

Lethbridge School District No. 51

Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting highlights from February 26 - Next meeting March 26

1. Edwin Parr Nomination

On an annual basis, each school jurisdiction is invited to submit the name of one first year teacher as its nomination for the Edwin Parr Award, which is sponsored by the Alberta School Boards Association. Nominees from Zone 6 jurisdictions will be recognized at the May 15, 2019 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.

With many outstanding beginning teachers in the District, it was certainly not an easy task for Associate Superintendent Rik Jesse, in consultation with school principals, to select a District nominee.

The Lethbridge School District No. 51 nominee for the 2019 Edwin Parr Award is Melanie Wasylenko, Wilson Middle School.

Some highlights from Melanie are as follows:

I am honoured to begin my teaching career at Wilson Middle School where character, teamwork, and innovation are an integral part of the community. I currently teach on the grade 6 team as a homeroom, humanities, and drama teacher. I also teach a range of other courses including literacy, numeracy, and exploratory courses. It is wonderful to be able to teach a wide range of subjects to students in grades 6 to 8.

As a CTS major, I'm passionate about the development of meaningful technology skills for my students. I've worked to implement technology into the curriculum on a regular basis, and my students can always expect to use different apps and programs in our learning activities. I believe that technology is an asset for assessment, engagement, and meeting the diverse needs of students in my classroom. I feel fortunate that Wilson has a wide range of technology available for my students to integrate into their learning.

I always knew I wanted a career in education, and after working as an administrative assistant, educational assistant, and now as a teacher, I have seen the impact that positive relationships and the hard work of school staff have on our students. I am proud to be a part of this rewarding profession and to work with the staff and students in Lethbridge School District No. 51.

Melanie, accompanied by Wilson Middle School principal Dean Hawkins, attended the Board Meeting. Hawkins provided a brief summary to highlight Wasylenko's accomplishments in her first year of teaching.

The Board received the report as information and took the opportunity to have Wasylenko share her experiences during this year.

2. Presentation - Numeracy

As one of the strategies under Board Priority #1: Achievement, a Numeracy Lead Teacher was put in place this school year to build capacity with teacher pedagogy and assessment strategies. This first year targeted grades 4-9.

Numeracy Lead Teacher, Jenn Giles, reviewed highlights of her work with schools to date, and touched on the development of a comprehensive three-year Numeracy Action Plan.

The Board received the presentation as information and took the opportunity to ask Giles a few questions about her work and the Numeracy Action Plan.

3. Authorization of Locally Developed Courses

Alberta Education requires that all locally developed senior high courses be authorized for use by the Board of Trustees.

3. Authorization of Locally Developed Courses

The following International Baccalaureate Courses have had their end dates extended to align with the Diploma Programme Curriculum Development and Review Cycle from the International Baccalaureate Organization. The courses are as follows:

Biology (IB) 35 for 3 credits acquired from Edmonton School District No. 7 has had its end date extended from August 31, 2019 to August 31, 2022;

Chemistry (IB) 25 for 5 credits acquired from Calgary School District No. 19 has had its end date extended from August 31, 2020 to August 31, 2022;

Chemistry (IB) 25 for 3 credits acquired from Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 1 has had its end date extended from August 31, 2020 to August 31, 2022; and

Theory of Knowledge (IB) 35 for 3 and 5 credits, acquired from Calgary School District No. 19 has had its end date extended from August 31, 2020 to August 31, 2021.

The Board of Trustees approved the end date extensions of acquired International Baccalaureate courses Biology (IB) 35 for 3 credits to August 31, 2022, Chemistry (IB) 25 for 3 and 5 credits to August 31, 2022, and Theory of Knowledge (IB) 35 for 3 and 5 credits to August 31, 2021 as authorized by Alberta Education for continued use in all District High Schools.

4. Atrieve (PowerSchool) HR/Payroll Re-implementation Project

The current Human Resources and Payroll software, Atrieve (PowerSchool) was originally implemented back in 2004-2005. Since this time, a number of process changes, package add-ins, and minor upgrades have been undertaken. As the District has grown significantly since original implementation and process and procedures have changed, the current configuration of the software has not kept pace in providing efficient, automated and streamlined processes that will provide employees with easy to understand information related to pay and benefits. The Human Resources and Finance departments have been working together to investigate solutions to current system concerns and through working with our current software provider, Atrieve, have determined that a complete re implementation of the software along with a review of business practices will be the best and most cost effective solution. This review was undertaken based on need and a letter of understanding related to method of pay signed with the 2017-2018 CUPE 2843 Collective Agreement.

The quote provided for professional services related to the re implementation project is \$196,500 plus GST. New payroll processes should be complete for the start of the 2019-2020 school year. The District has allocated funds to Administration Capital Reserves for the costs of this project.

The Board approved the quote from PowerSchool for the Atrieve HR and Payroll re- implementation project in the amount of \$196,500, plus GST, from funds set aside in Administration Capital Reserves.

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. At the Feb. 26 meeting, the following policies were reviewed:

502.5 Student Transportation, Bussing - Amendment

604.5 High School Course Sequence Transfers - Amendment

606.5 Educating Students at Home - Amendment

608.7 Sale of Student Supplies and Materials - Review

1003.5 Conducting Research - First reading

The Board adopted the revisions to the policy as presented by the Policy Advisory Committee. The policies can be found on Page 14 of the [AGENDA](#).

