
Lethbridge School Division
DIVISION SCHOOL COUNCIL

April 12, 2021 **6:00 pm - Celebration of Learning**
6:30 pm - Microsoft Teams



AGENDA

- 6:30 1. Welcome and Introductions.
- 6:35 2. Additions to the Agenda
- 3. Approval of the Agenda
- 6:40 4. Approval of the Minutes from March 1, 2021
- 5. Business Arising from the Minutes
- 6:45 6. Trustee Report
- 6:50 7. Alberta School Councils Association – Allison Purcell-Pike
- 6:55 8. Superintendent’s Report – Cheryl Gilmore
- 7:00 9. Committee Reports
 - Poverty Intervention – March 3
 - Policy Advisory – March 10
- 7:30 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.
- 7:35 11. Adjournment

Division School Council 2020-2021 Meeting Dates

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

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| 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 March 1, 2021

1. **Welcome and Introductions** - 6:34pm
2. **Additions to the Agenda**
3. **Approval of Agenda** – accepted as presented
4. **Approval of the Minutes** – accepted as presented
5. **Business Arising from the Minutes**
6. **Agenda items from parents**
 - 6.1. Use of lockers
 - 6.1.1. Parents need lockers for their children as students are refusing to take coats to school so they don't have to lug it around the school. Backpacks are too heavy, and students need some place to store books, at least for those that want it. Theft is also a problem.
 - 6.1.2. Positive impacts of no lockers, according to schools, no congregating in hallway (COVID pro), less bullying around lockers; elementary and middle school students stay in same room all day.
 - 6.1.3. Superintendent stated this is a school decision (the principals discuss pros and cons together and make decisions on what they think makes the most sense for all concerned) so advocate for it there.
 - 6.2 Final exam weightings / Diploma Exams
 - 6.2.1 Parents have voiced that the weighting of final exams is too high and unfair and should be revisited.
 - 6.2.2 Divisions on both sides of us decided not to weigh the final exams at 30%, parents feel our children are disadvantaged by still deciding to weigh the final exams at 30%
 - 6.2.3 Data will be reviewed as a follow up to see the relationship between school and exam marks.
 - 6.2.4 One parent said that Diplomas are not important for students that want to go out of province for schooling
 - 6.2.5 If final exams are weighted less, it means that all other exams throughout the year are weighted higher
 - 6.3 Avenues for Parental Voice and Chain of Communication
 - 6.3.1 Continuum depends on the type of concern, if it is class level you would speak to the school teachers and/or administration or school Council
 - 6.3.2 Every School Council has an attached Trustee that you can reach out to
 - 6.3.3 If it needs to go to the Division, what the concern is would depend on whom and what area it would go to within the Division
 - 6.4 Proposed needle distribution and harm reduction site
 - 6.4.1 Division and the community voiced how it would not be a good location so the application to have the site there was withdrawn and it will no longer be located there
 - 6.5 Extracurricular activities
 - 6.5.1 Parents are voicing that they are not happy we are not allowing our students to participate in them even though other Divisions are

6.5.2 Possible virtual extracurricular activities

6.5.3 Some students are exhausted with virtual events, so could we do sports teams within a class as they would still be in their cohort

6.5.4 Other Divisions are allowing private bookings of their gyms, and an evening PE class with a limited number of students

6.5.5 Able to do sports as an option but this is a challenge due to skill levels and desire to play a specific sport

7. Trustee Report

7.1 Each month the Board showcases a school, this month it was Fairbairn and Churchill, have a clothing swap taking place and some other neat things

7.2 Proposal for better funding for PUF

7.3 The Public forum portion of the Board Meeting will be on TEAMS starting the March Board meeting

7.4 School boundary proposal took into account parents input; some other Divisions just state where they will be and that's it

8. Alberta School Councils Association Report

8.1 You can still attend the ASCA Conference and AGM, Division supports one representative from one each School Council to attend (April 23, 24, & 25)

8.2 Review the Resolutions and see if someone wants to attend or if you want to send your vote by Proxy

8.3 Talk to school Administrator for yearly funding provided to each school by the School Division

9. Superintendent's Report

10.1 COVID numbers are currently trending up in Lethbridge so stages of fewer restrictions need to look at local context

10.2 Organizational status and learning factors to consider are used as a guideline

10.3 Common themes from town hall

10.3.1 Positives from COVID – on-line learning, school structures (staggered entry, health and cleanliness, schedules, and cohorts), enhanced community and wellness (for more detail, see School Division website)

10.4 School Locator is on the Division website, currently under transportation but will be moved to a more obvious location

10.5 Out of bounds forms are being rolled out and collected, not first come first serve

10. Roundtable Reports

11.1 Probe to touch base with Park Meadows and Tisha Elford as they have done a lot of dance-a-thons

11. Adjournment – 8:22pm

12. Next meeting – Monday April 12 as Monday April 5 is Easter



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TRUSTEE report to school councils:

March 23, 2021

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](#).

