



# Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

## Meeting highlights from March 23 - Next meeting April 27

### 1. Edwin Parr Nominee Video

The Lethbridge School Division nominee for the 2021 Edwin Parr Award is Mikaela McNab, a teacher at General Stewart Elementary School.

Trustees watched a video that showcased McNab's work at the school so far throughout the 2020/2021 school year.

The video can be found here: [EDWIN PARR](#).

### 2. Early Education Program (EEP) Fee

Early Education Program fees for the 2020-21 school year are currently approved at \$185 per month per student. Due to budget limitations for the 2021-22 school year, an increase in fees is required to promote the sustainability of the Early Education Program. An increase of \$15 per month per student is being recommended, to bring the total to \$200 per month per paying student.

The Board of Trustees approved the Early Education Program fee increase to \$200 per month for the 2021/2022 school year.

### 3. 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.

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

402.12 Staff Learning - Amended

403.3 Employee Discipline - Amended

505.9 Appeals Concerning Student Matters - Amended

1003.1 Channels of Communication and Disputes Resolution - Sent back to Policy Advisory Committee

The policies begin on Page 8 of the [AGENDA](#).

### 4. Second Quarter Financial Report

The 2020-2021 Second Quarter Financial Report for the Division is provided for review.

Director of Finance, Mark DeBoer was in attendance to respond to any questions Trustees had.

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

The report can be found on Page 26 of the [AGENDA](#).

### 5. Board Budget Belief Statements

During its 2021 Strategic Planning, the Board reviewed the Budget Belief Statements that will serve as a guide as the 2021/2022 budget is developed.

The Board adopted the Budget Belief Statements for 2021/2022 as presented.

The Budget Belief Statements can be found on Page 62 of the [AGENDA](#).

## **6. Three-Year Capital Plan**

The Executive Summary to the 2022/2023 to 2023/2024 Capital Plan for the Division was provided for review. The detailed Three-Year Capital Plan will be located on the Division website.

The Board accepted the 2022/2024 Capital Plan as presented.

The report begins on Page 64 of the [AGENDA](#).

## **7. Public Forum**

Allison Purcell-Pike and her son, Bradley participated in the Public Forum portion of the meeting via Microsoft TEAMS on the topic of E-Sports in Lethbridge School Division. The Pikes sought clarification and direction with ways for students to carry on with virtual activity such as E-Sports. It was mentioned innovation is encouraged for students but at the same time, the Division is putting roadblocks in the way to prevent that in this case. Allison Purcell-Pike added no description has been provided from the Division in terms of why an activity such as E-Sports could not carry forward.

## **8. Performance Infrastructure Program**

On July 20, 2020 by way of Special Meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the awarding of RFP for Energy and Infrastructure Improvement Projects to Johnson Controls.

Lethbridge School Division Facility Services has been working with Johnson Controls on Technical energy audits to determine scope of the project. Johnson Controls has tendered the project and has provided a financial summary scenario for consideration.

The initial business case of a comprehensive energy replacement project that will impact 9 schools is approximately \$4.1 million. These projects would be funded through Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) funds that have been deferred for this project.

Further Shovel Ready projects have been provided that could be funded by 2021-2022 Capital Maintenance and Renewal (CMR) funding from the Province once the available funding has been announced. These projects are estimated to be around \$3.6 million.

It is estimated that the school division would save more than \$200,000 annually on utility costs, have created 51 jobs, and a local economic impact of \$12.4 million when the full project is completed.

Facility Services is still assessing each project and some projects may be interchanged within the listings.

Administration is seeking high level Board approval to engage in a contract with Johnson Controls for the Comprehensive Project of approximately \$4.1 million to be funded by IMR and with approval to amend the contract for approximately \$3.6 million should adequate CMR funding be approved.

It was recommended the Board approves that administration may enter into a contract with Johnson Controls LLP for the Performance Infrastructure Program as presented under the condition that these projects are funded through available IMR and CMR funding available.

Instead, the Board deferred a decision on the motion, and set a Special Meeting for Friday, March 26 at 11 a.m. to discuss the matter further. The agenda for the Special Meeting can be found here: [AGENDA](#).

