



Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting highlights from April 26 - Next meeting May 24

1. Associate Superintendent Reports

Christine Lee, Associate Superintendent, Business and Operations and Mike Nightingale, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources, delivered their respective reports for the Board. To read the reports, see Page 10 of the [AGENDA](#). The Business and Operations report included a segment on transportation and the history behind the development of the bell times for the 2022/2023 school year. The discussion begins at the 13:27 mark in the livestream: [BELL TIMES](#)

2. Curriculum

Supt. Cheryl Gilmore provided a report on the release of the new curriculum. She added Alberta Education sent curriculum information before the Easter break, and added the Division is very fortunate to have the expertise of Karen Rancier, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Lead Teachers Bev Smith and Michaela Demers. Gilmore provided information on the new curriculum and added Division teachers will be provided Professional Learning on Literacy and Numeracy in the spring, with PE and Wellness Professional Learning set for the fall. Trustees heard the Division will not be moving forward with Grade 4-6 ELAL and Mathematics curriculum in the fall of 2022.

3. Board Priorities Report

The Division Office Leadership Team is committed to keeping the Board informed regarding progress in Board priority areas. The priority areas as identified by the Board at their spring retreat are attached. The Education Centre Leadership Team is currently working on the development of strategies to address the priorities. An update on progress will be provided in the form of a report each month starting in the October Board meeting. The Board received the report as information.

4. 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.

- Wholesale Club donated \$500 toward Making Connections Weekends and More (WAM) bags.

The Board received the report as information.

5. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Background:

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:

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5. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Wilson Middle School Showcase:

Live Different – we invited an organization into our building to share and learn about values. Leadership students at Wilson Middle School continue to excel. In the past four months, they have organized a schoolwide food drive for the food bank. They have created theme days where students dress up and get excited about their school and they continue to spread cheer and positivity through out the building. The students in the WMS bands were so excited to have their first band concert in 22 months!

In December and March, we had two successful concerts where two beginner bands, the Grade 6s and Grade 7s, were able to share their new talents, and the Grade 8 band students got to share their growth as musicians.

School council decided they wanted to engage families and support their mental health and well being.

On March 17, we hosted a Community Engagement Evening where we invited businesses in the community that support mental health and well being. This gave our families an opportunity to register their children into sports, learn how to get financial support and learn about mental health supports.

Our Numeracy committee had the opportunity to work with Richelle Marynowski come regarding meeting students' numeracy needs.

As a group the committee continues to use the data from the MIPI to better understand the learning needs of our students and come up with grade level plans to address those needs. Having a dedicated numeracy block has helped to prioritize meeting student needs.

The literacy teachers at WMS have formed three subcommittees, including: book buzz committee, Wilson writes committee, and special literacy events committee. Using these three committees, teachers have met to not only talk about instructional practices, but to also provide ongoing supports, strategies, challenges, and events for the students here at WMS throughout the year (for example, Rocky Mountain book club challenge and our recent "Dear _____" writing piece).

Mike Mountain Horse Elementary School Showcase:

It has been an amazing year at Mike Mountain Horse, but the last few months have been especially exciting! Each month, MMH recognizes students through The Seven Sacred Teachings which includes learning about and demonstrating respect, courage, honesty, love, humility, wisdom, and truth. For the past two years we have held these recognition celebrations via Teams, which has provided us opportunities to celebrate student achievements. But for the first time this year, we held our very first in-person student recognition assembly on March 25!

What an exciting day it was, gathering all our students together twice . . . celebrating with Kindergarten to Grade 2 students followed by grades 3 – 5, to build community and celebrate the students who successfully demonstrated the attributes of Humility! We are planning our next in-person celebration for April 29th!

Students in grade five had the pleasure of attending the G.S. Lakie Dance program and were the first group of students to attend a live performance. This trip was quickly followed by a Grade 4 field trip to the Helen Schuler Nature Centre.

On March 30, Grade 3 students were excited to share their Learning About Lethbridge projects with families and friends! This is an amazing authentic experience where students learn about services currently offered in the city and services that they feel should be built. Students meet architects, engineers and city planners and they create a blueprint followed by a model of their idea! We saw zoos, golf courses, butterfly zoos and trampoline parks. The next day, Grade 4 students held their boardgame café and taught families and friend how to play the games they created and designed.

