



Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting highlights from December 14 - Next meeting January 25

1. Numeracy Resource

Numeracy Lead Teacher, Michaela Demers, Senator Joyce Fairbairn Middle School vice-principal, Jenn Giles (former Numeracy Lead Teacher), and Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Karen Rancier, shared information about Numeracy in Lethbridge School Division.

The presentation included a video, which can be found here: [NUMERACY VIDEO](#).

The Board received the report as information.

2. Authorization of Locally Developed Courses

Alberta Education requires that all locally developed senior high courses be authorized for use by the Board of Trustees.

Due to International Baccalaureate extending their course outlines (and corresponding IB assessments), Alberta Education has aligned the end dates of (IB) locally developed courses by extending the current end dates.

With the changes from International Baccalaureate anticipated, the extension will allow Grade 11 courses to August 2024 and Grade 12 courses until August 2025. (This permits Grade 11 students to start the first year of two-year study in preparation for the new assessments.)

As the Board Motion/Resolution originally approving these courses will have the "old" end date, the continuation of these courses in Lethbridge School Division will require Board approval for these additional years.

The Board of Trustees approved the continued use of LDC3232 Biology (IB)35-3 for 3 credits from The Edmonton School Division from August 31, 2022 to August 31, 2024 to provide continuance of program offerings to students.

The Board of Trustees approved the continued use of LDC2241 Chemistry (IB) 25-3 for 3 credits from August 31, 2022 to August 31, 2023 to provide continuance of program offerings to students.

The Board of Trustees approved the continued use of LDC2241 Chemistry (IB) 25-5 for 5 credits from August 31, 2022 to August 31, 2023 to provide continuance of program offerings to students.

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.

204.12 Board Meeting Minutes -Amended

401.4 Employee Absences Requiring Substitutes - Amended

405.5 Practicum Student - Amended

405.6 Employee Recognition and Appreciation - Amended

806.1 Enterprise Risk Management - Presented

The policies can be found on Page 20 of the [AGENDA](#).

4. School Year Calendar for 2022-2023

The DRAFT 2022-2023 Calendar brought to the Board had been discussed and reviewed by school administrators and the Calendar Committee, which consisted of representatives from Division School Council, CUPE 2843, Human Resources Director, ATA, and Administrators' Committee.

The Board approved the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar.

The calendar can be found on the Division website here: [CALENDAR](#).

5. Multi-Faith Calendar

Trustee Kristina Larkin made a presentation in regards to a multi-faith calendar for the school division.

As our division moves to approve the 2022-2023 division calendar, we can embody our board priority of Inclusion by adopting a supplemental calendar: the Multi-Faith Calendar (Draft attached).

While we are a secular public institution, it must be recognized that likely most of our learners celebrate religious, spiritual, or cultural holidays with their families, and gain great value from that practice. Using a calendar that exclusively recognizes Canadian Statutory and Christian-based holidays, we force many students, their families, and our staff to pick between their school and their home, particularly when events like exams, project due dates, or parent teacher interviews coincide with holy days. In the absence of division demographic data on the topic, using Statistics Canada data, we can assume approximately 10% of students identify as Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Jewish or other traditions including Indigenous spiritual traditions. This issue could be impacting more than 1,100 students and staff. With the proposed adoption of a Multi-Faith Calendar, our school communities could see their full selves more fully welcomed and included, with limited labour or cost to the division.

In December 2020, Edmonton Public School Board was encouraged by a group of advocates to create a Multi-Faith calendar that represented the ever growing needs of their community. The resulting calendar would "recognize faith-based days of significance beyond Canadian statutory and Christian-based holidays and would reflect the increasing diversity across our Division."

(EPSB November 30, 2021 Agenda Information Report).

Administration in that division collaborated with schools, families, multicultural and multid denominational community agencies to create the attached draft calendar that includes dates from major religions, indicating holy days of significance (i.e. Eid, Diwali, Yom Kippur). While our community has a smaller population than Edmonton, our city and classrooms are increasingly diverse in their religious and cultural make up, and our students would equally benefit from the consideration derived from the use of a Multi-Faith Calendar as a planning tool across the division.

