



# Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

## Meeting highlights from October 25 - Next meeting November 29

### 1. Associate Superintendent Reports

Christine Lee, Associate Superintendent, Business and Operations, Morag Asquith, Associate Superintendent, Instructional Services, and Mike Nightingale, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources, delivered their respective reports for the Board. To read the reports, see Page 8 of the [AGENDA](#).

### 2. 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.

### 3. 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 since September 1, 2022.

- Chinook High School received a donation of \$500 from Chinook Cardiology for the Football Team.
- Wilson Middle School received a \$800 donation from Devon R Kutsch Professional Corp.
- Nicholas Sheran Elementary has received the following donations from the community for their Breakfast/Nutrition program that has been serving between 30-50 students breakfast every morning, 10-12 students bagged lunches daily and snacks for all students throughout the day.
  - o \$500 from WeeCan Finance Ltd.
  - o \$300 from Fee Simple Law LLP
  - o \$250 from 212 Company Ltd.
  - o \$250 from Dutchie Ahlbeck
  - o \$100 from Dean Seymour
  - o First Alliance Church has regularly been providing snacks.
  - o Mindful Munchies has been providing bagged lunches twice a week for students all year.
- G.S. Lakie has received the following donations and sponsorships towards their OZ Production:
  - o \$250 - Kim and Jim Nevada
  - o \$500 - Six08 Health
  - o \$500 - National Salvage
  - o \$100 - Camco Fencing
  - o \$500 - Sierra Painting
  - o \$500 - Van Raalte & Associates
  - o \$100 - Angeliki Pantazi

### 3. Donations and Support

- Additionally, G.S Lakie has received \$275 from Whipps towards Athletics and \$150 from Quinton Pike as a donation towards the Hip Hop Dance trip.
  - Winston Churchill High School's Tailgate event was supported by the Medicine Shoppe (\$100), London Drugs (\$50), Save on Foods (\$50, Little Caesars (10 pizzas) and Canadian Tire (21 bags of chips)
  - Winston Churchill High School has also received private donations for t-shirts for an athletic team and 10 flats of Powerade to the girls Volleyball team.
- The Board received the report as information.

### 4. 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:

- On Oct. 18, Lethbridge Collegiate Institute graduate Bradley Pike signed on to become the newest member of the Lethbridge College Kodiaks Esports team, which competes in the Canadian Collegiate Esports League. More information about the signing can be found on the Division website: [ESPORTS](#)

#### École Agnes Davidson:

École Agnes Davidson has been a busy place these last few months taking full advantage of our return to a "normal" school year. With our second year as a single-track French Immersion school, we are capitalizing on that as well. In late August we were lucky to have a French Immersion Math Specialist join us for some PL as she walked us through the new Math curriculum with a French Immersion lens. Professional Learning which was very much appreciated. Over the past month we have also invited in Michaela Demers and Jodie Babki, our division lead teachers, to further support us with the new curriculum. As educators, we feel like we are off on the right foot. Teachers have also been taking advantage of their ATA collaborative days to work with their colleagues to build best practices in their teaching.

As a school community, we are as busy and active as ever. I think we even broke a record with the number of parents who attended our School Council AGM in September. We were also fortunate to invite the parent community into the building for a "Meet the Teacher Night", which allowed many of our parents to set foot in the building for the very first time. Parent attendance on this night was through the roof. Parent-Teacher interviews were also very well attended giving parents the option of joining us via Teams or in-person to support our busy parent group. Finally, it has been amazing walking through the hallways and seeing the number of parents volunteering their time to support the students in various learning activities.

September found the staff and students participating in the Terry Fox walk, enjoying a gymnastics unit during Physical Education and embracing the learning from the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation which was capped off with a water bottle drive for the Sage Clan Community. We ended up needing 4 large staff vehicles to transport the water donations to the Sage Clan. École Agnes Davidson was also chosen as a participating school for a University of Alberta study for the provincial assessments in numeracy and literacy using our results to gain norms across the province.

