



Lethbridge School Division

DIVISION SCHOOL COUNCIL – SPECIAL SESSION FOR ALL PARENTS STARTING AT 6:00 – LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DIVISION AND COVID-19

Topics will include how decisions are made for isolation / quarantine with Alberta Health Services (AHS); communication; roles and responsibilities; decision-making at all levels; protocols. There will also be time left at the end for Q/A.

**REGULAR Division School Division Meeting will follow the Session at approximately 7:00
Education Centre Board Room / Microsoft Teams
433 – 15TH Street South**

AGENDA

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| 7:00 | 1. | Welcome and Introductions |
| 7:05 | 2. | Additions to the Agenda |
| | 3. | Approval of the Agenda |
| 7:10 | 4. | Approval of the Minutes from October 5, 2020 |
| 7:15 | 5. | Business Arising from the Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Division School Council Learning Sessions – plan based on feedback• Fundraising questions |
| 7:20 | 7. | Trustee Report |
| 7:25 | 8. | Alberta School Councils Association - Allison Purcell-Pike |
| 7:30 | 9. | Reports from Division Committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poverty Intervention Committee – October 20, 2020 (Jamie Walburger) |
| 7:35 | 9. | Superintendent's Report – Cheryl Gilmore |
| 7:40 | 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 |
| 7:40 | 11. | Adjournment |

Division School Council 2020-2021 Meeting Dates

December 7, 2020

January 11, 2021

February 2, 2021 Town Hall

March 1, 2021

April 12, 2021

May 3, 2021

June 7, 2021

2020-2021 Division School Council Representatives

Chair	Allison Purcell-Pike
Vice Chair	Alison Alma-North
Recording Secretary	Danielle Aubin
Policy Advisory Committee	Shannon Pratt Allison Purcell-Pike
Poverty Intervention Committee	Jamie Walburger Alison Alma-North (alternate)
Division Wellness Committee	Edna Asem Shannon Pratt (alternate)
Community Engagement Committee	Ryan Hartford Duane Pike Allison Purcell-Pike Shelley Roest

Division School Council Minutes for October 5, 2020

1. **Welcome** and introductions
2. **Additions to the Agenda**
 - 2.1. Extracurricular
 - 2.2. Park Meadows questions
3. **Approval of Agenda** – approved
4. **Approval of the Minutes** of March 2, 2020 – approved
5. **Business Arising from the Minutes** - none
6. **Elections:**

Chair – Allison Purcell-Pike; Vice Chair – Alison Alma-North; Recording Secretary – Danielle Aubin

Committee Representatives:

Policy Advisory Committee – Shannon Pratt, Allison Purcell-Pike

Poverty Intervention Committee – Jamie Walburger, Alison Alma-North (alternate)

Division Wellness Committee – Edna Asem, Shannon Pratt (alternate)

Community Engagement Committee – Shelley Roest, Duane Pike, Ryan Hartford, Allison Purcell-Pike
7. **Trustee Report** – Christine Light shared highlights of the report attached to the agenda.
8. **Alberta School Councils Association Report** – Allison Purcell-Pike noted that the Annual General Meeting was virtual. The next virtual meeting will be held Saturday, October 17, 2020 from 10 am to 3 pm. You need to register to have voting power representing your school – www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca
9. **Policy Advisory Committee** – policies for review will be sent out via email to School Council Chairs and Division School Council representatives. They should then be distributed to School Council members for feedback. All information for where to send feedback will be on email.
10. **Superintendent's Report** – Cheryl

School year start up in Scenario One with in-person and on-line classes for students, student population went down approximately 300 to 400 students. Federal government grant fund allocations were shared. At-home learners at Elementary was 17%, Middle school was 15%, and High school was 14% - overall average was 15% at-home learners. Guidelines and Board support were included in the agenda. Board pays the ASCA annual membership fee in addition to \$250 / school for parent professional learning as well as registration for one person per school to attend the ASCA AGM.

School Council Membership list (sign up on school websites) – remind schools to send an email out with the link to sign-up.

Inclement weather guidelines – reminder to Principals to share the school closure guidelines.

School calendar for 2020-21 parent representation for a meeting following the October break. Meeting typically at the end of the afternoon. Linda McKeith with Shelley Roest as alternate.

Parent Professional Learning ideas for future meetings from 6:00 to 6:30 pm before DSC meetings were: MLA, Navigating Teams and Google classroom, Mental Health, Technology, Managing Student Anxiety COVID, Facilities operations COVID, Change management – anxiety, Physical activity – what can be done – ideas for parents, Technology and Social Anxiety, Inclusive Learning – students with disabilities, ESL Learning with inclusive learning for parents who have ESL. *Send ideas to LeeAnne over the next week for review.*
11. **Park Meadows question** – Linda McKeith commended their teachers for the videos before school starting. It helped alleviate anxiety for students.

