
Lethbridge School Division
DIVISION SCHOOL COUNCIL

**October 5, 2020 - 6:30 pm - Education Centre Board Room &
Via Microsoft Teams**



AGENDA

- 6:30 1. Welcome and Introductions
- 6:35 2. Additions to the Agenda
- 3. Approval of the Agenda
- 6:38 4. Approval of the Minutes from March 2, 2020
- 6:40 5. Business Arising from the Minutes
- 6:42 6. Elections for Division School Council – Chair, Vice Chair, Recording Secretary, Committee representatives

Policy Advisory Committee:

Purpose is to advise on the development of Division policies, in consultation with those who will be impacted by them, for consideration by the Board. Meetings afternoons from 12:15 to 3:30 pm, dates are September 30, November 18, January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, and May 5.

Poverty Intervention Committee:

Purpose:

To improve educational opportunities and achievement of students affected by poverty.

To determine the Division's progress in addressing poverty and make recommendations to the Board where deemed appropriate.

To heighten staff awareness and promote action on issues related to poverty.

Meeting dates are October 20, December 9, March 3, and May 5 – typical start time is 1 pm.

Division Wellness Committee:

General purpose is to promote and facilitate healthy lifestyles among students, families, and staff of the Division. Meeting dates/times TBD (meets during the day)

Community Engagement Committee:

General purpose is to develop and implement strategies for the Board to fully engage all sectors of the community. Meeting dates/times TBD (evening meetings starting at 6:00 pm, 5-6 per year).

- 7:05 7. Trustee Report
- 7:10 8. Alberta School Councils Association - Allison Purcell-Pike
- 7:20 9. Superintendent's Report – Cheryl Gilmore
- School-year start up – reflection and feedback
 - School Council learning sessions (brainstorm ideas)
 - June DSC meeting
 - Division School Council Guidelines and Board support for School Councils
 - School Council Membership List (Communications Officer puts list together from school website request link)
 - Inclement weather guidelines
 - School Calendar for 2021-22. Need parent representation for when there is a calendar meeting to look at draft. Two Division School Council representatives.
10. Roundtable Reports
An opportunity to highlight a very significant event or for questions from the representatives about information in a written report.
- 7:35 11. Adjournment

Division School Council 2020-2021 Meeting Dates

November 2, 2020
December 7, 2020
January 11, 2021
February 2, 2021 Town Hall
March 1, 2021
April 12, 2021
May 3, 2021
June 7, 2021

2019-2020 Division School Council Representatives

Chair	Brooke Culley
Vice Chair	Allison Purcell-Pike
Recording Secretary	Alison Alma-North
Policy Advisory Committee	Shannon Pratt
	Alternate: Allison Purcell-Pike
Poverty Intervention Committee	Alison Alma-North
	Alternate: Ellis Veenendaal
Division Wellness Committee	Hollie Tarasewich
	Alternate: Edna Asem
Community Engagement Committee	Holly Debnam
	Heather Paul
	Allison Purcell-Pike

Lethbridge School Division
DIVISION SCHOOL COUNCIL

March 2, 2020 MINUTES

6:00 to 6:45 pm – FNMI Presentation (John Chief Calf / Morag Asquith)

John Chief Calf, Coordinator of First Nations Metis and Inuit Education (FNMI) and Morag Asquith, Associate Superintendent provided an overview of the scope and purpose of FNMI Education in Lethbridge School Division.

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Brooke Culley, Chair, welcomed parents

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

Approved by Heather Paul; Passed

3. **Approval of the Minutes from January 13, 2020**

Approved by Edna Asem, Passed

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

No business arising from the minutes

5. **Trustee Report**

Trustee Doug James provided highlights from the February Board Trustee Report (as attached to the agenda). Mr. James also highlighted the progress that has been made on the southeast Lethbridge elementary school capital project. It is on track for completion and operation August 2021. The Division has also put out a call for submission for naming the school (was in Lethbridge Herald and is on the Division website). A committee comprised of students, parents, school staff, and Division office representatives review the submissions and provide a short list to the Board for their final consideration and choice. Mr. James also highlighted the success of the ICE (Innovation/ Creativity/ Entrepreneurship) Scholarship Breakfast hosted by the trustees on February 14th. It was sold out and over \$8,000 was raised for the scholarship fund.