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

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.

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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.

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 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 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](#).

To view the livestream of the March 23 meeting, click here: [LIVESTREAM](#)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, April 17, 3:30 p.m.

(public forum begins at 5 p.m. via TEAMS)

Meeting livestreamed on YouTube



Division School Council School Highlights

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| School: | General Stewart Elementary |
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School Highlights:

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| November-March: Halloween Parade, Remembrance Day Assembly, Christmas concert presentations all done through Teams with each individual class cohort. |
| Spirit Week – December. Lots of students and staff participated dressing up in various themed outfits/costumes. Made the week before break fun for everyone. |
| Scholastic Book Fair – Online this year, wasn't as big a success as previous years |
| K-3 100 th Day – Classrooms did their own activities to celebrate this day. Winter walks to Henderson continued, a great way for the students to get exercise and fresh air out in the community. Nice for some parents, grandparents to also join in on the walks wearing their masks. |

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?)*

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

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

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

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Division School Council School Highlights

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| School: | Wilson Middle School |
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School Highlights:

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| Live Announcements – Wednesday’s – school spirit days are live – we just finished a Masked Singer guessing game where the students had to guess who was the masked singer – the classes who guessed right received prizes – It is called Wilson Way Trivia each class is in the assembly via TEAMS. They type their answer in the chat box and the top 3 classes win. |
| Live Assemblies – school wide assemblies via TEAMS – We have had a: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• school spirit assembly• numeracy assembly• soon will have a literacy assembly |
| We had 42 students returning to in person learning and we had 8 new registrations from other provinces, and we have 8 students moving to online. |
| Mrs. Elliott continues to organize our amazing yearbook for our school community. Thank you to Sheldon Day Chief, Mr. Hirsche, Mr. Turnbull for taking on the Indigenous Drumming project where students in Grade 7 are making drums and drums sticks. Once they are completed, they will be learning Blackfoot language by using the drums. Student Led Challenges based around school Mission and Vision. Students at each grade level make challenges that their grade level takes part in. For example: Totally Awesome 80’s Day hosted by Grade 6C. Continue School Wide activities within our Cohorts. Example School Wide Olympics in April/ May/June |

Participation in Decision-Making and/or Advocacy

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| WMS School Council is in the process of deciding where to designate their Casino funds. This should be happening in March 2021. School Council is supporting the school in the following purchases from the Casino fund raiser: Drama – sound board and lighting - \$4000 PE – upgrade fitness centre - \$5000 Homerooms - purchase equipment for each classroom. Noon hour -mental breaks during the day. \$3000 Golf simulator’s – options class \$2000 Band – Hand bells and music purchase \$4000 Literacy and Numeracy - \$5000 – classroom libraries book purchase and whiteboards for math classes. Total\$23,000 |
| WMS School Council is a huge supporter of our staff. They have been involved in the organization of feeding our staff for Parent Teacher Interviews and are just planning the year end staff |

acknowledgement luncheon. WMS School council also agreed to support some recent PL for our staff (“Stay Lit”). Stay Lit was a one-day conference with Jody Carrington – George Couros and many more. We had 10 staff take part in this awesome PL opportunity and we really appreciate the support of our WMS School Council.

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

Casino Night Success – Thanks to our WMS School Council we were able to sneak in a Casino fundraiser and raise just over \$24,000 for WMS school community. We will be working with the School Council to determine where we can use this fund to benefit student engagement and their learning.

Cupper’s coffee fundraiser to begin March 24-April 16, 2021. We are fundraising for new play structures for more activity spaces for students.

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

WMS School Council Parents are talking about innovative ways to involve our students in activity and movement. There are several great ideas that our PE team will be taking to staff at our next Staff meeting.

Best Practices

We had 8 teaching staff partake in the Stay Lit! Braver Together one day conference with Jody Carrington, George Couros and many more. Relationships – Relationships – Relationships. So important to make everyone feel they a part of the class or team this year in particular.