October has been busy with the return of Handbells, Choir, yoga club, and volleyball club, keeping our students very busy. October also held our French Book Fair, Panago Pizza Fundraiser night, and our first hot lunch of the year. We also held our Aggie's Brew Label contest for our students to draw the label for our next coffee fundraiser from Cuppers. If you ever go to Cuppers for a coffee, ask for the Aggie's Brew! The first performance assembly of the year also took place in October with our Grade 5 classes leading us through an assembly on respect (from the teachings of our Indigenous community).

Although November is just getting started, we are very excited about our Turkey Bingo on Thursday, November 3, you too can come and win yourself a turkey. We will also be hosting an Agnes Davidson Christmas Market, supported by Domesticated Divas, on Saturday, November 19 from 10-4, a great time to start your Christmas shopping. November also brings us a time of reflection as we prepare for our Remembrance Day ceremony and the meaning of living in a peaceful community from the sacrifices of others. Needless to say, we are in full swing at École Agnes Davidson with lots of activities and learning taking place. We have some great plans for the year ahead building a French community where life-long learners gain confidence, take risks, and persevere.

#### **4. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase**

##### **Victoria Park and Lethbridge Alternative School Programs:**

Greetings Board Members! We hope that this has been a robust fall for you thus far – may the learning that is happening in schools and beyond be infectious at the board level, as well. 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 short school year thus far...

Through our work at Victoria Park High School and Lethbridge Alternative Schools and Programs, we are currently supporting 300 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 of the learning that our students and staff are engaging in. Some of the highlights this year have included:

Creating a place to belong and be a part of something larger than the individuals themselves

- Our purposeful reflection and response design to our school-wide inquiry question “To what extent can we increase student engagement through offering an authentic alternative school experience?”
- Because we are constantly working to develop programming that is both responsive and engaging, in an effort to support high school completion and to assist students in finding their preferred futures, we have made a significant focus on increasing our number of high interest/high experience option offerings. Some of the options this year include:

- Active Lifestyles class
- Outdoor Education class
- Workplace Readiness class
- Brains, Bones and Blood class
- Yoga class
- Nutrition and Wellness class
- Nature, Wellness and Healthy Relationships class
- Team Games Class
- Art class
- Volunteerism Class
- Wildlife Interview Class
- Construction Classes
- Leadership and Social Responsibility Class
- You and your child- Young Mom’s Program
- Photography Class
- Fashions Class
- The creation of a Driver Experience Program which will enable students at Victoria Park High School who do not have access to a vehicle, the opportunity to gain driving experience they otherwise would not have available to them. With access to an eventual driver’s licence and experience with driving, students’ lives will open with opportunity in the areas of personal development, independence and the world of work.
- A renewed commitment to getting out of the traditional classroom/building and using nature and the community as our learning space
- The purchase of a class set of mountain bikes and transport trailer allows for students to learn the skill of cycling, while opening their horizons to the freedom and sheer joy of riding a bike. This skill and access to a bicycle allows for greater mobility, with the trailer giving them a chance to experience parks, trails and roadways throughout southern Alberta. Learning to ride a bike has also increased the ability for some students to manage their school attendance on a daily basis.

An intentional focus on a variety of topical, meaningful and timely monthly themes that will help to build awareness, education and (sometimes) prevention within our student body.

- For example: October is Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month and in light of this, our students planned and hosted a community pancake breakfast event with donations going to our local Child and Youth Advocacy Centre. Students in classrooms discussed ways to identify abuse, healthy and safe adults to tell and resources to access for confidential supports.

#### **4. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase**

##### **Victoria Park and Lethbridge Alternative School Programs:**

Our staff engagement in professional learning. We began the school year with a session from Pam Rocker. Pam is an incredible human being who reflected with us along the lines of diversity and inclusion, particularly to our LGBTQ2s+ community. Pam's goal was to plant some seeds of thought, helping us to apply a different lens than the one we typically look through, to see discomfort as a gift and to shed light on opportunities for reflection. It was awesome learning for all!