6. **Alberta School Councils Association**

Conference and AGM April 24 to 26, 2020 – *contact LeeAnne for registration purposes*

– *deadline is Monday, April 20 @ noon. Resolutions and pre-sort voting – Brooke Culley*

The resolutions are available for School Councils to look at on the ASCA website. Cheryl showed individuals how to get to the website and the resolutions. Process for registration shown. Pre-sort voting explained.

7. **Reports from Division Committees:**

- **Wellness Committee: January 30, 2020 – Hollie Tarasewich**

No report

- **Policy Advisory Committee: February 5, 2020 – Shannon Pratt**

The newly drafted "Parent Responsibility" policy was reviewed. The policy is being developed because of the section in the Education Act that delineates parent responsibilities. School Council Chairs would have had this draft policy sent to them for feedback. It is a new policy so the policy will go for a second reading to the Board. Considerations of feedback are given during the second draft stages, so School Councils are encouraged to look at the policy and provide feedback.

8. **New Business:**

- **Diversity & Inclusion Parent Table – Allison Pike**

No Report. The Division will also be starting a Student Diversity and Inclusion table for roundtable discussion and gathering of perspective for improvement.

9. **Superintendent's Report – Cheryl Gilmore**

- **Scholarship Breakfast – Covered in Trustee Report**

- **Town Hall Themes and Next Steps – The feedback gathered from Town Hall and the online feedback form has been condensed. It will be part of the information the Board considers in their upcoming Retreat that is focusing on establishing priorities and setting direction for budget.**

- **Boundary Review Timelines**

The school division has been waiting to see if we would be the recipients of a capital project announcement that typically comes with the budget announcement. Lethbridge was not approved for a new elementary school on the west side of the city. The Division is disappointed given the lack of space and over capacity reality on the west side of Lethbridge. Knowing the outcome of capital project announcements, the Board will move forward with planning attendance boundaries that will provide a more balanced load of students for space at our schools.

10. **Roundtable Reports**

Reports are included with the agenda: an opportunity to highlight a very significant event or for questions from the representatives about information in a written report

No reports (some in package for others to review)

11. **Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.**



LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DIVISION
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TRUSTEE report to school councils:

September 22, 2020

1. School Board Annual Work Plan

Every September the Board reviews the Annual Work plan, which outlines major events and tasks and adjusts accordingly.

The Board received the report as information and provided feedback for revisions.

Plan plan can be found on Page 11 of the [AGENDA](#).

2. Transportation Services RFP 021-2020

Lethbridge School Division and Holy Spirit Roman Catholic School Division are seeking a new transportation services provider to provide school bus and specialized transportation services beginning with the 2021-2022 school year or sooner. RFP 021-2020 was issued on May 28th, 2020 on Alberta Purchasing Connection. The RFP closed on August 27th, 2020 with three proponents responding to the RFP. One proponent subsequently withdrew their proposal.

The two proposals were evaluated by:

- Cheryl Gilmore – Superintendent, Lethbridge School Division
- Ken Sampson – Superintendent, Holy Spirit Roman Catholic School Division
- Christine Lee – Associate Superintendent, Lethbridge School Division
- Lisa Palmarin – Secretary Treasurer, Holy Spirit Roman Catholic School Division
- Cheryl Shimbashi – Transportation Coordinator, Lethbridge School Division

The RFP responses were reviewed in two phases. First was Technical and then Pricing. Technical criteria included Qualifications and Transportation Services Experience, Training and Professional Development, Service Delivery, Value Added, References and provision of school buses.