## **9. Pandemic Plan**

The Board reviewed the data and trends of the COVID-19 impact in Lethbridge School Division schools. Active Lethbridge cases went from 175 in February to 502 in March. At a Division level, there are 144 staff and over 1,600 students in quarantine.

The Board extended its appreciation to the staff who continue to deliver quality learning both in school and at home. The Board also recognized the challenges to families when their children are quarantined and added the Division is incredibly thankful that we can work together to support children in Lethbridge. The Board will continue to look at information on an ongoing manner and will be reviewing trends again after Easter break. The Pandemic Plan is now available on the Division website.

## **10. Electricity RFP**

Lethbridge School Division currently has an electricity supply agreement priced at \$56.63/MWH with Enmax energy with a term to expire June 2022.

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### 10. Electricity RFP

Lethbridge School Division engaged the services of Energy Associates International last year to support management of the Division's energy portfolio. Part of this process is monitoring future pricing on electricity and natural gas.

Based upon the fast tracking of Coal-to-Gas conversions of electricity generation plants in Alberta, there has been an upward trend in the forward pricing of electricity. As such an Electricity Supply RFP was issued to develop a prequalification pool of suppliers. Four respondents met the criteria for prequalification and were asked to provide final indicative pricing. These four suppliers were Enmax Energy, TransAlta, Capital Power and Direct Energy.

Prequalification included indicative pricing, administration fees, and volume thresholds. The Board of Trustees were provided information relative to the initial prequalification proposals on March 5th at their annual planning meeting. All four respondents were asked to provide final price bids for each year going forward from July 2022 to December 2026.

Firm price bids were received as of 10 am on March 10th and a contract was signed with the lowest price respondent Capital Power at a five-year rate of \$55.45 /MWh and administration fee of \$.10 /MWh. A contract was required to be signed by 12 noon after receiving final price bids.

This rate is slightly lower (\$1.18 per MWh) than current rate, which our consultants have indicated is very favourable given market indicators. This long-term pricing effective for July 2022 provides budget certainty given projections of increasing costs in the Electricity Supply market.

The Board approved the Electricity Supply contract signed with Capital Power at \$55.45/MWh from July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2026.

### 11. Public Forum Response

Board Chair Christine Light provided a written response to a Feb. 23 Public Forum submission from Allison Purcell-Pike. The response can be found on Page 76 of the [AGENDA](#).

### 12. 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 78 of the [AGENDA](#).

### 13. 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 93 of the [AGENDA](#).

### 14. 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:

#### **Gilbert Paterson Middle School:**

At GPMS, we are extremely proud of our students and staff for their resiliency, dedication, and collaboration through this most unusual year. Here are a few highlights of the past months.

- Our GPMS Holiday Christmas Tree Project was a great success as we shared 25 Christmas trees with a variety of local charities, organizations, and supporters of GPMS. Not only were we able to spread some Christmas cheer through the trees themselves, but our call for donations brought in funds that will go back into the community for organizations to help the less fortunate at Christmas. After the purchase of trees and supplies, we were able to donate almost \$200 each to Woods Homes and Harbour House.

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### 14. Acknowledgements of Excellence

#### Showcasing Gilbert Paterson Middle School:

- Congratulations to Nora Laird of 71 who was one of three winners in the Lethbridge Public Library Teen Writing Competition in February for her piece entitled, "2020 and Me".
- The GPMS Band Program under the direction of Karly Lewis has continued to engage students during COVID with 60-80 students joining lessons weekly on-line after school. They have continued this tradition of excellence participating in the "Song for Hope Movie", raising funds for Cancer research, have learned multiple online music platforms to further their studies on their instrument, have started composing music, have create visual art with their sound and joined forces with the University of Lethbridge Music Department in a join online clinic platform.
- Our GPMS virtual choir under the direction of Tyler Leavitt is a unique adventure and experience.

Our singers meet twice per week in an online setting for rehearsal outside of their regular school hours and have committed to the goals of musicianship and performance. We are currently working on our spring "concert" repertoire. The virtual choir sound is only really a simulation of a real choir.

It's achieved by asking choir members to record themselves singing along to a backing track, which is played through headphones.