Any thoughts about what you will do during the cold weather? Good question for your school council agendas. School administrators are looking at this. Entry into the school in cold weather is a challenge. Locker use is determined by schools. Communication with parents about this would be appreciated.

Is your school considering fundraising in the current situation? School fundraising from those in attendance: Beef jerky, The Mixing Spoon - jars of dried goods to create a meal (soup, chili, baked goods, etc.), Kernels Popcorn,

Cuppers coffee, and Gilbert Paterson asked for \$20 rather than fundraising.

For any fundraising activities that involve distribution of product, please adhere to the following:

- Products should be untouched for 24 hours.
- Individuals distributing the product should be masked and gloved.
- To be safe, products should be distributed in a school entrance way.

12. Extra-Curricular – Jamie Walburger noted that parents felt extra-curricular activities were being suspended needlessly and were not satisfied by the response from the Board. LCI students engaged in the rally, putting their social studies learning into action. They have collected 160 parent emails and 612 signatures wanting extra-curricular reinstated. Some of the families and students are feeling like it is not a priority and are wondering why it wasn't included in the re-entry plan.

Christine Light noted that the Board values the extra-curricular activities. The Pandemic Plan states that academics are essential. The Board wanted to protect and honor cohorts, the health and safety of students and staff. The Board will review the Pandemic Plan in the next few weeks.

Linda noted that those who have the ability put their children in community sporting events.

Cheryl shared that the Pandemic Plan was created with input from many stakeholders, it is a broad document that divides essential and nonessential in the event of a pandemic. It puts things in priority, includes a succession plan and considers capacity level at schools. The Re-Entry Plan re-iterates the decisions taken from the Provincial re-entry guide which includes recommendations that schools limit cohorts and that co-curricular/extra-curricular activities be limited. School administrators worked throughout August to put together their student cohorts. It was a group decision – the Board, Superintendents, Division leadership and school administrators had input in the Division Re-Entry plan. Schools need to be ready for that transition. Cohorts have integrity in our schools.

Christine Light and Trustees are responsible for students in the schools and, as such, it will not be a rushed decision. The responses to the public forum concerns will be included in the Board agenda.

Alberta Health Services re-entry plan continues to state that it is recommended schools limit co-curricular and extra-curricular activities to reduce the number of cohorts.

13. Roundtable Reports – Nicholas Sheran report was added to the agenda.

14. Adjournment at 8:30 pm

It was noted that the parent learning sessions are for ALL parents, not only the Division School Council representatives. An information flyer regarding upcoming sessions is sent out to representatives and chairs as well as posted on the websites. Please encourage parents to join for the half hour of learning prior to the meeting.



LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DIVISION
Board of Trustees
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TRUSTEE report to school councils:

October 27, 2020

Organizational Meeting

1. Election of Chair

Christine Light was elected to the position of Board Chair.

2. Election of Vice-Chair

Tyler Demers was elected to the position of Vice-Chair.

3. Approval of Bank Borrowing Resolution

The Board approved the 2020-2021 bank borrowing resolution in the amount of \$500,000 to finance the operation of the school division as required, pending receipt of government funding. A copy of the resolution was appended to the minutes of the meeting.

4. Approval of Signing Authority

The Board to approved the following resolution:

“That the bank signing authority be the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman and the Secretary-Treasurer or, in her absence, the Director of Finance, with the exception that for the purpose of signing cheques, the signing authority shall be the Superintendent of Schools and the Secretary-Treasurer and Director of Finance and further, that the Board authorize the bank to establish an overdraft lending agreement which has been duly executed by the proper officers of the Board when loans are required.”

5. Appointments to Committees

The following appointments were made:

Standing Committees:

- 7.1.1 Board Audit Committee - Clark Bosch, Tyler Demers (chair)
- 7.1.2 Board Budget Committee - Clark Bosch (chair), Donna Hunt
- 7.1.3 Boundary Review Committee - West - Jan Foster, Doug James, Donna Hunt; South - Doug James, Donna Hunt, North - Doug James, Donna Hunt, Christine Light
- 7.1.4 Community Engagement Committee - Jan Foster (chair), Christine Light
- 7.1.5 Division Wellness Committee - Donna Hunt (chair), Jan Foster
- 7.1.6 Facilities Committee - Jan Foster, Doug James (chair)
- 7.1.7 Indigenous Education Advisory Committee - Doug James (chair), Donna Hunt (alt.)
- 7.1.8 Policy Advisory Committee - Lola Hunt (chair), Clark Bosch (alt.)
- 7.1.9 Poverty Intervention Committee - Christine Light (chair)
- 7.1.10 Spirit of 51 Committee - Lola Major (chair), Tyler Demers
- 7.1.11 Superintendent Evaluation Committee - Christine Light (chair), Lola Major, Jan Foster

