



Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting highlights from January 26 - Next meeting February 23

1. Early Education Update and Changes - Isabelle Plomp

The Division's Early Childhood Services Co-ordinator, Isabelle Plomp, delivered a presentation on Early Education Programming, which touched on research evidence on the importance of the early years, the changes the Division has navigated due to changes from Alberta Education this school year and the impacts of these changes.

Plomp told Trustees that 90 per cent of a child's brain development happens before the age of five and at around six years of age, a child will have the most brain connections they will ever have in their entire life.

The report also included the impacts of the 26-per-cent decrease in basic instruction funding for ECS over the last three years, and the impact changes in Program Unit Funding has had.

The Board accepted the report as information.

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.

The Board adopted the revisions to the policies as presented by the Policy Advisory Committee, or as amended:

201.2 Mandate - Amended

202.1 Trustee Code of Conduct - Amended

202.1.1 Confidentiality - Amended

202.1.2 Conflict of Interest - Amended

203.4 Board Committees - Amended

204.2 Regular Board Meetings - Amended

300.1 Administration Guiding Principles - Amended

300.2 Administrative Organizational Structure - Amended

400.3 Whistleblower Protection - Amended

401.2 Local Authority Pension Plan (LAPP) - Amended

403.5 Reduction in Division Staff - Amended

504.1 Managing Health Issues in Schools - Amended

The policies can be found in the agenda, beginning on Page 7: [AGENDA](#).

3. Rescind Policy 207: Campaign Contributions and Campaign Expense Disclosure

Recent changes to the Local Authorities Election Act now do not allow for the flexibility for School Divisions to establish their own rules around Campaign Contributions and Campaign Expense Disclosure. All municipalities and school divisions must now follow the rules established under legislation in the Local Authorities Election Act.

Due to the change Policy 207: Campaign Contributions and Campaign Expense Disclosure must be rescinded. The policy was attached for reference.

Policy 207: Campaign Contributions and Campaign Expense Disclosure, was rescinded.

4. Appointment of Returning Officer for School Trustee Elections

Lethbridge School Division has an agreement with the City of Lethbridge to hold joint municipal and School Board Trustee Elections.

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4. Appointment of Returning Officer for School Trustee Elections

As per that agreement Lethbridge School Division must appoint by resolution a Returning Officer and a Substitute Returning Officer for the School Board Trustee Elections.

As the City of Lethbridge is conducting the election on behalf of the Division, it is recommended that the City's Returning Officer be appointed, and that authority is granted to the Returning Officer to appoint a Substitute Returning Officer.

The Returning Officer, for the purposes of the School Board Trustee Elections to be held on October 18, 2021, be the City of Lethbridge's Returning Officer, Bonnie Hilford, and furthermore that Lethbridge School Division delegates the authority to the Returning Officer the ability to appoint a Substitute Returning Officer.

5. 2021-2022 School Year Calendar

The draft 2021-2022 school year calendar is included in the agenda for review by the Board of Trustees.

The Board reviewed and approved the 2021-2022 school year calendar as presented.

To view the calendar, please see Page 45 of the [AGENDA](#).

6. First Quarter Financial Report

The 2020-2021 First Quarter Financial Report for the Division was provided for review. Director of Finance, Mark DeBoer, was in attendance to respond to any question's trustees had.

The Board received the 2020-2021 First Quarter Financial Report as presented.

The report can be found on Page 48 of the [AGENDA](#).

7. 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 84 of the [AGENDA](#).

8. Board Priorities

The Division Office Leadership Team is committed to keeping the Board informed regarding progress in Board priority areas. An update on progress is provided in the form of a report each month.

The Board received the report as information.

The report can be found on Page 101 of the [AGENDA](#).

9. 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 Division staff and students:

Showcasing G.S. Lakie:

We would like to recognize the efforts of staff that have been teaching in an online capacity this year. This has put many out of their comfort zone and challenged them in new and unforeseen ways. Our teachers have done an outstanding job with this all year and we're very proud of them. Kristin Grant, Tavis Newman, Lori Adamson, Nicholas Rickards, Brandon Fletcher, Joel Anderson and Amanda Fox have done much of the heavy lifting, but many more have taught online this year as well!

We've ran many Covid-Creative events this fall worth acknowledging. They started in September with our entertaining "Covid Shuffle" parody song (to the tune of Achy Breaky Heart). Many staff and students participated, and it was a way to make light of the unique reentry to school. Raj Mathur, Sheldon Arvay and Kristi Legge put in a lot of work to make that happen. Also, in September we produced a digital "Meet the Teacher" video (thanks to Joseph Wright) for our families and ran a very successful non-contact school-wide fundraiser.

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9. Acknowledgements of Excellence

Showcasing G.S. Lakie:

To culminate our fundraiser, we presented free Power Cards from our fundraiser to some frontline workers. Courtney Wehlage, Sarah Williamson and Lori Adamson created amazing diversity displays in our foyer that they update and change periodically. An amazing way to bring attention to issues past and present. To round out the first month of school, we were proud of our efforts to acknowledge and recognize Terry Fox Day and Orange Shirt Day. Two very special days that we put a lot of effort into with our staff and students. Jennifer Melting Tallow made a spectacular video for Orange Shirt Day that we shared via a digital assembly. In October, Raj Mathur put together a school-wide Halloween Murder Mystery event for the Friday before Halloween. It was a “thinking classroom” type of event that involved all in-person and online students. Everyone really enjoyed it and much work was done behind the scenes by Raj and Courtney Wehlage to make it happen! Gord Smith came up with some creative shop activities that could happen in classrooms. He had students build miniature cranes that he then gave to students at Coalbanks.

