

Lethbridge School District No. 51

# Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

## Meeting highlights from January 22 - Next meeting February 26

### 1. Presentation - Counselling Services - Cayley King

King made a presentation in regards to mental health and support services for students in Lethbridge School District No. 51. The report was focused on the continuum of supports at the elementary, middle and high school levels, which are modelled on a pyramid of intervention. The Board received the presentation as information.

### 2. Approval of International Trips

Winston Churchill High School (WCHS) requested approval to take the girls volleyball team to San Diego, California, USA to compete in the Southern California Invitational Women's Volleyball Tournament from Oct. 9-13, 2019. Information regarding the educational benefits of the trip and the proposed itinerary was provided. The estimated cost per student is \$1,200.00. Fundraising opportunities will be available to students to offset the cost of the trip.

The WCHS girls volleyball trip to San Diego, California, USA from Oct. 9-13, 2019 was approved, on the condition that all district policies and procedures are strictly followed.

### 3. Authorization of Locally Developed Courses

District high schools wanted to use Directing 25 and 35 for five credits, acquired from Edmonton School District No. 7 from Dec. 10, 2018 to Aug. 31, 2020 to enhance program offerings to students.

Previously-acquired courses, Musical Theatre, 15, 25 and 35 for five credits, have had their end dates extended by Alberta Education for one further year from Aug. 31, 2019 to Aug. 31, 2020 to align with other versions of Musical Theatre developed by other school authorities.

The Board of Trustees approved the use of locally developed senior high school courses, Directing 25 and 35 for five credits from Dec. 10, 2018 to Aug. 31, 2020 and any learning resources detailed in the course outline for use in all of our District High Schools.

The Board of Trustees approved the end date extension of previously acquired courses Musical Theatre 15, 25, and 35 for five credits to Aug. 31, 2020 as authorized by Alberta Education.

### 4. 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 Dec. 18 meeting, the following policies were reviewed:

603.1 Animals in Schools - Second Reading and Third Reading.

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

### 5. First Quarter Financial Report

The 2018/19 First Quarter Financial Report for the District was provided for review. Director of Finance, Mark DeBoer, was in attendance to respond to any questions trustees had. The report can be found on Page 19 of the [AGENDA](#).

The Board received the 2018/19 First Quarter Financial Report as presented.

## **6. Public Forum**

Brooke Culley asked the Board to consider using its position and influence to co-ordinate two public forums, designed and managed to flesh out candidates for the spring, 2019 provincial election, around their plans for public education. Culley noted it was done in 2012.

## **7. Breakfast with the Board – February 7, 2019 – Park Meadows 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 Park Meadows School on Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019 from 7:30-8 a.m. Following the breakfast, Principal Mark Blankenstyn will provide a tour of the school for trustees.

The Board received the report as information.

## **8. 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 55 of the [AGENDA](#).

## **9. 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 67 of the [AGENDA](#). The Board received the report as information.

## **10. 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 Middle School students, Cassidy Trechka, Janah Kratchmer, Jenna Meier and Tiffany Banegas have been selected to sing with the Alberta Children's Choir. The Alberta Children's Choir provides an opportunity for children between the ages of 11 and 15 from across the province to pursue excellence in choral music under the direction of an internationally recognized choral conductor.

Wilson Middle School students Shayleen Mann and Ammon Oler have been chosen to attend the Southern Alberta Junior Honour Band.

G.S. Lakie student, Elijah Hill, won bronze (14-46 kg) at Judo Canada's Elite Nationals in Montreal. He is now ranked 3rd in Canada.

## **11. Snacks with the Superintendents – February 13, 2019 – General Stewart 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. 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 General Stewart School will be invited to have Snacks with the Superintendents on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 beginning at 7:45 a.m.

The Board received the summary as information.

## 12. 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.

- Senator Joyce Fairbairn Middle School received a very generous donation from Lethbridge Toyota. The donation allowed the school to make up Christmas hampers for nine of families. A huge thank you to Lethbridge Toyota for their generous donation to the families of Fairbairn!
- Lethbridge Firefighters Charities Association donated \$4,000 toward Victoria Park High School Christmas hampers.
- One District One Book received \$75,000 from the Government of Alberta, in the form of a Community Initiatives Project Grant.

The Board received the report as information.

## 13. Response to December Public Forum

A concern was brought forth during the December public forum. The District's response can be found on Page 78 of the [AGENDA](#).

## 14. Board Reports

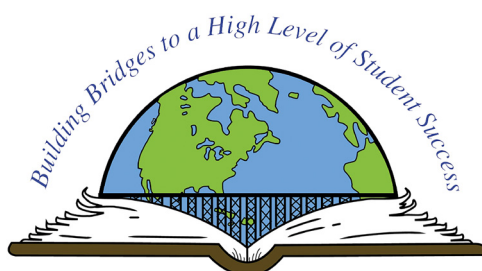
Reports were delivered for the Policy Advisory Committee, District School Council, ASBA Zone 6 General Meeting, Joint City of Lethbridge/School Boards committee and the Community Engagement Committee. The reports begin on Page 85 of the [AGENDA](#).

## 15. Correspondence Received - City of Lethbridge

Mayor Chris Spearman delivered a letter to the Alberta Minister of Education and the Minister of Infrastructure, in support for a new west Lethbridge elementary school for Lethbridge School District No. 51. In the letter, Spearman indicated west Lethbridge was the fastest-growing area of the city, with 2.24 per cent growth in 2018. That was preceded by growth of 3.05-4.09 per cent between 2014-2017. Spearman added due to the emergent need for a new west Lethbridge elementary school, the city will work with the District to find and service an appropriate site for a new school.

## 16. Correspondence Received - Alberta Health Deputy Minister

Sarah Hoffman, Alberta Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, responded to a previous letter drafted by the District, which called for government assistance with the opioid crisis and needle debris in Lethbridge. Hoffman indicated The Government of Alberta is working closely with The City of Lethbridge and local service providers. She added On Dec. 7, the government announced \$11 million for a new supportive-living housing complex for Lethbridge, that will support adults experiencing homelessness, who have complex issues such as substance abuse.



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