [ICE Scholarship Breakfast](#). Michael Kerr has been confirmed as this year's speaker. He will provide a workshop to a select group of students at Winston Churchill High School. Other schools have been invited to attend.

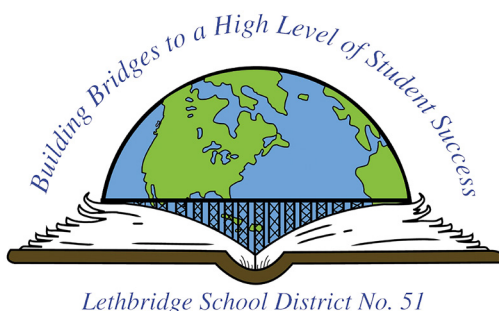
Town Hall is February 6, 2018 at Victoria Park High School. The committee discussed strategies for engagement of stakeholders in coming up with potential questions for Board review.

16. District School Council – December 4, 2017

The District School Council hosted a Blanket Exercise for all DSC council members. The event was organized by Andrea Fox and the facilitators were Wendy Kalkan (Kairos Prairies North Regional Representative) Charlene Bruised Head-Mountain Horse. The Honourary Elder was Mary Fox who is Andrea's mother. The activity was well received and gave an insightful yet sad perspective of the historical journey of the indigenous culture, according to Trustee Doug James. He added he personally appreciated Mary Fox's rich and insightful storytelling, which struck a chord with all that attended.

17. Correspondence - Sent

At the November 28, 2017 regular Board Meeting, Lethbridge School District No. 51 trustees unanimously supported the application of Chinook High School to host the 2019 AASCA Conference. The District is fortunate to have a teacher, Ard Biesheuvel, who is committed to furthering student leadership and a school that is assuming collective responsibility for developing students' capacity as leaders. Partnership with Teamworks Training LTD and Chinook Country Tourist Association will further enhance support for a quality event.



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