November brought about a great digital Remembrance Day ceremony. Joe Wright once again put his digital video skills to work to make this impactful and memorable for students. Some male Lakie staff members challenged Fairbairn staff to a Movember challenge for the month of November as well. Lakie staff won the challenge which forced our counterparts to pose for pictures in Lakie jerseys. More importantly, the two schools raised over \$6,700 towards the Movember initiative!

December brought about our admin team’s Covid Kitchen cooking show where we make a meal each week to share with students. It’s an attempt to expose them to an option they aren’t able to take this year due to Covid, but also as a way to engage students outside of school. Sheldon Arvay and his intern Dana Visser once again put their creative minds and talents together with their rendition of “Rockin Rudolph” which included many staff and students in a fun video spreading Christmas cheer to our community!

Lastly, we want to recognize a student of ours, Zara Enayetullah, whom was a top 3 finisher in the international 2020 Bow Seat Ocean Awareness competition. Her piece of poetry was chosen from over 5300 entries! Also congrats to a staff member of ours, Cynthia Young, whom recently surpassed a yearlong running streak where she runs a minimum of 1 mile each day!

9. Acknowledgements of Excellence

Showcasing École Agnes Davidson:

École Agnes Davidson School has had a very exciting first half of the school year. With a can-do attitude, we have endeavored to create a school climate of connection, relationships, community, and student achievement. Following Covid protocols, we were able to come together, in a manner of speaking, to host our most successful Terry Fox campaign ever.

Students participated in a weeklong look into Terry Fox, followed by a personal message from Terry Fox Sr. and of course, our individual class-based Terry Fox Walks. Following that, our Halloween parade went virtual and the students were excited to showcase their costumes.

Albeit differently, Agnes Davidson also came together in thought for Remembrance Day, engaging students in lessons and activities to truly understand the meaning of this occasion.

Students were able to participate in some of the traditional aspects of a Remembrance Day Ceremony with the Last Post, a minute of silence and Flanders Field. We are also grateful to our School Council who were able to think outside the box and provide a safe, locally sourced hot lunch for our school community. In the spirit of the holiday season, the students of Davidson worked hard at spreading some cheer with our neighborhood community and Davidson families. We enjoyed some time outside singing Christmas carols for all of our neighbors to hear (of course we were all masked and classes were socially distanced from one another) and we created a Jingle Jangle Jamboree where each class did about a-minute-long performance which was video-taped and compiled to create a showcase of cheer.

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9. Acknowledgements of Excellence

Showcasing École Agnes Davidson:

Hopefully this led to an afternoon on the couch at home with a bowl of popcorn enjoying the festivities of the season. Starting back up in January was done through at-home, on-line learning. It was amazing to see the teachers come together to create wonderful lessons which truly engaged our students in their learning. Through a collaborative approach, high-caliber, full curriculum was offered to our student population. Our intent over the next few months is to continue to build on our school community relationships in a Covid friendly fashion while delivery high academics in an inclusive format. The year is faced with challenges, but we are facing them with a can-do attitude.

10. Donations and Support

Lethbridge School Division is fortunate to be in a community that strongly supports programs and services for students. The Division 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 are the donations and support received by the Division.

- Nyrose Mckenzie Alexander LLP donated \$5,000 to WCHS in support of the switch to student at-home learning.
- Mr. Blaire Nyrose donated \$1,000 to WCHS in support of the switch to student at-home learning.
- Lethbridge Orthotics donated \$5,000 to WCHS in support of the switch to student at-home learning.
- North Lethbridge Panago partnered with WCHS to provide 22 large pizzas and two-litre beverage combos for students and families.

The Board received the summary as information.

11. Town Hall

Lethbridge School Division is hosting the annual Town Hall Meeting in a virtual format on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 from 6:30–8 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to seek feedback to assist the Division and Board of Trustees as they explore Division priorities. The feedback will frame consideration of the 2021-22 Education Plan and budget.

The question that the Trustees are seeking feedback on is as follows:

“In response to COVID-19, changes were made to school organization and instructional delivery. Are there changes that impacted students in a positive way that should continue and be built on?”

The Board received the briefing as information.

12. Evergreening Plan for Mobile Technology

In December, the Board passed the following motion:

“That the Board authorize the Technology Department to purchase the necessary laptops and iPads that need replacement in our schools funded through capital reserves, subject to the development of an evergreening plan in consultation with schools.”

An evergreening plan was developed by Jesse Sadlowski, Director of Technology, and Mark DeBoer, Finance Director. Meetings were held with elementary, middle, and high school administrators the first week in January for consultation regarding the plan. The plan was agreed to and supported by all levels. Based on the high level of agreement, the technology department moved forward with purchasing the technology within the timeline agreed to by the distributor before cost increases.

The evergreening plan will be presented to trustees by Mark DeBoer and Jesse Sadlowski. These individuals will also be available to respond to any Board questions.

The Board received the report as information.

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13. Board Reports

Reports were delivered for the ATA Local 41 Council, Division School Council, Division Wellness Committee, Policy Advisory Committee and the ASBA Zone 6 General Meeting. The reports begin on Page 115 of the [AGENDA](#).



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