This effort is important as part of the growing movement for public institutions to act in solidarity with equity seeking communities, as well as in response to the 2019 Stats Canada Report that indicated that over half of Canadians reported religious or spiritual beliefs are somewhat or very important to how they lived their lives (Religion in Canada, Statistics Canada October 28 2021). Recognizing a multi-faith calendar is also in alignment with evidence based best practice from the Search Institute's 40 Development Assets, a widely used child & youth development framework implemented throughout Lethbridge. Per the Search Institute's Asset # 19 (The Developmental Asset Framework, Search Institute), children who engage in religious practice regularly see improved long-term outcomes.

The Multi-Faith Calendar can be used as a planning tool across the division, a document provided for school staff to reference when setting dates for significant events, to avoid dates of importance. Schools know their families and could use this tool as part of their compassionate response to improve inclusion and reduce oppression as they build school-based calendars that meet the needs of their students, families, and staff. We have heard from school communities that they have been making great efforts to be more inclusive and want to continue to develop the tools and knowledge to build schools that welcome everyone, this Multi-Faith Calendar can be part of that effort.

It was recommended that Lethbridge School Division use the attached Multi-Faith Calendar generated by Edmonton Public School Division as a model for developing a Multi-Faith Calendar for 2022-23 that will be:

- made available to students and families on the division website;
- provided to schools to reference when planning events such as exams, project deadlines or parent events to avoid holy days;
- accompanied with information on best practices for supporting students who are absent from school for religious reasons in accordance with the Education Act 7(4).
- updated annually.

6. Legion Request for Letter of Support

The Board received correspondence from Warrant Officer (retired) Glenn Miller representing a request from the Legion Banner Committee. As noted in the correspondence, Lethbridge Legion is undertaking a banner program to recognize veterans. The Legion will be seeking approval from the City of Lethbridge in early 2022. The Banner Committee is requesting a letter of support for the project addressed to the Mayor and Council.

The Board made a motion to approve a letter of support for the Lethbridge Legion Banner Project to the City of Lethbridge Mayor and Council.

7. Committee Terms of Reference

The Board of Trustees reviewed Committee Terms of Reference and made changes to the following:

- Board Audit Committee
- Division Wellness Committee
- Policy Advisory Committee
- Poverty Intervention Committee

The Board approved the Board Audit Committee Terms of Reference, as amended.

The Board approved the Division Wellness Committee Terms of Reference, as amended.

The Board approved the Policy Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, as amended.

The Board approved the Poverty Intervention Committee Terms of Reference, as amended.

8. Board Meeting Times

The Board approved a motion to develop an ad hoc committee of the Board to look at meeting times and report back to the Board.

Three Trustees (Craig Whitehead, Kristina Larkin, and Andrea Andreachuk) and a designate from Executive Council will be on the committee.

9. Public Forum

Alix Hirshe made a presentation regarding the Dec. 10 Chief Medical Officer of Health order, which classified spectators for school extra-curricular activities as in scope for the Alberta government's Restriction Exemption Program. Hirshe added it is difficult for families to choose which two spectators can attend their children's events. She added it seems reasonable for the Division to adapt its REP to have spectators use a QR code to enter events in greater numbers. Hirshe said school facilities are designed to accommodate large crowds and each student should be allowed to experience a normal school experience. She added an entire household and extended family should be allowed to attend events to support all family members.

David Lowry asked for a revision of Lethbridge School Division's REP in terms of spectators at extra-curricular events and performances. He added now that spectators for school events are recognized as in scope, the Division needs to make a change to follow the guidance laid out by the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Government of Alberta. Lowry said the one-third capacity restriction should no longer be applicable. He requested the Division fully allow the REP to be implemented, remove capacity restrictions and allow for more spectators to attend, as long as they are compliant with the program.

