



Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting highlights from November 24 - Next meeting December 15

1. Health Services for Students

At the November 1, 2021 Regular Board Meeting, trustees requested that information be brought to the next Regular Board Meeting regarding the nature of health services that are accessible to students. Associate Superintendent Instructional Services, Morag Asquith, provided the Board with information gathered regarding health services. The Board received the report as information.

2. 2020-21 Audited Financial Statement

School jurisdictions are required to submit an audited financial report to Alberta Education. Will Zobell, Partner and Avice DeKelter, Manager from BDO Canada LLP, attended the meeting to speak to the audited financial statements. The Board approved the Audited Financial Statements for the 2020/2021 fiscal year as presented. The report can be found, starting on Page 15 of the [AGENDA](#).

3. 2021-22 Budget Update

Included in the agenda was a Budget update for the 2021/2022 school year based, on September 30th enrolment numbers. Director of Finance, Mark DeBoer, attended the meeting to review the update and to respond to any questions Trustees had.

The Board approved the Budget Update for the 2021/2022 fiscal year as presented.

To view the budget update, please scroll to Page 93 of the [AGENDA](#).

4. Division Assurance Results Report

Alberta Education requires that each school jurisdiction develop an Assurance Results Report to be reviewed, approved, posted on the jurisdiction website, and submitted to Alberta Education by November 30th of each year. The report captures the measures identified in each of the Board priority areas outlined in the Board 2020/2023 Education Plan and complies with Assurance Domain requirements for provincial reporting. The results in the report contain information from the provincial 2020/2021 Assurance Report.

The division looks at results to inform planning for the next school year. Co-ordinator of Learning and International Education, Trish Syme, has been instrumental in co-ordinating the production of the Assurance Results Report document. The Education Centre leadership team worked collaboratively to provide input into the report.

The Assurance Results Report is available on the website here: [ASSURANCE](#)

The Board approved the 2020/2021 Assurance Results Report as presented.

5. 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.

Policy 402.8.2 Medical Examinations - Amendment

Policy 403.2 Employee Resignations - Amendment

6. Voluntary Retirement – Alberta Teachers’ Retirement Fund Members and Local Authorities Pension Plan Members

The Board moved to extend the Voluntary Retirement opportunity to employees who qualify to collect a pension and are members of the Alberta Teachers’ Retirement Fund or Local Authorities Pension Plan (CUPE 290, CUPE 2843 and non-union employees). Employees intending to access this opportunity will be required to notify the Division in writing, per the process outlined by the Division by December 17, 2021 and submit a letter of retirement effective January 31, 2022. These employees will be offered a temporary contract effective February 1, 2022 – June 29, 2022 (or the end date as per the appropriate employee calendar).

7. Committee Terms of Reference - Superintendent Evaluation Committee

Board Chair Allison Purcell reviewed the Terms of Reference (attached to the agenda) and Policy 301.3 Evaluation Process for the Superintendent. It was noted that this is the scheduled year in the cycle outlined in policy for summative evaluation of the superintendent. The statement in Policy 301.3 referencing an Evaluation Committee comprised of the Board Chair and two Trustees was discussed. The Board passed a motion to send Policy 301.3 to the Policy Advisory Committee to discuss whether the process should be guided by a committee of the Board (3 trustees) or the entire Board. The motion was passed by a 5-2 vote. The Board also approved the updated Committee Terms of Reference.

8. Committee Terms of Reference - Terms of Reference and Numbers of Appointed Trustees

Trustee Craig Whitehead requested a conversation regarding the numbers of Trustees on Committees. The number of appointed trustees is delineated in each committee Terms of Reference.

The Board discussed the Terms of Reference as requested by Trustee Craig Whitehead, and passed a motion to request the Division provide information on the rationale for the composition of the committees, and bring that back to the Committee of the Whole on Dec. 7, 2021.

9. Advocacy - Bill 70 Inclusion of School Jurisdictions

Included in the agenda package under “correspondence received,” was a letter that the Board of Chinook’s Edge School Division sent to The Honourable Kaycee Madu, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General. The letter requests that all school divisions and schools across Alberta be added to Bill 70 COVID-19 RELATED MEASURES ACT (attached). The Bill states that the ACT could apply to anyone else identified through future regulation as needed.

The Board agreed to send correspondence to Madu requesting that a regulation be put into force that applies Bill 70 COVID-19 RELATED MEASURES ACT to all school divisions and school across Alberta.

10. Transportation

Over the course of this fall, a number of community members have voiced concern regarding bussing, including late arrivals to school and safety concerns. Trustees developed an understanding of what Southland Transportation and the Division is are doing to contribute to a solution. It was also recommended that an understanding be developed as to what to expect looking forward.

11. Associate Superintendent Reports

Christine Lee, Associate Superintendent, Business and Operations; 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 163 of the [AGENDA](#).