Once all the video tracks are submitted for each of the songs that will be performed, the conductor then will put all of the voices and videos together through our Adobe Premiere software into a cohesive group making audio and video adjustments along the way. The result is a beautiful rendition of a choir piece that may not otherwise happen in a group of singers who do not share a cohort. We look forward to the day that we are allowed to sing together in person and share our love for music and blend our voices in unity and song.

- Pink Shirt Week in February featured a variety of activities for classes from kindness to gratitude throughout the week. We also sold almost 200 Gilbert Paterson "Be Kind Always" masks to our student body to celebrate Pink Shirt Day.
- Each Friday a different grade level has been hosting Teams announcements for our school. Different activities from jokes to Kahoot contests to birthdays are presented by the students. In February, we celebrated Black History month with a weekly feature on our Teams announcements of a prominent Black Canadian such as Willie O'Ree, John Ware and Viola Desmond who have made a difference.

Different spirit days in the new year such as Beach Day, Kindness Day, Decade Day, and others help to bring energy and smiles to our week.

- With the COVID protocols, we have looked at other ways to bring guest speakers into our school through Zoom and Teams. Some of these include the Natural Leaders Science Program, mental health professionals, our Division Indigenous Education lead teachers, and the grade 6 Ordinary Heroes program.
- Our Physical Education department has looked at ways to add different protocol appropriate games and activities to their program. Using proper sanitization and cleaning protocols, they have utilized new low impact games such a cross net, frisbee-knock, cornhole bean bag toss, bocce and ping pong to name a few. In the spring they will be working on some Indigenous games with our Division Indigenous lead teacher, Jenna Jewison.
- Our Wellness Team has utilized our Nutrition Grant during these challenging times to assist up to 30 families regularly with food and support. We are also grateful to our community partners such as the Lethbridge Food bank for providing lunches and University Drive Alliance Church for providing fresh meat to our families.
- Our cohort model has asked different things from different teachers to accommodate our programming and scheduling needs. We are proud and grateful for their flexibility and efforts in taking on new subject areas and challenges.
- Our School Council Zoom meetings have consistently brought in around 20 participants. We are grateful for this parent support and involvement in our school.

#### Showcasing Galbraith Elementary School:

We are excited to have our new technology purchases slowly rolling in, some of which are school purchased, and some purchased by the division. We have two brand new iPad carts and a new laptop cart coming in (replacing the old laptops). We also have had some community support with our technology, as Logic Lumber and Chrome Salon have donated funds towards our upcoming Virtual Reality field trip kit. We will be the first school in the division to pilot this project with the support of our community and our school division – thank you for the support!

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### **14. Acknowledgements of Excellence**

#### **Showcasing Galbraith Elementary School:**

Our community support continues to grow! We have been able to partner with Panago Pizza North once again to offer Galbraith families a discount pizza night in March. Chrome Salon also donated a free makeover event for a student in our school – the student was able to get the full hair treatment and get a fabulous new look thanks to the staff at Chrome.

We continue to work towards common language and understanding around our 3-year plan thinking frameworks (see image). Our staff have been digging deeper with students, both in person and online, through visible thinking routines and “making thinking visible.”

Our school APORI results this past year were a great success for us, as we saw many improvements across the measure categories:

- Safe and caring school overall increase of 5% (to 91.6%)
- Opportunities within the broad Program of studies (fine arts, health) overall increase of 6% (to 96.2%)
- Quality of education overall increase of 4% (to 96.8%)
- Timely access to programs for at-risk students overall increase of 8% (to 90.4%)
- Work preparation overall increase of 22.9% (to 94.4%)
- Students modelling characteristics of active citizenship increase of 12.1% (to 88.3%)
- Students demonstrate the KSAs for life-long learning increase of 19.2% (to 71.9%)

Our teacher counsellor, Stephanie Martin, has done an amazing job with our Weekly Wellness presentations to all students. Each class spends at least 30 minutes per week with Miss Steph on Microsoft Teams to hear a weekly wellness presentation on a topic or theme. This year our school has been working hard at “radical acceptance”, which is accepting that some things we don’t have control over, but we accept that things change and that we can handle change together.

We ran our PowerCard fundraiser in the fall (October), and had a highly successful fundraising event.

