

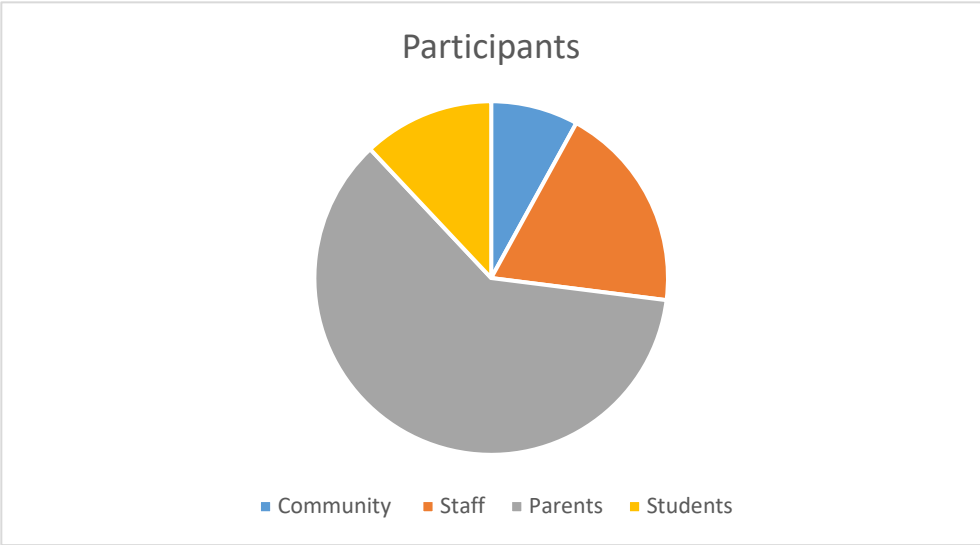
Lethbridge School Division Summary of Town Hall Feedback February 2022

Two Feedback Questions

- 1. In what ways have we successfully supported student learning?
- 2. Moving forward, what can the school division do to strengthen student learning?

Participants

	Town Hall Event	Website Feedback Loop	Total	Percentage of Participants
Community	15	9	24	8%
Staff	41	13	54	19%
Parents	70	105	175	61%
Students	32	3	35	12%
	158	130	288	100%



Synthesis of Themes

Percentage of comments for each theme. Top 3 “successfully supported” for each group highlighted in green; “do to strengthen” highlighted in yellow.

		Community	Staff	Parents	Students
Board Advocacy - Curriculum	Successfully supported student learning?	4%	1%	2%	0%
	Do to strengthen student learning?	0%	5%	6%	0%
Communication	Successfully supported student learning?	8%	7%	10%	3%
	Do to strengthen student learning?	0%	2%	11%	5%
Flexibility	Successfully supported student learning?	4%	11%	11%	3%
	Do to strengthen student learning?	0%	2%	0%	0%
Inclusion	Successfully supported student learning?	20%	14%	7%	17%
	Do to strengthen student learning?	15%	15%	15%	23%
Online Learning	Successfully supported student learning?	24%	7%	8%	11%
	Do to strengthen student learning?	0%	0%	4%	0%
Pedagogy	Successfully supported student learning?	12%	19%	8%	5%
	Do to strengthen student learning?	11%	11%	11%	0%
Resources	Successfully supported student learning?	0%	4%	3%	5%
	Do to strengthen student learning?	11%	14%	5%	4%
Staff	Successfully supported student learning?	4%	1%	15%	10%
	Do to strengthen student learning?	0%	3%	2%	0%
Structures (Organizational)	Successfully supported student learning?	0%	2%	16%	10%
	Do to strengthen student learning?	7%	10%	4%	21%
Student Engagement	Successfully supported student learning?	8%	0%	5%	8%
	Do to strengthen student learning?	3%	2%	0%	4%
Wellness	Successfully supported student learning?	0%	19%	3%	17%
	Do to strengthen student learning?	19%	20%	6%	29%
COVID Restrictions	Successfully supported student learning?	12%	4%	9%	8%
	Do to strengthen student learning?	19%	0%	28%	4%

Exploring Themes

1. Board Advocacy – Curriculum

Board Advocacy - Curriculum		Community	Staff	Parents	Students
	Successfully supported student learning?	4%	1%	2%	0%
	Do to strengthen student learning?	0%	5%	6%	0%

Comments regarding the Board’s advocacy for stopping the implementation of the *DRAFT* curriculum for K-6 and working for a better alternative came from parents and staff. Comments under the “**successfully supported**” question recognized the Board for their advocacy and comments in the “**moving forward to strengthen student learning**” encouraged the Board to continue with the advocacy.