12. Board Priorities Report

The Division Office Leadership Team is committed to keeping the Board informed regarding progress in Board priority areas. The Board Priorities Report is an element of monthly assurance to the trustees and public regarding the work that is being done to accomplish the Outcomes delineated in the Board 2021/2022 Assurance Plan.

The Board received the report as information. To read the report, please see Page 178 of the [AGENDA](#).

13. COVID Update

Superintendent Cheryl Gilmore highlighted changes to COVID trends, the Re-Entry Plan, Restriction Exemption Program, and COVID notifications that may have occurred over the past month. The update is here: [UPDATE](#).

14. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

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:

Victoria Park Showcase:

Greetings Board Members! We hope that this message finds you enjoying your time orienting (or reorienting) to the Division and getting to know one another in your new roles. We appreciate your efforts to engage with our schools and are delighted to share with you some of what we would consider to be the greatest celebrations of the school year thus far...

Through our work at Victoria Park High School and Lethbridge Alternative Schools and Programs, we are currently supporting 313 students in achieving their preferred futures. Our days include the joys, successes, challenges and heartbreaks that come with supporting human beings in their growth and development. Along the way, we have much to celebrate and are very proud that our students and staff are engaging in:

- A place to belong and be a part of something larger than the individuals themselves
- An advisor system that offers a chance to connect with each student individually, offering intensive supports in the academic, physical, emotional, social, and cultural domains
- An educational model that offers individual choice, tailored to meet student needs and designed for scaffolding unique pathways to success
- Therapeutic supports within comprehensive academic programming
- Option classes that are designed to meet the needs and interests of diverse learners in a variety of contexts
- The introduction of some NEW and purposefully created experiential options in an effort to expand student opportunities and life exposure
 - o Volunteerism course (a course of participatory activities where students earn credits, gain skills, build resumes, and give back to their community)
 - o Canoe Camping course (a real-life outdoor adventure course that teaches the basics of camping and water way navigation – for students who have not had exposure to either)
 - o Nature Quest course (a course that involves land-based, Blackfoot ways of knowing, as well as certified instruction in archery)
 - o Nutrition and Workout Basics course (a course designed to help students learn about developing their own optimal health and well-being from a scientific and experiential perspective)
 - o Active Lifestyles – a new take on physical education with a twist of “get to know your local amenities” type of delivery
- Design of learning programs offered in-person and via Distributed Learning (DL), providing formats for curriculum delivery that are carefully matched to the student context
- A Mindfulness Partnership with the University of Lethbridge – practicing self regulation and mindfulness, specifically designed for students in Alternate School environments and incorporating a cancer risk-prevention model
- The You and Your Child Pre-Natal and Parenting program, where our students can learn healthy child and self-care practices, intentionally changing the trajectory of the generations to come
- Knowledge and Employment – program that focuses on numeracy and literacy and builds skills and positive attitudes toward employment in unique, supported, and personalized work placements
- The Stepping Away program which allows students a chance to develop skills in the trades, while growing in their resiliency, and nurturing of their own mental health and well-being
- Supported transitions to and from youth treatment programs in our local community
- Daily hot lunches, funded through grant applications and prepared by students in an effort to meet the needs and build the skills within our own school population
- A caring, compassionate, soft place to land, where students are able discover and nurture their own strengths and abilities, connecting to purpose and passion in their education

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14. Acknowledgements of Excellence/Highlights

Victoria Park Showcase:

The realities of supporting people in their growth and development give us cause for constant joy, laughter, worry, and anticipation. Through it all, we make a concerted effort to practice recognition of the determination that it takes to succeed, and to celebrate the forward movement that we see in our students' lives. Thank you for your ongoing support of our programs.

Gilbert Paterson Middle School Showcase:

- Welcome to many new and diverse families to GPMS this fall – we have a Newcomers Club that is starting this week at noon to help connect our new students to our school.
- We are excited that our Gilbert Paterson GSA has been bringing out upwards of 30 students for their weekly meetings!
- Congratulations to our Tiger Cross Country Teams as they captured 4 of 6 City titles this fall and the 1J South Zone team title. Our Rep volleyball teams just capped off a successful season with the Boys capturing the LSAA playoff title and the Girls finishing first in league play before bowing out in the semifinals. Thanks to all our club, developmental and rep coaches for all their time and dedication.
- GPMS Fine Arts is back in full swing this fall with preparations for our new year production of Mary Poppins Jr. well underway. We were excited to have our choir and band programs contribute once again to our 2021 Virtual Remembrance Day assembly last week. These students are also busy preparing for their December Winter concerts.
- Leadership students at grades 6, 7 and 8 have been busy over the past month leading the charge in a variety of school activities including Terry Fox Toonie Challenge, Feed the Bug, Rock your Mocs and other fun theme days like Twin Day, Wacky Hair Day and Halloween to name a few.
- Our School Wellness Team has been delivering universal programming to our classrooms on a variety of topics from general wellness, friendship and anxiety. The Team is busy supporting Paterson families this season through our Angel Tree participation and a seasonal food drive.
- Our School Numeracy committee is using the resources of Peter Liljedahl to create strategies for building Thinking Classrooms in mathematics.
- The GPMS Pink Shirt Day T-shirt design contest is open to all students as we search for the design for our 2022 school t-shirt. The contest closes Dec. 10.