The Public Forum portion of the meeting begins at the 1:21:07 mark of the Board Meeting livestream, which can be found here: [PUBLIC FORUM](#)

10. Restrictions Exemption Program

Trustee Genny Steed made the following recommendation:

That our superintendent provide clarifying communication expressing gratitude for volunteers and facilitators of extra-curricular activities and that our superintendent indicate to administrators that the Division recognizes the uniqueness of individual schools and supports strategies developed within schools including the full implementation of REP as outlined by the Alberta government or to implement additional restrictions, as deemed appropriate.

Trustees shared their perspectives, and the Board was not in consensus on the recommendation.

11. Shaping the Future Conference

Ever Active Schools is a national charity based in Alberta, that assists schools in supporting, creating and sustaining healthy, active school communities. Trustees are invited to Hope, Resiliency and Recovery in Education Systems led by Dr. Phil McRae being held Thursday, January 27, 2022 from 7 to 8:30 pm at the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise during the 13th Annual Shaping the Future Conference. Details are attached.

The Board approved a motion to send two trustees to the whole Shaping the Future Conference.

12. Community Conversations

The Board discussed an opportunity for the Board to engage with our constituents on a regular basis. At least once per month the Board will offer a location, off Division property, to mix and mingle with the public, to answer questions, engage to hear the stories and to share information in an informal way. Open to all available trustees to attend, days/times would vary to be able to reach more constituents over the course of the year. The Board would try to vary the locations to meet a variety of people and recognize the needs and barriers within our community. There would be no formal agenda, on some months there may be topics of potential conversation but would be best left for open conversation. Notification would be provided through regular channels of communication, social media, school emails, school councils, Division staff etc.

The Board approved a motion that the Board host Community Conversations with the public up to once a month during the school calendar year.

13. ASBA Report

Board Chair, Allison Purcell, provided an oral report from Alberta School Boards Association.

The Board received the report as information.

14. 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 50 of the [AGENDA](#).

15. 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 68 of the [AGENDA](#).

16. 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 and attached are the donations and support received by the Division.

- Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta's Random Act of Kindness Day contest winner of \$500 was a Grade 3 class at École Agnes Davidson.

The Board received the report as information.

17. 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.

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17. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Congratulations to the following Division staff and students:

Dr. Robert Plaxton School Showcase:

Dr. Plaxton Elementary has a lot to be proud of and we are happy to share our acknowledgements with the Board this month.

Literacy: As a new school, we are fortunate to have been able to purchase the Fountas & Pinnell Classroom resources for all our classrooms. These resources entail a diverse, global collection of shared reading and interactive read-alouds along with word study and writing materials. Our teachers have agreed to delve into and implement the word study resource as a staff for the first half of the year. We have dedicated school-based professional learning and embedded PLC time for teachers to learn the resource well and share the results they are achieving in their classrooms. We're excited to delve into the other resources as a staff in the near future!

Technology: Our school would also like to highlight our purposeful integration of technology within classrooms and the MakerSpace. Each classroom is resourced with 10 i-Pads where students engage in reflective practices, reading and listening applications, 3D printing programming among many other learning-centred tasks and activities. Our MakerSpace is a shared space resourced with learning tools such as a 3D printer, Rigimajig, Cricut machine, wood working tools (elementary appropriate), and Virtual Reality headsets. These tools provide opportunity for students to engage in STEM activities which require collaboration, creative thinking and problem-solving. Extremely high levels of engagement can be witnessed in this space!

Fine Arts: We wanted to embrace the Fine Arts at Dr. Plaxton and we were able to hire Mrs. Harmon to provide Movement, Music and Visual Arts lessons to students in all grades. This direction is proving to be so beneficial as students are exposed to several elements of the Arts. We are looking forward to a spring exhibition where all areas of the arts are showcased within our school.

Environmental Stewardship: We are embodying environmental stewardship at Dr. Plaxton, as the "bones" of our school are already green and provide an amazing opportunity to teach students about solar and alternative energy sources. We also partner with Terra Cycle and recycle the "difficult" to recycle items such as ink cartridges, candy wrappers, pens and markers along with art supplies. Nearly everything in our school can be recycled! We are also conscious of the amount of paper we utilize within classrooms and make efforts to utilize wipebooks, i-Pads, lap whiteboards, plastic desk surfaces, etc. instead of paper. This in turn creates more collaboration and a focus on best teaching methods within classrooms!