2. Communication

Communication		Community	Staff	Parents	Students
	Successfully supported student learning?	8%	7%	10%	3%
	Do to strengthen student learning?	0%	2%	11%	5%

Comments regarding the ways that communication **successfully supported student learning** included open lines of communication, being well-informed, great communication, and feedback opportunities. Comments specific to schools commended creative approaches, use of electronic communication such as Teams, and frequency of communication.

Comments regarding what to do to **strengthen student learning** included communicating programs and opportunities for students, communication about how student learning gaps will be met, opportunity for parents to choose feedback topics, better listening to feedback and responsiveness to feedback, more feedback regarding student progress, and consistent communication from teacher.

3. Flexibility

Flexibility		Community	Staff	Parents	Students
	Successfully supported student learning?	4%	11%	11%	3%
	Do to strengthen student learning?	0%	2%	0%	0%

Comments regarding the ways that flexibility **successfully supported student learning** included staff commending the division for being flexible, adaptive, and responsive. Needs of students and families were put first. Expectations were flexible. Learning environments increased flexibility. Parents recognized that teachers and schools have been adaptive, supportive of students, and able to pivot to different

circumstances including movement from in-school to on-line learning. The only comments regarding flexibility to **strengthen student learning** came from staff who expressed that it is important to continue to be flexible and responsive to student needs.

4. Inclusion

		Community	Staff	Parents	Students
Inclusion	Successfully supported student learning?	20%	14%	7%	17%
	Do to strengthen student learning?	15%	15%	15%	23%

The theme of inclusion covered a broad range of topics, so will be broken down further.

4.1 Diversity

Inclusive practices that have **successfully supported student learning** include programs that support diversity. Schools and staff were recognized for being inclusive and accepting of all students.

Moving forward, inclusive practices can be strengthened by ensuring that schools are a safe place for students of color, LGBTQ+, and individuals who have disabilities. It is suggested that the division does more work around marginalized communities and actively work to address systemic racism. It is recommended that better practices are put in place to support LGBTQ+ students including supporting the work of GSA's. Schools need to educate on issues faced by Indigenous students.

4.2 Learning

There were a variety of comments about how inclusive practices in the classroom have **successfully supported student learning**. Comments included access to the Learning Commons, meeting student learning from where students are at individually, responding to student needs, creating learning opportunities that are accessible for students, exploring new ways to assess work, diverse ways to teach children, additional help, individual attention, visibility, and support.

Comments regarding inclusive practices that could **strengthen student learning as we move forward** include considering programming for higher needs students, how to meet learning gaps with small groups of students, greater understanding of the diverse qualities of students, increased teaching time for the most vulnerable students, more strategies to support different learning styles, more support for family-centered education, ensuring ISPs are implemented, more focus on and programs for students who are gifted or achieving high academically, find creative ways to have parents involved, self-regulation strategies for all students.

4.3 Supports

There were a variety of comments regarding the supports that are provided for inclusive practices that **successfully support student learning**. These included having staff or student teachers in the classrooms, universal supports, specialized staff such as psychologists, counselling, ESL support team, implementation of self-regulation strategies and specialized rooms such as sensory rooms.

To strengthen student learning as we move forward, it is suggested that there be supports for addressing the learning gaps due to COVID, more support for online learning for students who are struggling, more resources for learning supports for all students who are struggling, having parents engaged in supporting/ volunteering,

4.4 Social Supports

Inclusive practices include trying to have the social supports necessary for students to fully engage in school. Comments regarding **successful support** in this area included that the division and community are getting better at providing extra supports such as clothing, food, assistance with technology devices, and a broad range of services. Comments were made about the success of programs at schools that provide breakfasts, lunches, and/or healthy snacks.

Moving forward, it is recommended that the division continue to increase support through the Poverty Intervention Committee, Making Connections program, and Family Liaison workers. The division is also encouraged to continue to network with outside agencies to fill gaps.

4.5 Staff

To strengthen student learning in an inclusive environment, one community member, four staff members, and seven parents recommended that there be more education assistants allocated to classrooms.