Another authentic learning experience enables students to develop and create all of the parts of a playable game. Students create every piece of the game from instructions to game board pieces, boxes to spinners, developing their writing skills, measurement skills, communication skills and strategy development! We are so grateful to have families return to our school to celebrate and support student learning. Extra -curricular basketball was offered to grade five students and grade 2 and 3 students are now participating in choir. Planning is in high gear for upcoming sports days, field trips and grade one and two project-based learning showcases.

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6. Education Week, May 2-6

The first Alberta School Week (Education Week) was held December 2-8, 1928. Its purpose then, as now, is to call attention to the importance of education and to show the public the good things happening in Alberta schools. Education Week provides all Albertans with an opportunity to highlight the important role education plays in shaping the future of our province. Education Week provides all Albertans with an opportunity to highlight the important role education plays in shaping the future of our province.

The theme, Learning is a Journey, celebrates the legacy of public education and work contributing to an inspired future including the following:

- Optimal learning conditions for every child
- Creative and innovative learning programs
- Students who enjoy learning and who achieve their learning goals
- Parents and communities that are involved and supportive of learning
- Opportunities for staff to continue developing their skills as professionals

To celebrate Education Week at the Division level this year, the Lethbridge School Division trustees will recognize staff and celebrate the week using the website and social media.

The Board received the report as information.

7. School Transitions

Schools have been transitioning to contexts that do not have the COVID mitigation restrictions that were in place for over two years. As schools re imagine what the school context looks like without restrictions they are considering good practice and learning from structures that were put in place during restrictions as well as support for student, parent, and community engagement in activity and the school community. Supt. Cheryl Gilmore reviewed how schools are progressing with the transition.

The Board received the report as information.

8. Second Quarter Financial Report

The 2021-2022 Second Quarter Financial Report for the Division was provided for review.

Director of Finance, Avice DeKelder was in attendance to respond to any questions Trustees had.

The Board approved the 2021/2022 Second Quarter Financial Report as presented.

The report can be found on Page 36 of the [AGENDA](#).

9. Indigenous Education Committee Terms of Reference

The Indigenous Education Committee Terms of Reference have been revised and were attached for Board approval. The Board approved the Indigenous Education Committee Terms of Reference, as present.

10. Bill 15

The proposed Bill 15 removes the ATA's ability to discipline teachers professionally. The creation of a new disciplinary committee, without ATA representation, effectively changes the ATA from a professional organization to a union. Under current legislation, the ATA has exercised the ability to discipline their members for over 80 years. The current model is congruent with the medical, dental, and legal professional disciplinary committees. This Bill will change the dynamics of how Alberta School Divisions interact and work with the ATA.

The Board discussed possible advocacy action should be taken regarding Bill 15.

11. Full-Time (950 hours) Kindergarten

At the March Board Meeting a committee was formed to write a resolution (attached) to present (if approved and supported) at the ASBA Fall General Meeting calling for provincial government funding support for Full-Time (950 hours) Kindergarten for all Alberta Kindergarten students.

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11. Full-Time (950 hours) Kindergarten

We have been hearing about the benefits of full-day all week Kindergarten for many Kindergarten children.

The extra time given to these young students, to practice important language and social skills, to develop early literacy and numeracy skills through play and to develop a love of life-long learning is invaluable and this is reflected in their later literacy and numeracy skill development.

The Board approved the proposed resolution with amended paragraphs and agreed that it be sent out to all Zone 6 Boards on April 27, 2022 as well as to Zone 6 Director, Brad Toone, and that the Board also have this topic added to the May 18, 2022 Zone 6 ASBA agenda for the Boards to vote for the draft resolution to go forward to the 2022 ASBA Fall General Meeting.

12. Transportation and Bell Times

We continue to hear concern about bell times and busing from members of the community. We are looking for assurance of reliable, safe and consistent transportation and education opportunities for our students.

The Board would benefit from additional information from Division staff to assist our understanding of contributing factors and the complexity of these processes.

The Board passed a motion by a 4-3 vote to agree to meet with Holy Spirit Catholic School Division Board to see if they are experiencing similar concerns and feedback from constituents.

The discussion on bell times started at the 13:27 mark of the livestream and ended at the 57:14 mark: [BELL TIMES](#)

13. Board Meeting Structure and Organization

We receive valuable information in the form of presentations during our Board meetings. The duration of presentations is significant and, while the information is important for the Board to receive and understand, it does not always pertain directly to governance decision making and could be delivered in a Committee of the Whole setting. The Board and Division considered the idea of shifting comprehensive presentations to Committee of the Whole settings.

