

Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting highlights from Nov. 28 - Next meeting Dec. 19

1. Provincial Cross Country Champions

LCI cross country team won the Provincial Championships and were invited to the Board meeting to receive congratulations from the Board of Trustees.

Team members are: Kya Bester, Mercy Trinh, Maddie Boehme, Hadley Selk, Hannah Stewart, Kennedy Tanner, Ireland Knox, Avery Edwards, Brinley Thomas, Berkley Heggie, Abbie Hall, Sara Stewart, Jerika Orr, Emma Arnell, Ritch Jacklynn, Joel Pollock, Tyler Oliver, Jackson Fletcher, Nate Heyburn, Dean Stewart, Owen Stewart, and Todd Pollock.

Coaches are: Bruce and David Stewart. Assistant Coaches are: Alyssa Sutherland, Joelle Lavergne, Ramona Stewart and Matt Stewart.

2. Employee Wellness - What's Next

Lethbridge School District No. 51 has been working with Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan (ASEBP) to provide an Employee Wellness program for district staff. Earlier this month, a new Employee Wellness website was launched providing staff with many opportunities to explore and track making healthy lifestyle choices. The Board received the presentation as information and thanked Megan Hunter from ASEBP, Rik Jesse and Rhonda Aos.

3. Approval of International Trip

Chinook High School (CHS) requested approval to take a group of students on a tour of Iceland in July of 2019. Information regarding the educational benefits of the trip and the proposed itinerary were included. The estimated cost per student is \$4,825. Fundraising opportunities will be available to students to offset the cost of the trip.

Todd Myers presented on behalf of Chinook, and added the hope is to attract high school students from schools throughout the District, to participate in the trip. He added he hopes to cap the group of Grade 9 to Grade 12 students at 30.

The CHS tour of Iceland in July of 2019 be approved, on the condition that all district policies and procedures are strictly followed.

4. Alberta Association of Student Councils and Advisor Conference Host Application: May 26-28, 2019

Ard Biesheuvel, Teacher at Chinook High School, requested Board approval for the application to host the 2019 AASCA Student Leadership Conference. The proposed dates are May 26– 28, 2019. Conference partners/sponsors are Teamworks Training LTD and Chinook Country Tourist Association. Chinook would like to host this event as a catalyst for growth of their school Student Leadership program, and as an opportunity for their students to make a tangible difference through service and engagement. Chinook High School principal Kevin Wood wrote a letter in support of the application.

The Board thanked Biesheuvel for presenting the request and granted approval, with the understanding that all Board policies will be adhered to.

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. District Principal Teresa Loewen co-ordinates the meetings. In the current year, the Policy Advisory Committee will:

- Finish review of policies in the 600, 800, 900, 1000 sections which were held over from previous years.
- Approve new policies in the 100 and 200 sections to ensure they reflect the new vision and mission statements as well as the 300 sections if the Principal Leadership Quality Standard and the Superintendent Quality Standard Documents are finalized by Alberta Education.
- Assist in the orientation of new members to the policy development process.

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:

Policy 405.13 - Staff Meetings, Policy 500.1 - Student Rights and responsibilities, Policy 501.1 - Attendance at School, Policy 501.3 - School Attendance Areas, Policy 802.2 - Student Fees (first reading).

6. 2016-17 Audited Financial Statement

School jurisdictions are required to submit an audited financial report to Alberta Education. Will Zobell, Partner, from BDO Canada LLP, attended the meeting and spoke about the audited financial statement.