After evaluating both the technical and pricing components of the proposals, Southland Transportation Ltd was chosen as meeting or exceeding the established criteria of the RFP. Southland Transportation was also low bid on the quoted pricing over the 5-year initial term of the proposed contract for transportation services. The pricing has come within current established budgets for both school divisions for transportation services. Total quoted pricing for services for the five (5) year period came in at \$19.2 Million. On average this works out to \$2.1 million per year for Lethbridge School Division and \$1.7 Million per year for Holy Spirit Roman Catholic School Division.

The review team is please to recommend awarding the contract to Southland Transportation Ltd. and both school divisions are excited to work collaboratively for efficient transportation service delivery in the future. The initial contract will be for five (5) years with an option to extend the agreement for two (2) more subsequent five (5) year terms.

It is recommend that the Board of Trustees authorize entering into a transportation services agreement with Southland Transportation Ltd. for the provision of transportation services commencing with the 2021-2022 school year or sooner if feasible for an initial five (5) year term with renewal options for two (2) subsequent five (5) year terms.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Clark Bosch, Christine Light, Tyler Demers, Jan Foster, Donna Hunt, Doug James, Lola Major

3. Bylaw No. 2020-01: A bylaw to establish electoral boundaries for trustee general election and authority for joint election

In accordance with the Education Act, The Board of Trustees must pass a bylaw to establish electoral boundaries for trustee general elections.

The required bylaw provides for the nomination and election of trustees by wards or electoral subdivisions, and it determines the boundaries of the wards or provides for the election of trustees by the general vote of the electors. A bylaw must be passed before December 31, 2020 in the year before an election year, and it does not apply to or affect the composition of the school board until the date of the general election.

Under the Education Act, the Minister no longer approves the bylaw; however, school boards must provide a copy of the bylaw to the Minister before December 31, 2020.

A copy of the bylaw is attached. This bylaw affirms the election be for seven (7) trustees to be elected at large within the municipal boundaries of the City of Lethbridge in accordance with section 76 of the Education Act. The bylaw further authorized the Division to hold a joint election with the City of Lethbridge pursuant to Section 2 of the Local Authorities Election Act.

Bylaw No. 2020-01, A bylaw to establish electoral boundaries for trustee general election and authority for joint election, was approved for second reading.

4. Committee Reports

Year-end reports and updates to the terms of reference were delivered for the Board Standing Committees Annual Reports and Terms of Reference Review, Board Audit Committee, Board Budget Committee, Boundary Review Committee, Community Engagement Committee, Division Wellness Committee, Facilities Committee, Indigenous Education Committee, Policy Advisory Committee, Poverty Intervention Committee, Spirit of 51 Committee and the Superintendent Evaluation Committee. The reports begin on Page 17 of the [AGENDA](#).

5. October Organizational Meeting

School Board Annual Organizational Meeting will be held on October 27, 2020. An electronic survey containing the Trustee committee membership will be distributed prior to the meeting for the purpose of Trustees subsequently conveying interest in committee membership for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Board received the report as information.

6. Division School Council Meetings

The following are the dates that Division School Council meetings will be held in the Board Room at the Education Centre starting at 6:30 p.m.:

October 5, 2020

November 2, 2020

December 7, 2020

January 11, 2021

February 2, 2021 – Town Hall Meeting

March 1, 2021

April 12, 2021

May 3, 2021

June 7, 2021

The Board received the report as information.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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7. Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Local Council Meeting Dates

An excellent relationship exists between the Board of Trustees and its employee groups. Two examples of this collaborative relationship are the attendance by a member of the ATA Local Executive at all Board meetings and the open invitation that the ATA Local Executive to the Board to have a trustee attend Local Council meetings. The meetings will take place virtually with the dates for the balance of the year shown below:

October 7, 2020

November 4, 2020

December 2, 2020 – Christmas Dinner (location TBD)

January 6, 2021

February 3, 2021

March 3, 2021

May 5, 2021

June 2, 2021

The Board received the report as information and that a Trustee be identified to attend the future ATA Local Council meetings.

8. Associate Superintendent Reports

Christine Lee, Associate Superintendent, Business Affairs; Mike Nightingale, 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 57 of the [AGENDA](#).