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

5. Appointments to Committees

The following appointments were made:

Special (ad hoc) Committees:

- 7.2.1 ATA Negotiating Committee - Clark Bosch (chair), Tyler Demers
- 7.2.2 CUPE (Local 290) Negotiating Committee - Donna Hunt (chair), Clark Bosch
- 7.2.3 CUPE (Local 2843) Negotiating Committee - Tyler Demers (chair), Christine Light
- 7.2.4 Non-Union Staff Committee - Christine Light, Jan Foster (chair)

Joint Committees:

- 7.3.1 ATA Working Conditions Committee - Donna Hunt, Christine Light (chair)
- 7.3.2 City/School Boards Committee - Tyler Demers, Christine Light (chair)

Appointment of Board Representatives:

- 7.4.1 ASBA Zone 6 Executive - Donna Hunt, Doug James (alt.)
- 7.4.2 Division School Council - Doug James, Christine Light
- 7.4.3 Division Student Advisory Council - Jan Foster, Doug James
- 7.4.4 Teachers' Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA) - Tyler Demers
- 7.4.5 Team Lethbridge - Lola Major, Christine Light

Regular Meeting

1. Presentation - Indigenous Education Update

Associate Supt. Morag Asquith and John Chief Calf, co-ordinator of Indigenous Education, delivered a presentation for trustees. Asquith and Chief Calf informed trustees the Division is in the process of hiring four indigenous graduation coaches for high schools, and presented data which indicated drop-out rates have dropped three per cent over the last three years while high school completion rates have risen 10 per cent over the same period.

2. 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. Co-ordinator of Learning and International Education, Trish Syme co-ordinates the meetings.

At the Oct. 27 meeting, the following policies were up for review:

400.3 - Whistleblower Protection - Amended

400.4 - Fraud Prevention, Identification and Reporting - Second Reading and Third Reading.

3. 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 19 of the [AGENDA](#).

4. Public Forum - Responses to Sept. 22 Board of Trustees Public Forum Submissions

A response to the Sept. 22 public forum submissions from Ryan Tanner, Joni Heggie, Tyler Tanner, Shawn Heggie, Loni Price and Jeff Hill can be found on Page 34 of the [AGENDA](#).

A response to the Sept. 22 public forum submission from Miranda Hlady can be found on Page 25 of the [AGENDA](#).

5. Public Forum

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

Dear Division 51 Trustees:

Many of you know me from my involvement as a parent with this school division over many years. I have a daughter at Churchill. **(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

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5. Public Forum

I was deeply struck by the eloquent and passionate letter from Miranda Hlady that was presented in the September Public Forum, about the School Resource Officer program. I would like to add my voice to her call for a community consultation around this program, and a public presentation of the findings, as well as to her request for a suspension of the program until such time as this review is complete.

The calls to “Defund the Police” that have come out of the Black Lives Matter movement this year have led me to do a lot of reading, listening to experts from racial minorities, and soul-searching. All of these processes are much easier nowadays than they used to be, with the incredible volume of material that is available online, but they are still time-consuming.

As a white person myself (as I believe are most if not all of you), it has not been easy for me to accept and truly understand that many people in Canada would never dream of calling the police, because to them the police represent the opposite of safety. They are accustomed to being targeted on the basis of their appearance (race), and to seeing members of their communities targeted on a daily basis. Even if they see a “friendly” officer in some context, the overwhelming influence of police in their lives is not positive. The fact that SROs are uniformed police officers who carry guns is not liable to make them come across as benign, either to children, or to many of the BIPOC (black, Indigenous, or people of colour) parents of those children, who may have their own lifelong experiences with police.

As the “defund the police” calls have pointed out, police are asked to do many tasks that aren’t what they are trained for, and that other professionals may be far more suited to. I am aware that SROs have been used in our school division to work with kids who have gotten into disputes or trouble. I spent 4 months in Berkeley some years ago, and attended a parent meeting at my daughter’s school with the (black) superintendent that has really stuck with me.

Unlike virtually any meeting I have been to in this school division, that meeting included many BIPOC (and particularly black) parents. They pointed out that their children - boys in particular - were disproportionately likely to be sent to the principal’s office, put into detention, etc., for the simple reason that the (predominately white) teachers had more trouble identifying with and understanding how to deal with these boys when they didn’t conform to the teachers’ expectations. While many of these kids had other complicating factors in their lives (poverty, etc.), studies had shown that they were still overrepresented in “getting into trouble” when those variables were controlled for.