- Our final actualization of the Mindfulness Partnership with the University of Lethbridge, where the students and staff will engage in practicing self regulation and mindfulness, specifically designed for students in Alternate School environments and incorporating a cancer risk-prevention model.

#### **5. Board Ward Boundary Review Process**

The City of Lethbridge established a Ward Boundary Commission in August 2022 to study an Electoral Ward System and bring a report back to City Council.

The Board of Trustees for Lethbridge School Division decided it would be proactive to develop a draft process for the establishment of an Electoral Ward System should the Board decide to explore a change in the electoral system to a ward boundary system in the future.

A DRAFT Board Ward Boundary Review Process was attached and was reviewed by Christine Lee, Associate Superintendent, Business Affairs.

The Board accepted the draft process as information.

#### **6. Town Hall**

At the Committee of the Whole meeting on Oct. 11, the Board discussed possible questions that would guide student, parent, staff, and community feedback at the annual Town Hall scheduled for February 7, 2023.

The Board Chair, Vice-Chair and Superintendent were tasked with taking the feedback and what was heard at the meeting and bring forward a draft question(s) to the October 25 Board meeting.

The following draft was developed based on the Oct.11 discussion and feedback.

#### **Background**

One of the Domains of the Assurance Reporting Framework required by Alberta Education is "Student Growth and Achievement." This provincial domain aligns with the Division priorities of Achievement and Innovation. Strategies for the 2022-2023 school year can be found in the Board Assurance Plan Assurance Plan, located at this link: [ASSURANCE](#).

#### **Purpose**

The Board would like feedback from parents, students, staff, and community members about how we are doing with supporting student growth and achievement in our classrooms. The Town Hall questions for February 7, 2023 focus on gaining your perspective and using it to inform Board priorities and strategies for the 2023-2024 school year.

#### **Questions**

1. In what ways are we successfully supporting students to help them grow as learners?

2. Where do you see room for improvement in supporting students as learners?

The Board discussed the draft questions and provided feedback for change as well as next steps for distribution.

#### **7. Lenovo Tech World Conference: Empowering Equitable Education with Technology**

##### **Presenters: Jesse Sadlowski and Andy Tyslau**

Lethbridge School Division Director of Technology, Jesse Sadlowski, and Vice-Principal of Dr. Robert Plaxton Elementary School, Andy Tyslau, were presenters at the prestigious Lenovo Tech World 22 Conference.

The largest tech conference in the world with sessions accessible online, Tyslau and Sadlowski's presentation featured how schools are leveraging technology to empower equitable access.

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### **7. Lenovo Tech World Conference: Empowering Equitable Education with Technology**

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Dr. Robert Plaxton has been a forerunner with using technology for immersive learning experiences that take students to places they may never get to see in person (VR Classrooms with virtual experiences bringing curriculum alive). Sadlowski shared how Lethbridge School Division has launched into Esports and the organic growth of the sport with high levels of student engagement. The taped session was shared, and Tyslau and Sadlowski responded to questions. The video can be found here: [LENOVO](#).

The Board accepted the presentation as information.

### **8. International Trip Approval**

David Fletcher from Lethbridge Collegiate Institute requested approval to take approximately 45 Grade 9-12 students on an International Trip to the Netherlands, Belgium, France, and Italy from April 6-16, 2023. Information regarding the educational benefits of the trip and the proposed itinerary were attached. The estimated cost per student is between \$4,060 and \$4,650 in Canadian Funds. Students have been encouraged to find a part time job to fund their trip. Trustee Kristina Larkin moved that the LCI trip as presented is approved by the Board, with the condition of adherence to all of the Division policies and procedures, including compliance with insurance requirements. The motion was passed unanimously.

### **9. Annual Board Work Plan**

The Annual Board Work Plan guides the primary work of the Board throughout the year.

The Board received the report as information. To view the work plan, please see Page 57 of the [AGENDA](#).