9. World Teachers' Day

World Teachers' Day is held annually on October 5th since 1994 to celebrate the essential role of teachers in providing quality education at all levels. As outlined on the UNESCO website, the aim of World Teachers' Day is to ensure that the needs of future generations will continue to be met by teachers. It also commemorates the anniversary of the 1966 signature of the UNESCO/ILO Recommendation Concerning the Status of Teachers.

The strength of Lethbridge School Division has historically been its staff members, who are committed to providing outstanding learning opportunities for all students while ensuring that each young person feels valued and supported.

Division teachers are recognized across the province for their expertise, with a number serving on regional and provincial curriculum and professional learning committees.

The Board received the report as information and take the opportunity to publicly acknowledge the commitment to excellence that teachers, and all staff members, demonstrate for the benefit of students.

10. Board Reports

Reports were delivered for the Facilities Committee, Joint City of Lethbridge/School Boards Committee and the Board Audit Committee. The reports begin on Page 92 of the [AGENDA](#).

11. Public Forum

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

We would like to add our voice and vote to allow the kids to play extracurricular activities, including sports.

There has got to be a way to do this safely. We've got to learn to live with this pandemic and address the many other side effects that it's causing.

Thanks,

- **Jim and Bekah Olsen**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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11. Public Forum

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

Regarding extracurricular activities and the mental health of the students, is there anything you'd recommend I do as a parent and coach to help these teens deal with not having any athletics or other after school activities? Does the school division have any special counselling in place for these athletes? From the kids I have talked to, their mental health is being greatly affected by this. I really believe that may become one of the most important things for them as long as the athletics that they have become so accustomed to isn't in place. As I talk to many of them, I think it would be very beneficial if the school district would be able to communicate with them on what the future may look like, what will need to happen before athletics begin to open up again, and what the school division is doing to reach those goals. It just seems to me like they feel the division is against them right now instead of an ally in this. I am aware of the students planned walk-out and protest this week with regards to extracurricular activities, and I am hoping their voices will be heard and considered.

Thank you for your time,

- Shawn Heggie

I have a child attending Gilbert Paterson and one at LCI. I'm very concerned about the mental well-being of both of them if Lethbridge School district 51 doesn't open up their gyms.

Sports and after school activities are pretty much a way of life for them as it was mine and my husband's.

This has been taken from them because the district won't open the gyms like other districts in Alberta. Westwinds school division are up and running their programs.

My husband coaches Girl's basketball at LCI and we both watched helplessly as their season ended abruptly last March. I've seen a decline in my kid's grades, as well as their health.

* WHY won't the district open up gyms?

* WHY can't club teams rent the gyms on the weekends? There is no proof that this virus stays on hard surfaces over the weekend.

* WILL the district be hiring more counsellors to help these kids deal with all this fallout?

The kids news outlets! Especially during this time. Physical activity is so important to mental and physical health and is proven to help with grades.

Thank you for reading my email!

My name is Jeff Hill, I am the parent of two LCI students, one Gilbert Patterson Student and one Lakeview student. I am typically not one to get involved in these types of issues but I did want to bring up a few concerns regarding the division's stance on athletics.

- Joni Heggie

I think we can all agree, these past 6 months have sucked, I think one of the reasons COVID has been so challenging is that we have all lost something we love. Hanging out with friends, going to concerts, movies, theatre. Regardless of our interests, COVID has prevented us from doing the things we enjoy in life. For me one of those things is sports, I am a washed up 40 year old has been, but I still miss getting together with my weekly crew for pickup basketball, but I know that one day I will be able to play again.

For our kids though, playing high school sports is such a limited opportunity and it saddens me that COVID has potentially taken this away from us as parents and our kids. It has been challenging for our kids to deal with this shift in their lives and we have all seen articles on what life with COVID has done to our collective mental health. As an educator I am also sure you are aware of the numerous peer reviewed studies that have championed physical activity as a way to aid our mental health.

I know we are all scared, I know there is risk. I have a crown on my front tooth because it was knocked out in the Winston Churchill gym in my grade 12 year. I have seen teammates break bones, we have all been injured while playing.