Part of the reason why other Canadian school divisions (including Edmonton and Toronto) have abandoned the SRO program (or at least put it on hold) is this risk that it can develop the school-to-prison pipeline even more directly. There is a reason why black and Indigenous people are vastly overrepresented in Canadian prisons, and it begins at the level of police interventions (though they are very far from being the whole story).

Students who get into “trouble” become well-known to SROs and thereby to police, and the pre-conceived ideas of these children as troublemakers becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. There is no good evidence to suggest that the training that police officers receive - which is intended to enable them to deal with crises involving potentially belligerent people who have caused or threatened harm - is ideal or even appropriate for enabling them to mediate or counsel kids who have gotten into disputes or trouble.

Ms. Hlady shared with me the Board chair’s response to her letter, and I wanted to raise a question about one piece of that response.

I appreciate that school leadership and counselling teams are supportive of the SRO program; this is important. To what extent does this include feedback from school leaders or counsellors who identify as BIPOC (for example, FNMI liaisons)? I hope that any distinctions in how the SRO program is viewed by people from different marginalized groups will be an important part of the community consultation and review that Ms. Hlady has called for, and that I also believe is necessary.

Thank you for considering my input.

- Joy Morris

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

6. Board Reports

Reports were delivered for the Policy Advisory Committee, Division Wellness Committee, Division School Council, Boundary Review Committees, Poverty Intervention Committee and for the ASBA Zone 6 General Meeting. The reports begin on Page 51 of the [AGENDA](#).

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

NEXT MEETING:

**Tuesday, November 24, 3:30 p.m.
(public forum begins at 5 p.m.)**

Education Centre Boardroom - 433-15 St. S.



Division School Council School Highlights

School:	Dr. Gerald B. Probe (represented by Danielle Aubin)
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School Highlights:

We need 90 new laptops, suggestions on suppliers or type?

Participation in Decision-Making and/or Advocacy *(did you participate in any decisions at the school such as policy or join the school in advocating for something or decide as a School Council to advocate for something?)*

Decided to advocate for safer pedestrian crossing at the school

Decided to begin fundraising for laptops instead of the playground, at the moment

Fundraising (Do you have a successful event to share?):

Any word on the Q & A for "food" related fundraising or hot lunch?
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Are there things your School Council is talking about/questions you have for other School Councils?

What happened to the school patrol (not sure this is the name), a safety program for crosswalks

Any resources we can tap into for funding of needed technology?

Best Practices *(program, speaker, or other item at your school that has worked very well)*

The "ABC" fundraiser

Division School Council School Highlights

School:	Ecole Agnes Davidson School
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School Highlights:

Began Dragon Days fundraiser (simply asking for donations)
Began selling "Aggies Brew" coffee from Cuppers - sold nearly 100 coffee bags
Terry Fox runs

Fundraising (Do you have a successful event to share?):

Cuppers coffee sold nearly 100 bags of "Aggie's Brew". The bags cost \$20 and the school receives \$5 of the sale.
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Are there things your School Council is talking about/questions you have for other School Councils?

Attempted to hold a virtual bingo but received notification from the AGLC that there is no current legislation for a virtual bingo under \$100 000. The AGLC did encourage that virtual bingo applications should be made so that legislation could change with demand.

**District School Council
School Highlights**

School:	General Stewart Elementary
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School Highlights:

School start up – Meet the Teacher was done outside for the students and their parents to see their teacher. Good turn out, was nice to meet new staff as there were many changes this year.

40th Anniversary Terry Fox Walk – Students and staff along with several parents made the walk from the school to Henderson Lake. Grade 2-5 students walked around the lake before heading back to the school.

Students were excited to receive new school t-shirts and masks with the General Stewart logo on them.

Most Parent-Teacher Interviews were done online through Teams. Parents were pleased with this.

**Division School Council
School Highlights**

School:	Immanuel Christian Elementary School
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School Highlights:

ICES donated 650 pounds of non-perishable food items for the Interfaith Food Bank with a value of \$1 703. This was a deeply appreciated gift and will support many in our community.

Students wrote appreciation cards for Pastors and Bus Drivers and gave them out. Very positive feedback from those who received the cards.
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**Division School Council
School Highlights**

School:	Park Meadows Elementary School
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Fundraising (Do you have a successful event to share?):

October 29 – Monster Mash dance-a-thon Fundraiser event

Are there things your School Council is talking about/questions you have for other School Councils?

Hot Lunch Program – What are other schools doing?