14. Policy Review

Trustees were given information about changes suggested to Policy 204.2 and 204.6. Trustee Craig Whitehead proposed an amendment to Policy 204.6, Organizational Meetings through the following motion:

I would propose changing Regulation 1 of the policy to read as follows: The Organizational Meeting shall be held in conjunction with the regular meeting of the Board in August.

Trustee Craig Whitehead also proposed an amendment to Policy 204.2, Regular Board Meetings through the following motion:

I would propose changing Regulation 3 of the policy to read as follows: The Regular Board meeting shall be open to the public and shall normally be held once a month, except for July, when there will be no regular meeting, on Tuesday afternoons and beginning at 1 p.m.

The Board passed a motion to table these proposed amendments to the May Board meeting.

15. Policy Committee

Trustees were given information regarding the number of policies the Division currently has, along with a suggestion to being a process of separating policies from procedures.

Trustee Craig White proposed the following motion: That we have an ad hoc committee, consisting of the Board Chair, Policy Chair and one additional trustee, plus the superintendent, to hire an outside consultant to help us understand and teach us the different models of policies and procedures.

The Board passed a motion to table this motion to the May Board meeting.

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16. Community Conversations

Community Conversations are time for parents, staff, students and the community to come together to have discussion with trustees. It is a time that has no formal agenda, they are held monthly, and the locations are in a variety of locations/times across the city.

Community Conversations are a great time for trustees to hear from parents, staff, students and community about great ideas, share successes, bring forward issues and concerns.

The Community Conversation for April was at YMCA during the daytime.

The Community Conversation for May is on May 19 from 4 - 5:30 pm at Gunnery Point Shelter – East end of Henderson Lake. The Board shared feedback from the April Community Conversation. Trustee Genny Steed will organize the June Community Conversation. More information can be found here: [COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS](#)

17. Virtually Installed: Lethbridge Schools. Students. Art

Art's Alive and Well in the schools is a yearly art exhibit put on by all the Lethbridge city schools within the Holy Spirit Catholic School Board, Lethbridge School Division and École La Vérendrye. It is displayed in cooperation with the Southern Alberta Art Gallery and usually takes place in the spring.

In 2020, due to COVID, "Art's Alive and Well in the Schools" moved online and was well received in that format. For that reason (and the continuation of COVID restrictions) in 2021 it was decided to move the exhibition online permanently. It was our pleasure to hold our re-branded 44th annual exhibition under a new name: "Virtually Installed: Lethbridge Schools. Students. Art".

Now in 2022, as we are emerging from the pandemic, we are considering how to move forward.

Will it be only online? Will we incorporate an in-person exhibition with the SAAG again? For the 45th annual art exhibit, we are planning both! The online exhibit will begin on May 2, 2022 on the Lethbridge School Division website, AND we will be showcasing the artwork of Grades 9 – 12 from all Lethbridge Schools at the Southern Alberta Art Gallery! The in-person showing will be held from May 14 – June 19, 2022. We are excited to have both shows running simultaneously... more visibility, more art, more opportunity for our city to show off the incredible talents of our students! The Board received the report as information and extend appreciation to Kathy Knelsen for her efforts to co-ordinate this celebration of student art in Lethbridge.

Artwork from Virtually Installed can be found on the Division website here: [VIRTUALLY INSTALLED](#)

18. Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) Conference and AGM – April 22-24, 2022

The ASCA Conference and AGM will be held April 22 to 24, 2022.

The Board received the report as information.

19. Board Reports

Reports were delivered for the Indigenous Education Committee, Community Engagement Committee, Division School Council, Policy Advisory Committee, Civic Works Standing Policy Committee and the Economic Development Lethbridge. The reports begin on Page 84 of the [AGENDA](#).

20. Correspondence Sent

Lethbridge School Division sent a letter to Alberta Education Minister, Adriana LaGrange, to request financial support to offset the significant increase in fuel prices, which has been having a serious impact on transportation.

21. Correspondence Sent

Lethbridge School Division sent a letter to Alberta Education Minister, Adriana LaGrange, regarding two areas of concern concerning the Requirements for Assessment and Reporting for Learning Loss Funding.

22. Correspondence Received

Lethbridge School Division received a letter from the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta to extend an invitation to the Spring General Assembly in June of 2022.

23. Correspondence Received

Lethbridge School Division received a letter from the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta, which asked the Division to consider a conversation about the benefits of membership in the PSBAA.

24. Correspondence Received

Lethbridge School Division received an email from the Deputy Minister of Education regarding education access for Ukrainian families and their children.

Regular meeting video: [LIVESTREAM](#)



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