Senator Buchanan School Showcase:

Thank you for allowing us to share what is happening in our school. First, we congratulate all of you on being successful in the election and thank all of you in advance for your service.

We have had a very busy start to the 2021-2022 school year at Senator Buchanan. We are a very caring, inclusive and diverse school community, supporting 292 students from Kindergarten through Grade 5.

This year, we are happy to say our startup was the easiest in four years. In January 2021, we completed our massive renovation. We were finally able to begin a school year not moving 4-6 learning spaces and we are very proud of the finished project.

We feel so supported by Executive Council seeing the needs in our building. We are thankful to have added one additional Kindergarten program and one additional Grade 1 class due to our high numbers in those lower grades in mid-September. We know the importance of the early years and are so grateful to have smaller class sizes in these grade levels.

We work hard to stay connected to our community in creative ways. We hosted our annual Welcome Back event, serving over 700 bowls on Kona Ice to our community, staggering each cohort. We tie this event to our AGM to encourage parent participation in our School Council. Our strength in community connection is evident throughout our building.

We also have a very active Grade 4/5 Leadership Council who represent our student perspective in our school.

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17. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Senator Buchanan School Showcase:

They help with many tasks within the building including having a voice in budget setting, purchasing and setting priorities for the school year. They are also very active in service learning and contribute to the community also spreading kindness and appreciation.

Our staff work collaborative in Grade Levelled Teams, meeting weekly for one hour to develop their further understandings in topics of their choice. They then engage in generative dialogue with administration and each other to further push curiosity and growth.

As a school, we are excited to have started our journey in the Circle of Courage as our primary Character Education program. We have revamped our school awards and assemblies to support students in this program. We have embarked in professional learning as a staff to push our understandings of the Medicine Wheel and how to support our students in their learning.

We are very proud of our universal breakfast, lunch and snack programs. We can serve our entire building now in approximately 15-30 minutes. We cannot express our gratitude for the community support and funding we receive for this important part of our school.

We are happy to share with you that we have received several grants already this year. We have received grants from RBC, President's Choice, The Emerald Foundation and The Legacy Foundation to support our various projects in the school. We are excited to use these funds soon to further improve our school. We are looking forward to 2022 and all that it brings to Buchanan!

Senator Joyce Fairbairn School Showcase:

Senator Joyce Fairbairn Middle School athletics would like to begin by saying how excited we are to be back in business after a year and a half absence.

We would like to celebrate the re-opening of our new CTF/Arts spaces. A small renovation occurred that created the ability for Art, Foods, Shop and Computer-based options to work collaboratively by introducing removable walls and added doors between these spaces. We look forward to full utilizing this space to its full potential once we are able to mix classes beyond their class cohorts.

We would also like to celebrate the addition of a second fitness and activity space. Due to increase in student enrollment, there was a need to provide additional spaces for movement and activity for students to be able to utilize as part of their programming.

We would like to thank the board for their guidance and direction during the Covid pandemic and hope we continue to trend towards a more "normal" athletic environment that will be safe and enjoyable for all involved. With that in mind we are so proud of our Falcons accomplishments during the fall start up. We have completed our Cross Country and Volleyball seasons with much to celebrate.

Cross Country

Congratulations to our Falcons PEE WEE girl's and Bantam boys' cross-country teams (coached by Mr. Wayne Filipenko and Mrs. Brittany Boudin) who captured the Lethbridge Schools Athletic Association (LSAA) PEE WEE Girls and BANTAM Boys City Championship Cross Country titles.