The Board approved the Audited Financial Statements for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

According to the Year End Report, the District expended \$117.9 million to provide public education in 2016-2017, as the District served approximately 10,650 students from early education (pre-school) to Grade 12. The District experienced overall enrolment growth in 2016-2017 of 153 students (1.46 per cent) over 2015-2016. Of the \$117.93 million cost to educate students, 83.2 per cent of that total went to instruction, while 16.8 per cent went to support services (11.29 per cent of that total was spent on maintenance). Staffing costs accounted for \$94.5 million (with 579 FTE teachers and 506 FTE support staff) and \$20.6 million was spent on capital projects (new Coalbanks Elementary School, the west Lethbridge middle school, Wilson Middle School modernization and modular classrooms). Revenues came in at \$117.88 million, of which 94.8 per cent originated from the Government of Alberta, for an operating deficit of \$48,300. This small operating deficit was funded through the use of the District's Accumulated Operating Surplus. Overall, revenues were \$1.17 million higher than budget, due to increased enrollment and increased international program fees, while expenditures were \$2.5 million under budget. The Board also received an update on the 2017-2018 budget whereby enrolment growth is around 5.89 per cent in the 2017-2018 school year, which will bring the student population to over 11,274. The budget for 2017-2018 will be \$128.6 million. In 2017-2018 35 FTE more teachers and 40 FTE more support staff were hired to address enrolment growth and student needs. In the 2017-2018 budget \$1.9 million of one-time reserves have been allocated to address school improvement initiatives, school based resources, and start up costs for the new West Lethbridge Middle School.

7. 2017-2018 Budget Update

A budget update for the 2017-18 school year based on Sept. 30 enrolment numbers was delivered by the Director of Finance, Mark DeBoer. The update indicated Government of Alberta revenue increased by \$651,000 due to increased enrolment (enrolment increased .93 per cent over budget projections)

- Increase in overall differential funding grants of \$465,090. Mainly related to Inclusive Learning grant due to increased ESL and enrolment.
- Increase in Projects/Contract revenue due to \$1.254 million Classroom Improvement Fund, Increase in Regional Collaborative Services Delivery (RCSD) grant and School Nutrition Grant for \$115,000.

The Board approved the Budget Update for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

On the expense side, additional staffing hired from the one-time Classroom Improvement Fund received totaled \$1.254 million. There are 8.33 FTE teachers and 10.37 FTE Support staff positions hired from the Classroom Improvement Fund. An additional 10.57 FTE teachers and 11.23 FTE support staff were hired to address enrolment growth and other site needs.

7. 2017-2018 Budget Update

Revenue has been set at \$128.6 million (a 3.89 per cent increase over last year), while expenditures have been predicted at \$128.6 million. Staffing will account for 77 per cent of the budget, with 601 FTE teachers (an increase of 35 over last year) and 492 FTE support staff (an increase of 40).

8. Authorization of Locally Developed Courses

Alberta Education requires all locally developed senior high courses be authorized for use by the Board of Trustees. District high schools would like to use Ballet 15, 25 and 35 for five credits, acquired from Edmonton School District No. 7 from Oct. 10, 2017 to Aug. 31, 2019, to enhance program offerings to students.

The Board of Trustees approved the use of locally developed senior high school courses, Ballet 15, 25 and 35 for five credits from Oct. 10, 2017 to Aug. 31, 2019 and any learning resources detailed in the course outline for use in all of our District High Schools.

9. District Three Year Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report

Alberta Education requires each school jurisdiction develop a [Three Year Education Plan \(3YEP\)](#) which incorporates the vision, priorities and strategies developed by the Board, in consultation with stakeholders in the District. Alberta Education requires the formally approved 3YEP combined with the Annual Education Results Report (AERR) be approved by the Board and posted on the jurisdiction website by Nov. 30. The Education Plan serves as a template for implementation of strategies, professional learning activities, and financial planning in the District. The Board heard District Administrator Teresa Loewen has been instrumental in coordinating the production of the 3YEP/AERR document. Loewen received input from all the departments within District administration. The priorities identified in the plan were developed by the Board subsequent to input received at the annual Town Hall Meeting and from consultation with District and school administration.

The results in the report contain information from the provincial 2016-17 Accountability Pillar Report, including the Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams.

The Board approved the combined Three Year Education Plan and 2016-17 Annual Education Results Report as presented.

10. Breakfast with the Board – Victoria Park – Dec. 6, 2017

Lethbridge School District 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 at least 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 Victoria Park High School on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017 at 8 a.m. Following the breakfast, principal Ian Lowe will provide a tour of the school for trustees.