### **10. Electricity Supply RFP January 1, 2027 to December 31, 2028**

Lethbridge School Division engaged the services of Energy Associates International in 2021 to support management of the Division's energy portfolio. Lethbridge School Division entered into a five-year electricity supply agreement with the assistance of our consultants that is for the term July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2026. This supply agreement has a rate of \$55.45/Mwh. This was approved by the Board in March 2021.

Part of the work with the consultant is monitoring future pricing on electricity and natural gas.

Energy Associates International has advised the Division, based on current wholesale and outlook of prices over the five-year electricity supply agreement, that the Division will have approximately \$2 million of cost avoidance due to the signing of the 5-year agreement. For example, wholesale pricing in September 2022 was \$147.25/Mwh and predicted to be \$107.75/Mwh in September 2023.

As the future cost of the wholesale electricity market is increasing beyond 2026, it is the recommendation of our consultant to consider an agreement for January 1, 2027, to December 31, 2028 to lock in pricing today as it is anticipated that these prices will continue to rise due to market volatility and with all electricity generation in Alberta moving to natural gas as an input fuel, which is far more expensive (especially these days) than coal, the cost of electricity will continue to trend higher going forward.

An RFP was issued to obtain pricing for this two-year term to be received by October 21st by our consultants and evaluated by October 24th.

Associate Superintendent, Christine Lee provided board members with further detailed information as to pricing obtained on the bids for the recommendation at the board meeting.

The Board approved administration to move to receive a firm bid on electricity supply for the period January 1, 2027 to December 31, 2028, with the supplier that has the best terms, and not to exceed \$78.50/Mwh.

### **11. Voluntary Retirement – Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund Members and Local Authorities Pension Plan Members**

For the past several years, the Board has approved a Voluntary Retirement opportunity for Alberta Teachers' Association Retirement Fund Members, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) 290, CUPE 2843 and non-union employees.

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### **11. Voluntary Retirement – Alberta Teachers’ Retirement Fund Members and Local Authorities Pension Plan Members**

This allows employees who qualify to collect a pension and are members of the Alberta Teachers’ Association Retirement Fund or Local Authorities Pension Plan to retire as of January 31, 2023 and then begin a temporary contract with the Board effective February 1, 2023 to June 29, 2023 (or the end date as per the appropriate employee calendar). This opportunity is subject to the terms and conditions of the Alberta Teachers’ Association Retirement Fund or the Local Authorities Pension Plan.

The process for accessing this opportunity is as follows:

- An email will be sent to all Division employees informing them of the Voluntary Retirement opportunity.
- Any employee intending to access this opportunity will be required to notify the Division in writing of their intention to retire by mid December (specific date will be determined later). This notification must be provided in the letter format prescribed by the Division.
- The Division will respond in writing if the staff member qualifies for the Voluntary Retirement opportunity.
  - o Criteria for qualification includes, but are not limited to:
    - Member of an approved pension fund
    - Eligible for retirement per the pension fund
    - Process parameters outlined by the Division have been met
- Should the employee qualify, they will be placed on a temporary contract from February 1, 2023 to June 29, 2023 (or the end date per the appropriate employee calendar).

The Board considered if it would like to continue to offer the Voluntary Retirement opportunity for staff members. Trustee Whitehead moved:

That the Board 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 and submit a letter of retirement effective January 31, 2023. These employees will be offered a temporary contract effective February 1, 2023 – June 29, 2023 (or the end date as per the appropriate employee calendar).

The motion was passed unanimously.

### **12. Health and Mental Health Supports in Lethbridge**

School administrators shared recently that they are seeing pressures on supports in our area.

Students and families are finding it increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to secure appointments and referrals to appropriate services and specialists.

Their concern with the lack of access to health supports and mental health supports in the city of Lethbridge, and the impact this is having on the health and mental wellness of our students.

The Board tabled this item to the Nov. 22 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.

### **13. ASBA Fall General Meeting and ASBA Bylaw and Policies Bulletin**

The ASBA (Alberta School Board Association) Fall General Meeting is scheduled for November 20, 21, and 22nd.

Prior to the meeting ASBA will provide Trustees with a Bylaw and Policies Bulletin that guides the Business meeting held on Monday, November 21.