PEE WEE Girls Roster:

Jaycie Lepko, Isla Doherty, Teana MacLeod, Emery MacKenzie, Jada Ylioja, Loghan Cossette, Marina Hurd, Molly Harrison, Avaya Peter, Addie Parsons, Brooklyn Lynch, Maleeya Trydal, Molly Paradis

BANTAM Boys Roster:

Rylan Ng, Avery Jarina, Jacob Richardson, Tait Low, Braeden Gaskell, Emmett Leavitt, Tye Gerstenbuhler, Braiden Montgomery, Coen Viola Schooten, Quinn Adams Laurendeau, Tahmid Faizul, Harvey O'Brien, Parker Stengler
Congratulations to Rylan Ng (Grade 8) who went undefeated in the 2021 cross-country season. Rylan finished first in the Bantam boy's division in the following events:

- Fairbairn XC meet

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17. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Senator Fairbairn Middle School Showcase:

- LSAA XC City Championships
- South Zone XC Championships

Volleyball

Congratulations to our Falcons Rep Girls Volleyball team (Coached by Mr. Paul Bohnert, Mrs. Jocelin Wuchterl, and Janel Heath) who are the 2021 LSAA City Champions. The Girls represented Fairbairn with outstanding volleyball skill, determination and sportsmanship throughout their season, all of which culminated with a convincing win over St. Francis in the City Championship final held at Wilson on Nov 10.

18. Town Hall

The Town Hall is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022. The Superintendent reviewed the virtual structure and process that was used for the Town Hall in February 2021 at the regular Board meeting on Nov. 23. The virtual structure has also been reviewed by the Community Engagement Committee.

Planning will move forward with structuring a virtual Town Hall website and process. The process engages parents, students, staff, and community representatives by having them respond to a question or topic.

The responses gathered from Town Hall are used as one of the sources of data the Board considers in their strategic planning process.

The Board formed a committee, comprised of Trustees Kristina Larkin, Christine Light and Superintendent Cheryl Gilmore, to formulate a question for Town Hall, and report back to the Board.

19. COVID Update

Superintendent Cheryl Gilmore highlighted changes to COVID trends, the Re-Entry Plan, Restriction Exemption Program and COVID notifications that occurred over the past month.

The Board received the report as information.

The Dec. 14 update can be found here: [UPDATE](#).

20. ASCA Engagement Opportunity – November 27, 2021

The ASCA held a virtual School Council Engagement Opportunity on Nov. 27, 2021. There were a few parents from Lethbridge School Division in attendance. Trustee Allison Purcell provided a verbal report and offered the following links for those wanting more information:

Dr. Amy von HeyKing Curriculum Presentation

[School Curriculum: A Complicated Conversation \(albertaschoolcouncils.ca\)](#)

Polling questions responses

[196413 \(albertaschoolcouncils.ca\)](#)

21. Board Reports

Reports were delivered for the Community Engagement Committee, Facilities Committee, Division School Council, Poverty Intervention Committee and the Policy Advisory Committee. The reports begin on Page 84 of the [AGENDA](#).

22. Economic Development Lethbridge (EDL)

Economic Development Lethbridge has an Education Sector seat on the Board that was vacant. Allison Purcell has been appointed as the Education Sector representative.

For more information about the work of EDL visit the website [chooselethbridge.ca](#)

Allison Purcell attended Orientation for the EDL Board, and the first meeting will be held on Dec. 15, 2021.

Purcell provided verbal information on the importance of this opportunity and will provide regular updates to the Trustees.

23. Correspondence Received - MLA Nathan Neudorf

The MLA sent a letter to the Board regarding his office's efforts to solve the doctor shortage in the city, which included ideas for both short-term and longterm solutions.

24. Correspondence Received - Primary Care Network Chinook

A letter was received from the Primary Care Network Chinook, regarding medical and mental health supports for school aged children in Lethbridge.

25. Correspondence Received - Alberta Education

A letter was received from the Alberta Education, also regarding medical and mental health supports for school aged children in Lethbridge.

26. Correspondence Received - Petition Received

A petition received from Concerned Members and Supporters of Immanuel Christian School, regarding freedom from staff vaccine mandates and the implementation of the REP at Immanuel.

Regular meeting video: [LIVESTREAM](#)



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