6. Approval of Resource Purchases

Over the past two years, the Board has supported literacy resources in our elementary schools. A request was made for intervention resource funding.

The Board approved the purchase of resources for literacy intervention at the elementary level in the amount of \$173,300 funded from operating funds.

7. Approval of Resource Purchases

A secondary interactive technology request was made, including projectors to replace the aging equipment. The Board approved the replacement of secondary interactive technology resources, in the amount of \$813,000, from operating funds. The motion also called for interactive technology resources to be included in the long term technology evergreening plan.

8. Breakfast with the Board – March 5, 2019 – Lethbridge Christian School

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 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 Lethbridge Christian School on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 from 7:30 – 8 a.m. followed by a tour of the school with Principal Les Greeno.

The Board received the report as information.

9. Associate Superintendent Reports

Christine Lee, Associate Superintendent, Business Affairs; Rik Jesse, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources and Morag Asquith, Associate Superintendent, Instructional Services, delivered their respective reports for the Board. To read the reports in full, see Page 25 of the [AGENDA](#).

10. 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 will be provided in the form of a report each month. The report can be found on Page 36 of the [AGENDA](#). The Board received the report as information.

11. 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:

Wilson student Braeden Kremenik qualified to represent Alberta at the Canadian Age Class Long Track Championships (CACTL) for speed skating. This is his very first national competition and his first time as a member of Team Alberta. Competition takes place early February in Winnipeg.

LCI Grade 12 student Bryce Gallup placed second in Taekwondo nationals in the fall. In January he made the Canadian National Team and will be representing Canada at the International Taekwondo Federation World Championships in Inzell Germany in April.

Immanuel Christian Secondary School Grade 6 student, Moriah Van't Land won Gold in figure skating at the 2019 Special Olympics Winter Games in Calgary in February.

Chinook High School teacher, Ard Biesheuvel will be inducted into the Lethbridge Sports Hall of Fame at their 2019 Induction Banquet and Ceremony on May 3, 2019 at the Canadian Western Bank Lounge at the Enmax Centre. Ard is being recognized for his devotion over 25 years to the development of volleyball players in Southern Alberta.

12. Snacks with the Superintendents – March 5, 2019 – Dr. Probe School

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.

12. Snacks with the Superintendents – March 5, 2019 – Dr. Probe School

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 Dr. Probe School will be invited to have Snacks with the Superintendents on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 beginning at 8 a.m.

The Board received the report as information.

13. Public Forum Request

At the public forum during the January 22, 2019 regular board meeting, Brooke Culley requested the Board host a forum focused on education for the upcoming provincial election. Superintendent Cheryl Gilmore shared some details of the forum held in 2012. The Board has agreed to move forward with hosting a forum, and is currently exploring potential partners for hosting the forum.

The Board received the report as information.

14. Board Reports

Reports were delivered for the City of Lethbridge Community and Social Development Committee, ATA Local Council, FNMI Advisory Committee and the Board Budget Committee. The reports begin on Page 47 of the [AGENDA](#).

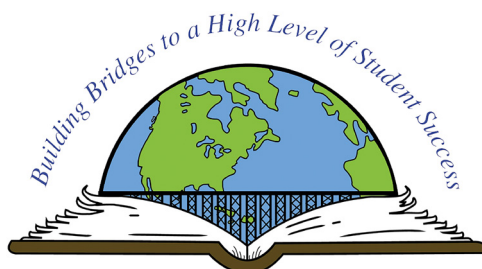
15. Correspondence - Received

The Board received a letter received from the Minister of Education, David Eggen, in response to a letter from Lethbridge Mayor Chris Spearman. Spearman had wrote to both Eggen and the Minister of Infrastructure, Sandra Jansen, to advocate for a new elementary school in west Lethbridge. Eggen indicated he was aware of the growth being experienced in Lethbridge, as the corresponding enrolment pressures the growth has created in local schools. Eggen indicated Lethbridge School District No. 51 has requested a 600-student capacity Kindergarten to Grade 5 elementary school as the highest priority in the 2019-2022 capital plan. With that in mind, Eggen added the request is being carefully reviewed and considered during the development of Alberta Education's capital plan submission for Budget 2019, along with the capital requests of other school jurisdictions across the province.

16. Correspondence - Received

The Board received a letter received from the Action on Smoking and Health, which indicated the board has been nominated for a Smoke-Free Spaces award for its leadership in the adoption of smoke-free public spaces. The Smoke-Free Spaces awards program recognizes the leadership of public bodies in protecting residents, visitors, youth, students and staff from the health hazards of smoking and tobacco use. Lethbridge School District No. 51 was congratulated for its leadership on this important public health issue.

The District was invited to receive the award at a ceremony in Edmonton on Thursday, February 21 at 12 noon at the DoubleTree Hotel West Edmonton. Over 100 tobacco reduction stakeholders will be attending the ceremony, which will take place at the Western Canadian Tobacco Reduction Forum.



Lethbridge School District No. 51

Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting highlights from February 26 - Next meeting March 26