5. On-line Learning

		Community	Staff	Parents	Students
Online Learning	Successfully supported student learning?	24%	7%	8%	11%
	Do to strengthen student learning?	0%	0%	4%	0%

Comments regarding **successful support for online learning** fell into three areas: (1) availability of online learning as an option/ pathway for students is appreciated (2) transitioning to online learning when it is necessary (e.g. movement of school to online learning or when a student is sick or quarantined) (3) use of Teams as a platform for connecting teachers and students/ parents that is accessible; use of Teams to store lessons, videos, and learning resources that can be accessed at any time; use of Teams to submit assignments. Overall, Teams is a platform that is viewed as integrated with instruction and a support for students.

Moving forward to strengthen student learning relative to online learning included a few comments about ensuring that we continue with using it as a student resource after COVID (e.g. streaming classes, storing resources to make them accessible) and continue with e-Learning. Comments also included variability/ lack of consistency with teacher proficiency with Teams and ensuring that student online learning is assessed.

6. Pedagogy

		Community	Staff	Parents	Students
Pedagogy	Successfully supported student learning?	12%	19%	8%	5%
	Do to strengthen student learning?	11%	11%	11%	0%

A number of subthemes came through linked to pedagogy and **successfully supporting student learning**: (1) Intervention through the BOOST program was recognized as successfully supporting student learning by a number of staff and parents. BOOST is an intervention program at the primary grades (grades 1-3) funded by government this year to address learning gaps with intervention programs for literacy and numeracy at these grade levels. (2) There were comments specific to pedagogy and curriculum that included good options classes, improved Learning Commons, parallel curriculum across grades, and improved assessment practice. (3) A number of comments from staff recognized the positive difference that the division focus on “Thinking Classrooms” is making to engage students in authentic learning that grows thinking skills; a few students commented on the benefit of making actual learning, critical thinking and communication main topics. (4) Recognized that there has been attention to infusing Indigenous ways of knowing in curriculum (5) A community member commented that overall teaching displays best practice aligned with current research.

With respect to **strengthening student learning** in the area of pedagogy, continuing the BOOST program or ensuring there is some form of intervention in place for learning gaps was mentioned. Increased hands-on and experiential learning was called for as was increased attention to outdoor learning opportunities/ spaces. Some parents indicated that they would like to see more standardization across classes, attention to higher standards, learning connected to real life, more art and science opportunities, attention to Theme V in Human Sexuality that appears to have been missed at a school, a focus on the basics, and greater attention to Indigenous content/ Indigenous ways of knowing including residential school impacts taught by Indigenous people. There were also some recommendations regarding increasing student engagement with fewer restrictions, and provision of more information about work experience and RAP.

7. Resources

		Community	Staff	Parents	Students
Resources	Successfully supported student learning?	0%	4%	3%	5%
	Do to strengthen student learning?	11%	14%	5%	4%

With respect to **successfully supporting student learning**, a few comments conveyed appreciation for the broad range of resources available in schools, purchase of technology, and student to teacher ratio.

Comments that fell under moving forward to **strengthen student learning** primarily fell in the subtheme of recommendations for staff allocation (most comments referred to smaller class sizes).

8. Staff

		Community	Staff	Parents	Students
Staff	Successfully supported student learning?	4%	1%	15%	10%
	Do to strengthen student learning?	0%	3%	2%	0%

With respect to **successfully supporting student learning**, there were a number of comments that commended the quality of instruction and care/ support of staff. A number of parents commented that teachers have provided amazing support to students, and that staff have made adjustments to help students. The support of school and division leaders was also mentioned.

With respect to recommendations to **strengthen student learning** in this theme, comments suggested ensuring there is support for teachers, addressing substitute teacher shortage. There was also a call for attention to more visible diversity in staffing, and putting greater effort into hiring Indigenous teachers.

9. Structures (Organizational)

		Community	Staff	Parents	Students
Structures (Organizational)	Successfully supported student learning?	0%	2%	16%	10%
	Do to strengthen student learning?	7%	10%	4%	21%

With respect to organizational structures that **successfully supported student learning**, the importance of returning to and continuing in-person comprised the majority of comments in this area by parents and students.

Recommendations from staff as we move forward to **strengthen student learning** primarily focused on teacher work load and addressing time (e.g. reduced supervision), as well as ensuring flexibility continues. There was also mention of ensuring there is time for unstructured play for children. Some parents commented that the number of instructional days should be increased and number of Professional Learning days decreased. There were also comments regarding longer lunch breaks and maintaining a flexible high school schedule. Students mentioned increasing accessibility to cafeteria, longer lunch breaks, and making changes to dress codes in schools (less rigorous).