The Board received the report as information.

11. System Excellence Engagement Session

Clark Bosch attended a session hosted by Alberta Education, System Excellence Engagement Session. The purpose of the session was to provide an update to participants regarding provincial direction in different areas as well as provide some opportunity for feedback and engagement.

Bosch provided an oral report regarding the session. The report was accepted as information

12. FASTFORWARD High School Completion Initiative

The FASTFORWARD High School Completion Initiative began in 2010 and has provided service to 621 students since that time. As a result, a total of 5,511 credits earned by the youth participating in the program. Referrals to the program come from more than 15 agencies and post-secondary institutions. As students enrolled in the program have diverse needs, the Student Support Advisors assist them in accessing services from more than 20 city agencies.

12. FASTFORWARD High School Completion Initiative

The two Student Support Advisors for the 2016/2017 school year, Stephanie Martin and Nikki Cale, worked diligently with District high schools to provide the support and educational program that best fits each student. The program has consistently demonstrated it is meeting the needs of youth who, with encouragement and a fresh start, can achieve their goals. Details regarding the program are contained in the 2016 – 2017 Final Report, enclosed in the agenda.

Trustees received the report as information.

13. 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 is provided in the form of a report each month. This month's report can be found on Page 163 of the [agenda](#).

The Board received the report as information.

14. 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:

Congratulations to Churchill Grade 12 student **Lauren Bowyer** who was awarded a Youth Dreams Bursary from the Canadian Mental Health Association to start a board games club at the school. Lauren also recently qualified for the National 10-Pin Bowling Championships next May in Prince Edward Island.

Congratulations to Churchill Grade 10 student-athlete **Jessica Olsen** on being accepted to the Athletic Enhancement Program through the Alberta Sport Development Council for elite young athletes. Jessica is a rugby player for the Churchill Griffin program.

Winston Churchill hosted their biannual Volunteer Fair on Wednesday Oct. 18 in the Learning Commons. Close to 200 Churchill students had the opportunity to connect with 10 local volunteer organizations during the event.

GS Lakie grade 6 student **Fardeen Rahman** was a second time winner of the Lethbridge Public Library Spelling Bee.

Amber Reeves, District Learning Support Teacher, for her prompt assistance with a medical emergency of one of our educational assistants at a private preschool program.

Douhouk Dabbas, Grade 12 LCI student, was honoured with the Youth Achievement Award at the 8th Annual Immigrant Achievement Awards sponsored by Lethbridge Family Services. The award recognizes an immigrant youth, 14-25 years of age, who are making a difference in their new community through academic achievement and show great potential as long-term nation builders.

LCI students were chosen to be part of the provincial Honor Ensembles at the Annual Provincial ATA Music Conference recently in Red Deer. The Honour Ensembles are made up of students from across the province and their concert is the highlight of the conference. The students included **Colby Bowie, Tanner Lapointe, Josh Mandin, Emma Arnell, Daisy Graham and Alayna McNeil**.

LCI Grade 10 student **Samantha Hunt's** artwork was presented at Casa, Lethbridge's downtown community arts centre, in the exhibition, Elders of the Future. The exhibition provided a space for guests to learn about local Blackfoot culture, history, and language through art and photography. She also won the Anne of Green Gables poster contest at LCI.

Wilson students **Kyra Hawkins, Jenna Nilsson, Abbie Crown, Rylen Bowes and staff member Ms. Sadie Stout** competed in the University of Lethbridge cardboard boat races and won second place.

Southern Alberta High School Football League 2017 Individual Award Winners from LCI are: **John Evans (Quarterback/Defensive Back), Derek McNabb (Receiver), Kalin Betts (Offensive Line), Evan Snedden (Linebacker), and Isaiah Bagnah (Defensive Back)**.