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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11. Public Forum

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

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Yet we accept these risks because our love of competing is worth these risks.

As I write this we see that Lethbridge has 4 active COVID cases, we know that surrounding communities are all in the single digits as well.

As parents we know that the same physical risks our kids face from playing, crossover to the risk of getting COVID. To me these risks are worth it for an opportunity for our kids to play, an opportunity they will never get again.

My hope is that the division will consider that we are aware of the risks as parents and are willing to do what we can to ensure our kids can play, even if this means I will watch a live stream of the event from my house.

I know this has been a long winded email (I am aware of my lack of brevity) but I want to end on this note.

There is a growing concern amongst parents that extra-curricular activities are being used as a political football to advance your push back to our provincial government. As educators you have chosen a career that puts the children first, it is my sincere hope that you are not using sports, arts, and drama as a means of playing politics. Our kids deserve more than to be used as pawns in these difficult times.

Thanks for your consideration,

- **Jeff Hill**

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

Why does the school district have more stringent COVID/pandemic policy than Alberta Health Services?

Who's the expert that came up with this policy?

Thanks

- **Tyler Tanner**

My question is about the athletics programs.

AHS, The Government of Alberta, Alberta Education and ASAA have ALL deemed it safe to participate in athletics as long as protocols are followed. Why is the school division not allowing it?

The mental health of these athletes is being completely disregarded.

- **Iona Price**

First of all thank you for putting the safety of our kids first and foremost, I appreciate your efforts and diligence during this trying time of COVID-19.

The question I would like to ask is:

With AHS and ASAA regulations allowing for the return of extracurricular activities in Alberta schools what thresholds or events specifically would you need to see for our school district following their lead and allow the return of extracurricular activities?

An open ended pandemic plan gives students and parents anxiety wondering what needs to happen to return to some form of normality especially when other neighbouring school districts (for example Medicine Hat) have made announcements they will be allowing extracurricular activities.

Thanks

- **Ryan Tanner**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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11. Public Forum

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

Good afternoon,

I am a mother of a five-year-old child attending school in Lethbridge School Division. My mother was born in India and my father was born in Tanzania and I identify as South-Asian.

I have been concerned over the last year by the presence of the School Resource Officers in Lethbridge schools. I had believed that the program was suspended due to budget cuts, but I became aware yesterday that the program started again.

I am asking for Lethbridge School Division to suspend the SRO program pending the completion of a community consultation and the completion and presentation of findings.

1) The Lethbridge Police Service has been under significant national and international scrutiny and criticism over multiple high-profile incidents over the last year. These include:

a. The May 4, 2020 handling of an incident involving a 19-year-old woman in a storm trooper costume with a toy blaster currently under ASIRT investigation ;

b. The February 9, 2020 alleged assault of an individual in custody by a Lethbridge Police Service Officer resulting in criminal charges ;

c. The January 5, 2019 incident involving a Lethbridge Police Service officer running over a deer repeatedly using his service vehicle ;

d. Ongoing problems at Lethbridge Police Service according to a December 2018 survey involving bullying and intimidation from leadership ;

e. The 2017 surveillance of MLA Shannon Phillips currently under ASIRT investigation;

f. And ongoing issues with individual Lethbridge Police Service members and their use of social media to spread hate and intolerance.

The issues in this short list involve concerns about workplace bullying, violence to animals, possibly criminal actions taken against a sitting MLA, transphobia, and racism.

Prior to the placement of Lethbridge Police Officers in Lethbridge schools, it seems appropriate for the two pending ASIRT investigations to finish, and for Lethbridge Police Service to advise the public as to what they have done to address these significant concerns and rebuild public trust.

2) School Resource Programs have been a source of significant criticism in recent years. It is difficult to find any information about what community consultation, if any, occurred before these programs were placed in Lethbridge schools, or about why certain schools are selected for School Resource Officers.