We were able to raise over \$12,000 with the help of our students and school community. We had lots of fun playing Game Show games and students were able to win individual prizes as well – from class movie parties, free time in the gym, Walmart gift cards, Amazon gift cards, scooters, sports equipment, a tablet, Nintendo Switch and even the change to Silly String and Slime the staff!!

We are continuing to find new ways to increase participation in our monthly school council meetings.

Online Scientists in School has been a huge success for our students! Continuing school structures and practices – students continue to respond well to the things we set in place in September. Thank you!

#### **Showcasing Park Meadows Elementary School:**

Danceathon - \$15,000: Together with our School Council, students, staff and community members raised over \$15,000 in our Danceathon in October of 2020. The money was raised over a three-week period leading up to a one day event of the danceathon. Due to the COVID-19 world pandemic, we had to alter the way we typically do our yearly danceathon but that sure didn’t stop students and staff and parents getting involved to make this year’s danceathon one of the best fundraisers we’ve had in many years at Park Meadows school. We are pleased to announce that we used the money towards student laptops.

Pies in face: In conjunction with our schools Danceathon fundraiser, students were able to throw a pie in the face of a staff member of their choosing. Because our fundraiser was one of the best in many years there were many, many pies thrown. A big thank you goes to all our parents and our community members for working so hard and diligent during our fundraiser this past year.

Community Foundations of Lethbridge Grant: Back in the fall of 2020 our school was awarded a \$15,000 grant to be used towards technology in our elementary school. We are very thankful to the Community Foundations of Lethbridge and we wish to acknowledge them and all the hard work that they do in our community.

Food Bank: The Park Meadows School community worked collaboratively to donate food for the food bank back in December 2020. We are so proud of our students and staff and community efforts surrounding this endeavour. Thank you for looking out for those requiring the services of the food bank!

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#### **14. Acknowledgements of Excellence**

##### **Showcasing Park Meadows Elementary School:**

Christmas letters to Seniors: This past Christmas season, many of our students wrote letters to local citizens in our community. We teamed up with the Norbridge Seniors Association and wrote Christmas cards and encouragement notes to seniors in our neighbourhood. Some students even received responses back from these valued members of our community.

600 maple leaves: During the month of February, students and staff created over 600 maple leaves to commemorate "Read Canadian" month. Our Learning Commons Facilitator, staff, and students helped to acknowledge many Canadian authors and illustrators. Students decorated maple leaves and we added them to a paper tree housed in a one of our showcase bulletin boards.

Boxitech Project Fair in our Learning Commons: To promote creative thinking and problem solving, we challenged our students to create whatever they could out of a cardboard box. Using the philosophy of MakerSpace and Creative Thinking as well as the ideas gleaned from Kim Smith's Boxitech (Copyright 2019) many students created incredible boxes representing whatever came to their minds. From the fur trade to silhouette cutouts to futuristic cars our students used their minds to think creatively, develop strategies to problem solve, and present their cars to many other students. We have displayed these creative boxes in our Learning Commons.

Professional Learning of Staff: Over the course of the 2020- 2021 school year Park Meadows School has focused on better understanding trauma informed practices as they relate to education and serving the needs of all within a school. We have been collaborating & learning together as a staff and working through the book *Fostering Resilient Learners: Strategies for Creating a Trauma-Sensitive Classroom* by Kristin Souers and Pete Hall.

#### **15. Board Reports**

Reports were delivered for Division School Council, the Facilities Committee, the Poverty Intervention Committee, ATA Local Council, the Policy Advisory Committee and for the ASBA General Meeting. The reports begin on Page 105 of the [AGENDA](#).

#### **16. Correspondence Sent - Mayor Chris Spearman**

Lethbridge School Division sent a letter to Lethbridge Mayor Chris Spearman to express appreciation to the mayor and city council for the support the city provides in assisting with the development of school sites and enhanced gym space for community use.

#### **17. Correspondence Sent - Honourable Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education**

Lethbridge School Division sent a letter to the minister to express appreciation for the government's recognition of the serious need for the new elementary school in west Lethbridge.



## **Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

**Meeting highlights from March 23 - Next meeting April 27**