14. Acknowledgements of Excellence

2017 SAIAC Individual Awards Winners from LCI are: First Team Varsity All-Stars - **Joceylyn Neilson, Maitlynn Miller, Aideena Wickstrom**, Second Team Varsity All-Stars – **Chelsie Kolibar**, Varsity Coach of the Year – **Shaelynn Garner**, Most Valuable Player – **Max Baceda**, First Team Varsity All-Stars – **Malcolm Fisher**, Second Team Varsity All-Stars – **Lucas Knitel-Althen, Michael Kindley**.

Congratulations to the Churchill students from the 2016-2017 school year on winning the Give Life High School Challenge. 239 high schools from across Canada took part in the challenge, and Churchill collected the most donations. A \$150 cheque was presented to the school at an assembly Oct. 26. Also at the assembly, former student **James Crabb** shared his family story on how blood donations were used to save his wife and baby boy. Churchill students collected 90 units of blood to win the country-wide challenge.

Congratulations to Churchill teacher **Jonathan Dick** on his recent completion of the Canadian Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's program to be recognized as a Canadian Registered Athletic Administrator.

15. 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.

Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta Community Foundation sent a \$500 cheque to LCI for the school's Academic Awards from the Dick and Mary Quon Endowment Fund.

The Board received the summary as information

16. Snacks with the Superintendents – G.S. Lakie Middle School – Dec. 6, 2017

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 G.S. Lakie Middle School have been invited to have Snacks with the Superintendents on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017 beginning at 7:45 a.m.

The Board received the summary as information.

17. Enrolment Summary – Oct. 31, 2017

An enrolment summary for District schools, broken down by grade, as of Oct. 31, 2017, was delivered.

The Board received the summary as information. The numbers show a total of 11,253 students, with Chinook High School's 1,143 students at the top of the list.

18. Reports

Reports were delivered for a number of Board committees and Board-attended events, which included ATA Local Council, Community Engagement Committee, District School Council, Spirit of 51 Committee, ASBA Zone 6 General Meeting, Facilities Committee, FNMI Advisory Committee, ASBA Fall General Meeting, Policy Advisory Committee, Audit Committee and District Student Advisory Council.

19. Correspondence Received - Alberta Education Deputy Minister

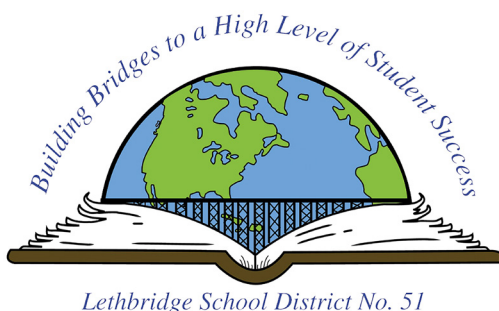
A letter was received from Alberta Education Deputy Minister Curtis Clarke, regarding the approval of the reappointment of Dr. Cheryl Gilmore as Superintendent of Schools for Lethbridge School District No. 51.

20. Correspondence Sent - Maria Fitzpatrick, MLA Lethbridge East

The Board reviewed a letter sent to Lethbridge-East MLA Maria Fitzpatrick, regarding funding for a new south Lethbridge elementary school. The Board of Trustees conveyed its appreciation for Fitzpatrick inquiring about the south Lethbridge elementary school project during Question Period on Nov. 8, 2017, as the MLA “pressed for a response and tried to secure a commitment from the Minister of Infrastructure to move the project forward past planning phase.” The letter added the school project is shovel ready, and the steady growth of the City of Lethbridge continues to make space a pressing issue.

Other members of Team Lethbridge also attended Question Period and have worked collaboratively with Lethbridge School District No. 51 on site identification and invested heavily in bringing services to site, and feel encouraged about the process, the letter added. The City of Lethbridge and land developers have invested heavily in preparing the site for services, the letter continued, as the Honourable Minister Sandra Jansen’s comment that news regarding full capital funding for the project will be conveyed with Budget 2018 was viewed as good news.

The letter praised Fitzpatrick’s commitment to Lethbridge as a vibrant and growing city, and added the District is proud to be part of Team Lethbridge, and committed to the team premise that collaborative endeavors can make great things happen.



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