10. Student Engagement

		Community	Staff	Parents	Students
Student Engagement	Successfully supported student learning?	8%	0%	5%	8%
	Do to strengthen student learning?	3%	2%	0%	4%

Areas identified as **successfully supporting student learning** with increased student engagement included field trips, inviting outside organizations to come into classrooms (virtually), playgrounds, STEM activities, projects, challenging work, provision of different cultural experiences, and connections to organizations such as students from the university as part of a mentorship program, and Big Brothers and Sisters (Game On Program).

To increase student engagement and **strengthen student learning**, it was suggested to incorporate more voice from under-represented communities, support non-traditional classroom learning, more opportunity for connection with outside organizations, more field trips, support for alternative schooling, continuing using technology and Teams outside of the classroom, and providing opportunity for students to focus on their areas of strength.

11. Wellness

		Community	Staff	Parents	Students
Wellness	Successfully supported student learning?	0%	19%	3%	17%
	Do to strengthen student learning?	19%	20%	6%	29%

With respect to successfully supporting student learning, a number of comments were made recognizing the support for mental health in schools and classrooms. It was mentioned that mental health has been a priority, classrooms are caring and supportive, spaces have been created for students to reduce anxiety/ worry, and mental health supports have been put in place for students. The strong connection between positive relationships among staff and students and wellness was commented on. The comments suggest that has been an increased focus on the development of strong relationships to support students and it has had a positive impact. One staff member mentioned the benefit of full time counsellors at the elementary level. A few students expressed the positive impact of breaks, physical activity, and presence of teachers (always there for them).

Comments regarding moving forward to strengthen student learning in the theme of wellness included: (1) use of universal strategies for the supporting the mental health of all students (21 comments); (2) increasing access to outside resources/ community resources (3 comments); (3) implementation of strategies for the mental health/ wellbeing of staff (10 comments); (4) increased counsellors/ access to counsellors (8 comments). It was also recommended the division reflect on policies related to bullying behaviors.

12. COVID Restrictions

		Community	Staff	Parents	Students
COVID Restrictions	Successfully supported student learning?	12%	4%	9%	8%
	Do to strengthen student learning?	19%	0%	28%	4%

With respect to how the application of COVID restrictions have **successfully supported student learning**, some appreciation was expressed for the application of the restrictions such as masking, prioritizing in-class learning was appreciated, and efforts to implement extra-curricular activities was recognized.

With respect to **strengthening student learning** under the theme of COVID restrictions, the majority of comments came from parents. Recommendations fell into (1) removal of all restrictions (10 comments); removal of mask restrictions for students (23 comments); removal of restrictions associated with extra-curricular activities (9 comments); removing restrictions on volunteers (10); removing all vaccination protocols (1 comment); ensuring schools are inclusive of all perspectives (2 comments); attention to ventilation (1 comment).

Themes with less than 15 comments

Technology	14	1 positive parent comment about support for tech, 1 student comment about great use of Teams, “moving forward” with 12 comments regarding more focus on digital citizenship, limits to phone access, instruction, & access with cameras.
Collaboration	8	8 comments came from staff in response to question 1 (In what ways have we successfully supported...). Staff conveyed that there is a strong culture of sharing, connection, support, and opportunities for collaboration.
Professional Learning	6	5 comments from staff “moving forward” to: literacy and numeracy learning, Teams, meaningful and sustained PL, more depth and rich learning. 1 comment from parent regarding support of parent learning happening with sessions.
Transitions	6	4 comments from parents suggesting we “move forward” with better transitions between middle and high and keeping transition to post-secondary in mind. 1 comment from student suggesting better access to post-secondary info.
Extra-curricular	5	4 comments came from parents, and 1 from a student in response to question 2 (What can the division do to strengthen...). Comments included time for unstructured play, equal valuing of (enthusiasm for) all extra-curricular, coordination of student-family experiences, and importance of extra-curricular.
Programs	4	3 comments from staff suggesting we “move forward” with supporting ECS, having responsive programs, equality of programs across schools. 1 comment from a parent expressing support for current early learning programs.
Priorities	3	2 comments from staff and 1 from a parent. Comments included having learning as a priority, setting priorities for current context, and putting students at center of priorities.
Transportation	3	2 comments from parents and 1 from community member suggesting a better transportation system.
Vision	3	2 comments from staff about focus on long term planning and 1 from parent encouraging embracing of positives.