



Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting highlights from April 28 - Next meeting May 26

1. Policy Review

Division 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, Division School Council, each of the employee groups, and Division and school administration.

The following policies were reviewed at the April 28 meeting:

402.2 - Employee Transfers - Amended

The Board adopted the revisions to the policy as amended by the Policy Advisory Committee.

The policies can be found starting on Page 7 of the [AGENDA](#)

2. Approval of 2020-2021 School Fees

As part of budget, the Board is required to approve school fees for the 2020-2021 school year. Each school provides fees for the 2020-2021 school year including explanations for new fees or increases to fees over 5 per cent. Mark DeBoer, Director of Finance was in attendance to discuss the proposed school fee schedules and to answer any questions that Trustees had.

The Board approved the 2020-2021 School Fee Schedule, as presented.

3. Art's Alive and Well in the Schools

Art's Alive and Well in the Schools is a yearly art exhibit put on by all the Lethbridge city schools within the Holy Spirit Catholic School Board, Lethbridge School Division and École La Vérendrye. It is displayed in co-operation with the Southern Alberta Art Gallery and usually takes place in the spring.

This year looks quite different. Considering our current reality, Art's Alive and Well in...Our Homes! was planned instead, with an online student art exhibit that makes up the 43rd annual Art's Alive!

The Southern Alberta Art Gallery will also be promoting this exhibition. The exhibit is currently on the Lethbridge School Division website: [ART'S ALIVE](#).

There will also be an opportunity for everyone to vote for their favourite works on the Lethbridge School Division website. On May 22, the votes will be tallied and on May 26, the Division will announce who got the most likes! The Board received the report as information and extended appreciation to Kathy Knelsen for her efforts to co-ordinate this celebration of student art in Lethbridge.

4. 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 12 of the [AGENDA](#).

5. Public Forum

The following email submissions were received for the Public Forum portion of the meeting:

1. I am sad that I am not able to say these words myself, from my heart.

I often come before the board to speak about issues I have with decisions or issues within the division, but it's also important to bring forward when there are great decisions made and the positive impact of such.

(continued on next page)

5. Public Forum

The recent decision for the Division to retain the services and figure out how to best support all students within the division, by keeping a large number of Educational Assistants in the daily lives of students. The services that they provide are key to the ongoing success of many students within the division.

I have first hand seen the amazing creativity of these phenomenal employees as they figured out ways to best support students, through daily check ins, through book studies, and dissecting the details of each chapter every couple of days. Doing so in similar fashion as they would if they were sitting beside them in the classroom, but now doing so virtually. Helping students brainstorm ideas for their assignment, helping them get that down on paper and then helping them craft sentences and paragraphs. Assisting students to manage the schedules and the life skills required to move from one class to the next through the day. The entire staff at schools have figured out ways to connect and work together with the students to get their best work done as they would have in the classroom.

These EAs are creating schedules and formatting them in the way each student responds and functions. These EAs know the students and are able to continue such important work. They along with the teachers are adapting and keeping the schedules fluid as students and families grow into this new way of learning.

The EAs are reading with students virtually, and as the student has problems reading a word, the student holds the book up to the screen. Then the EAs are helping the students with understanding what they read and applying that to different aspects of life to make it impactful for the student.

I would be remiss to not take this opportunity to also give a huge shout out to the teachers and staff at schools in the Division. I have seen remarkable work done, to collaborate with parents and multiple teachers to find what works for each individual student and family. These teachers and staff have been so creative and innovative and all without a single rule book or manual. And the amazing mental health check ins, have been appreciated, we are all in this together.

Huge kudos to the Division, the teachers, all the staff and of course the parents as everyone continues to work together to make the best of this current situation and ensure student success continues to be at the forefront of every decision being made.

Thank you for the bottom of my heart.

- Allison Purcell-Pike

2. How is the division addressing the cuts recently made to funding for this school year? I believe ed assistants were, at first, going to go on EI for the remainder of the school year... but were called back due to the change in cuts.

How are caretakers affected?

Are teachers required to be in physically in the schools each day?

I heard recently that schools in Lethbridge might "reopen" at the beginning of June. Is that a rumor or something being considered?

And finally, how have schools addressed the need for laptop/tablet access in order to complete online learning...for those students who do not have access to such hardware?

- Norine

6. Education Week, April 27 to May 1, 2020

Education Week provides all Albertans with an opportunity to highlight the important role education plays in shaping the future of our province. The theme for Education Week is "Learning is a Journey."

To celebrate Education Week at the Division level this year, the Lethbridge School Division trustees will recognize staff through correspondence and celebrate the week using the website and social media.

The Board received the report as information. Learn more about Education Week here: [EDUCATION WEEK](#)

7. Junior Achievement Programs 2019-2020

Junior Achievement (JA) is the world's largest organization dedicated to educating students about work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs. JA Southern Alberta reaches 30,000 students per year. Lethbridge School Division Junior Achievement Program report is attached for information.

The Board received the report as information.

8. Board Reports

Reports were delivered for the Board Budget Committee, Facilities Committee and the ASBA General Meeting. The reports begin on Page 33 of the [AGENDA](#).



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