General Stewart School Showcase:

General Stewart has had an exciting, engaging start to our school year. We are still a very small school (just over 100 students) which allows us to develop a strong sense of connection with all of our families. We are very happy to have students in our building and we continue to be diligent in our implementation of our sanitizing and hygiene protocols.

We have always looked for ways to engage our school community and even though we have not been able to hold our extracurricular or Meal and Activity evenings, we have been able to livestream special assemblies (Halloween Parade, Remembrance Day Assembly, etc.) and have parents join us (masked and distanced) for our school walks to Henderson Lake. We raised over \$1,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation! We also used money from a Wal-Mart grant to purchase a large, inflatable outdoor projector screen so that we will be able to host outdoor events when restrictions are relaxed.

Our school is focused on developing a growth mindset and embracing Thinking Classrooms concepts. Our school slogan for the year is “Fail Fast, Fail Often, and Fail Forward” and we encourage students to share mistakes that they have made and what they have learned from them. We have implemented “Thinking Thursdays” and thinking routines to prime our students for deep thinking activities in all of our classrooms.

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14. Acknowledgements of Excellence/Highlights

General Stewart School Showcase:

Our staff have been participating in a book study of Peter Liljedahl's Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics to model our own growth mindset.

We start each morning off with announcements over Teams which begin with a Blackfoot language gratitude statement as well as our Land Acknowledgement and O Canada. We also incorporate special student acknowledgements as well as Celebrations and Jokes of the Day. We end off with "Health Hustles" and focus breathing to get our bodies and minds ready to learn. Each day, students from our classrooms share the Celebration and Jokes of the Day and on Fridays, our grade 5 students run the whole show for our announcements.

We are also working on improving the visibility of Indigenous Teachings and Ways of Knowing and we have incorporated the Seven Grandfather Teachings as part of our character education.

On the school council front, we have a new chairperson and have re-started our hot lunch program.

Exciting times at General Stewart and we are looking forward to even more of them throughout the year.

15. Town Hall Meeting

The Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 1, 2022. Victoria Park is booked, but planning is moving forward with the assumption that the Town Hall will need to be structured using a virtual platform. Superintendent Cheryl Gilmore reviewed the virtual Town Hall platform that was used in February 2021 for trustee consideration. A similar platform can be structured for the upcoming February 2022 Town Hall. An example of the synthesis of stakeholder feedback from February 2021 was attached.

As well, the Board will need to consider the topic/question for the Town Hall. Since its inception, there has been two different levels of scope for feedback/perspectives gathered from community/parents/students. One approach has been to ask for feedback on a narrow or more defined topic of interest to the Board. The other approach has been to ask for feedback on broader, more open-ended questions. At this level, the feedback is synthesized into themes for the Board to consider in the development of their Assurance Plan.

The topics that have been covered starting in 2008 to date is attached for information.

The Board advised the Superintendent on the direction they would like to take with the platform for the Town Hall, scheduled for February 1, 2022, and decided on a virtual format.

Board members were also asked to consider and bring a topic or specific question to the December Board meeting for the Board as a whole to consider.

16. Annual Board Planning Retreat

Traditionally, the Board and Executive Council schedule an annual strategic planning retreat following the February Town Hall meeting to review the feedback from the meeting, to set priorities for the upcoming year, review Budget Belief Statements, and take the opportunity to more fully discuss issues. Currently the Board Retreat is scheduled for March 3-4, 2022.

The Board discussed and decided on the location of the Board Retreat and provided guidance regarding desired outcomes of the retreat and process.

17. Board Reports

Reports were delivered for the ASBA Zone 6 Meeting, Division School Council, Policy Advisory Committee, ASBA Fall General Meeting and the Audit Committee. The reports begin on Page 204 of the [AGENDA](#).

18. Correspondence Sent

A letter has been drafted by the Board of Trustees in regards to medical and mental health supports for school aged children in Lethbridge. The letter put a focus on the shortage of doctors in Lethbridge, which has resulted in individuals and families not having access to services for physical and/or mental health.

19. Correspondence Received

A letter was received from the Chinook's Edge School Division on Bill 70, the COVID-19 Related Measures Act, which received Royal Assent and took effect retroactively on March 1, 2020.

Regular meeting video:

[**LIVESTREAM PART 1**](#)

[**LIVESTREAM PART 2**](#)



Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting highlights from Nov. 24 - Next meeting Dec. 14