At the Business meeting, Boards vote on Bylaw amendments, “Position Statements” sponsored by the ASBA Board of Directors (if any), Position Statements sponsored by Boards/Zones, and Emergent Position Statements sponsored by Boards (if any).

### **13. ASBA Fall General Meeting and ASBA Bylaw and Policies Bulletin**

Each Board has one vote. Typically, some time is spent during the October Board meeting for trustees to discuss the positions statements. At the ASBA meeting, trustees in attendance usually discuss the position statement further after the sponsoring Board has presented their statement and there has been opportunity for other Boards to ask questions, propose amendments, make statements, and so forth. The Board members further discuss the position statement if there are amendments or further information comes to light and reach agreement on the vote of the Board.

If the Bylaw and Policies Bulletin is available for review by the October Board meeting date, the Board may wish to discuss any Position Statements that will be presented at the AGM.

The Board received the report as information and reviewed the Position Statements for the ASBA Fall General Meeting.

### **14. 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 October was at The Collective.

Upcoming dates for Community Conversations are as follows:

Tuesday, November 8: 10-11:30 a.m. at Fish and Game Clubhouse – 946-9 Ave. S.

Thursday, December 8: 4-5:30 p.m. at YMCA – 140-74 Mauretania Rd. W.

Thursday, January 26: 6:30-8 p.m. at BGC Youth Center – 227 12B St. N.

Community Conversations dates and times are also posted on the Community Engagement Website at the following link: [COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS](#).

The Board accepted this as information and will share with their respective schools as able. It was further recommended that the information is shared publicly on the division website and other social media channels.

### **15. Public School Boards Association of Alberta AGM**

Trustee Craig Whitehead attended the PSBAA annual general meeting from Wednesday October 12 to Friday October 14, and provided this report:

This is a great organization which not only provides first rate and applicable PD but encourages collaboration and friendship among the various boards.

Wednesday evening - At the Lois Hole Dinner and lecture we were able to hear, Her Honour, the Honourable Salma Lakhani, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta speak to us. She is the first Muslim to be named to this position. Her talk was about being ousted from her home country of Uganda and arriving in Alberta without belonging to a country. She spoke of her welcome in this province and the opportunities that it has provided to her and her family. I also won a bag of three books which I will give to my schools. I had my picture taken with Her Honour.

Thursday - All day. We had a great day of professional development which centered on developing mission and vision for boards. It was moderated by David Feldman, Director of Governance and Consulting, and Gemma Dunn, Executive Director at the Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations. It was timely as we are thinking of looking at our mission and vision. It will not be easily done. They gave excellent ideas which I will share later. Because I was the only representative from Lethbridge I was able to work with trustees from Grande Yellowhead. I was able to also see a visual presentation of Indigenous Learning Kit including a giant and I mean it filled half of the large room from Canadian Geographic which we can get on loan from PSBAA as well as materials from the ATA.



#### **15. Public School Boards Association of Alberta AGM**

It was also mentioned about the courses on Indigenous learning that we can take and are free to us.

Friday - We held the Annual General meeting which elected Nicole Buchanan as second vice-president and Lorraine Stewart as second director.

We passed the audited report and the budget for 2023 along with the fee schedule.

We were warmly welcomed into this association numerous times and I am looking forward to their next meeting.

The Board received the report as information.

#### **16. Committee Reports**

Reports were delivered for the Wellness Committee, Joint City School Board, Facilities Committee, Division School Council, Policy Review Committee, Poverty Intervention Committee, Economic Development Lethbridge and the Audit Committee.

The reports can be found starting on Page 68 of the [AGENDA](#).

#### **17. Correspondence Received**

Lethbridge School Division received a letter from the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce, to thank the Division for partnering with the Chamber for another year, through a membership renewal.

**Regular Meeting video: [LIVESTREAM](#)**



**Highlights from the Regular Meeting  
of the Board of Trustees  
for Oct. 25. The next meeting  
will be Nov. 29**