Other Canadian communities have either removed these programs or suspended them pending reviews and community consultation.

a. Edmonton Public School Division replaced their SRO program for 2020-2021, choosing to not place officers in schools until a formal review of the SRO program is conducted.

b. Peel School Division has suspended their SRO program and went through a community consultation process this summer.

c. Toronto District School Board, the largest school board in Canada, removed their SRO program in 2017.

3) There is increasing criticism regarding the continued presence of School Resource Officers as being inconsistent with important goals of promoting equality, safety and comfort for students, particularly Black, Brown and Indigenous students and students who are undocumented.

Farzeen Ather, a former student trustee from Edmonton School Division, said she has witnessed many incidents at her school where racialized students were "aggravated and marginalized by discriminatory stereotypes upheld by the SRO program."

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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11. Public Forum

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

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“This may be uncomfortable to hear, but white supremacy, anti-Blackness and settler colonialism shape our school systems. Everything from the content of curriculum to systems for disciplining students to the distribution of resources and much more result in a system that seeks to marginalize racialized youth and ultimately disproportionately push them out of schools and into systems of incarceration,” Ather said.

“In impoverished communities of colour, similar to the neighbourhoods surrounding the high school that I went to, schools are often the first interaction Black and Brown students have with the criminal justice system. Police intervention at such an impressionable age can often escalate small incidents to violent criminal situations. We want support systems, not fear of incarceration.”

In the absence of any Lethbridge community consultation it is difficult to know what the impact of the School Resource Officer program has been on the community.

4) School Resource Officer programs are expensive and should be regularly reviewed to determine that they are an effective use of resources.

As is the case with any program there should be regular review to determine if that program is meeting the needs of the community. I cannot find any information about what this program costs or how it is reviewed. I am concerned with the complete lack of transparency.

I thank you for this opportunity to express my concerns to you.

- **Miranda P. Hlady**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, October 27, 3:30 p.m.
(public forum begins at 5 p.m.)

Education Centre Boardroom - 433-15 St. S.



DIVISION SCHOOL COUNCIL GUIDELINES

RATIONALE

The school council and school-based decision-making impact education at the site. However, issues that arise at school council meetings may be regional, provincial or affected by Division decision. According to the School Act, “a school council may advise the school board respecting any matter relating to the school”. While a trustee might attend a school council meeting and the principal can bring Division news to the school, school councils can seem isolated. Forming a Division school council with representatives from each of the school councils, the school board and the Superintendent of Lethbridge School Division will improve communication and promote cooperative action among our school councils.

FUNCTIONS OF THE DIVISION SCHOOL COUNCIL

- a) Share information among school councils
- b) Consult with other school councils on wider education issues
- c) Communicate information both ways between the Division/school board and the school councils
- d) Provide input to the school board and central office on broader education issues, including the Division budget
- e) Inform the community about education concerns
- f) Promote school council in-service and training
- g) Assist in providing parent representatives for standing and ad hoc school board committees

STRUCTURE OF DIVISION SCHOOL COUNCIL

Membership shall include:

- 2 representatives from each school council; however, each school has one vote should any decision be decided by Division School Council
- 1 ATA Representative
- 1 Principal Representative
- the Superintendent (who is a non-voting member); and
- 1 Board of Trustee Representative (who is non-voting member)

Because the Division School Council is not intended to detract from the legislated powers of the School Council, any formal actions of the Division School Council require consensus of all School Councils attending the meeting.

A Division School Council executive consisting of a chairperson, vice-chair, and secretary will be elected annually.

There will be a minimum of 5 meetings, normally occurring on the last Monday evening of the month held at the board office. These meetings are open to the public.

Agenda items should be forwarded to either the chairperson or the superintendent’s executive assistant. The agenda will be drawn up jointly by the chairperson and the Superintendent.

CALL TO ORDER will be the reference for rules of procedure during the meetings.

Board Support for Division School Council Schools

1. The Division funds the registration fees of all School Councils for Alberta School Council Association (ASCA) membership.
2. Division provides each school with \$250 for parent professional learning – can be used to offset costs to attend the annual ASCA conference.
3. Division pays for ASCA conference registration (1 per school).

