



Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

**Meeting highlights from November 29
- Next meeting December 20**

1. Associate Superintendent Reports

Christine Lee, Associate Superintendent, Business and Operations, Morag Asquith, Associate Superintendent, Instructional Services (which included the annual Fast Forward Year End Report for 2021/2022), 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.

- Victoria Park Drivers Experience Program. The Lethbridge Region Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints donated \$15,000 towards the purchase of a sports utility vehicle, and Subaru of Lethbridge has agreed to provide the maintenance on the vehicle.
- The Medicine Shoppe (Vishal Sukhadiya pharmacy owner) presented a \$5,000 scholarship donation to Victoria Park High School that will be awarded to five graduating students to assist in their transition to post-secondary education.
- Try a Trade Thank-you to Lethbridge businesses and organizations who provided over 200 Lethbridge School Division high school students the unique opportunity to get some first-hand experience in real-world settings with local employers. Students and their parents spent the evening at various sites and learned from skilled tradespeople in a hands-on environment. Bouquet to Andrew Krul, Lethbridge School Division's Off-Campus Education Co-ordinator, for spearheading the planning of the event. The following businesses and organizations contributed an evening of their time to host students: Adora Kitchens Ltd., Airtech Heating & Air Conditioning Ltd., Alberta AG Centre, Bella Elite Beauty Academy, Coaldale Fire Department, Lethbridge Fire and Emergency Services, Coaldale RCMP, D & D Machine Works Ltd., Davis GMC Buick, deGraaf Excavating Ltd, DIESEL Corp., DMT Industrial Fabrication, Earthlings Inc., Fix Auto, Headwater Equipment, Horizon Truck and Auto, Intercontinental Truck Body Ltd, Kal Rob Machining Ltd., Kodiak Heating & Air Conditioning, Kustom Auto Body, OSL Integrated, Southland International Trucks Ltd., Southwest Design & Construction, Summit Motors, Vanee Farm Centre Inc., Zero Gravity Crane & Rigging Inc.
- Nicholas Sheran received \$500 from Ron Hall, \$500 from Altis MSP and \$300 from Bryce Barry towards their Breakfast/Nutrition Program.

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3. Donations and Support

- Lethbridge Christian School received \$500 from Kim Ankermann towards their music program.
- Galbraith Elementary received 200 individual bags of chips from PepsiCo and 200 hot dogs and buns from Save on Foods North for their Grade 5 Volleyball tournament concession.
- Gilbert Paterson Middle School received an \$800 donation from Devon Kutsch towards Paterson Athletics.
- Senator Joyce Fairbairn Middle School received a donation from Derek Grimes for \$959.59 towards the eSports team.

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:

Lethbridge Christian School:

LCS has had an excellent start to the year! We have been intentional in our approach to build capacity with our staff as we explore new resources, connect with lead teachers, build community in our school, and connect with students and their families. In August, we began the groundwork for building a positive school culture around the idea of becoming a flourishing school. What that means and what that looks like has grown from our shared reading as a staff on the book, *Flourishing Together* by Lynn Swaner and Andy Wolfe. In this text, there are five domains that we continue to look at as a school staff to encourage growth as a learning community.

We have been looking at our shared calling and our purpose as a school. We have been sharing stories about the history of this school, our own personal stories, our faith stories, Bible stories, and our stories as learners. We have explored these ideas intentionally within our weekly chapels on Monday and Friday mornings, as well as in our classrooms. We have considered relationships and what it takes to make connections with our community at large, our whole school, and our smaller communities as classrooms. We have been excited to do whole school events such as our Terry Fox Walk in September, the very successful Feed the Bug in October to help fill our local food banks, and our Remembrance Day Assembly which brought in nearly 100 parents and guests. We are exploring learning in new and unique ways as we help to equip our teachers with new literacy and numeracy resources alongside our division lead teachers, and we have been building capacity with numeracy residencies in the fall and winter. Our Learning Commons is a bustling corner of the school with Makerspace activities centered around themes that appeal to all grade levels! Some teachers have allocated time for outdoor learning on a regular basis, and our students connect across the grade levels for various activities such as reading buddies and at recess time, weekly chapels, and for special events.

With the idea of resources, we are considering one major resource—time. As a school, we are looking for ways and opportunities to use the precious resource of time effectively. We are choosing to make more time for collaboration and connection for the purpose of providing optimal learning experiences for our students and keeping both staff and students engaged in learning. Teachers and staff have been given time to work independently on their own inquiry questions for their professional learning as well as with one another during designated collaborative time in teacher pairs. This is creating momentum in learning and in building relationships and connections. In the area of well-being, we are thrilled to be showcasing in-person music concerts at Christmas time for our elementary students as well as band concerts for our middle school students. We have school sports up and running with volleyball and basketball, and our entire learning community is excited about our school fundraisers/special events with Red Engine Coffee for our music program, poinsettia sales to support our child with Compassion, our sock collection through November and December for those less fortunate, and our NEW school swag that is coming soon!

LCS is an exciting place to be in 2022/2023!

Dr. Robert Plaxton:

Dr. Plaxton has had a great start to the 2022/23 school year. Our collective learning focus as a staff is numeracy and we have been fortunate to work with Michaela Demers through professional learning days and a 3-day numeracy residency.

4. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Dr. Robert Plaxton:

Michaela modeled lessons from the Building Fact Fluency Kit for teachers and teachers have now been implementing lessons independently. Teachers continue to engage in conversations and learning about the Math Workshop model where number sense routines, concept-based focus lessons, small group instruction, and learning stations take place. Our school was excited to host its first ever family Halloween Dance in October, and we had a gigantic turn out! Families participated in our DJ'd dance, green-screen photo booths, and karaoke. We were thrilled to enjoy this evening with Plaxton families! Our Remembrance Day Ceremony was also a huge success. Fine Arts teacher, Sarah Harmon, prepared Sr. Choir and Handbell Choir pieces for the Ceremony. She ensured our Ceremony included a live bag piper and trumpeter along with special guest, veteran Rick Drought, who spoke at the Ceremony. Many students in grade 5 have taken the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular volleyball. Students practice 2x/week in the mornings and play inter-school games 2x/week after school. The end of season tournament will take place Friday, November 25th at Dr. Plaxton Elementary. Dr. Plaxton continues to maintain a focus on purposeful technology integration within the school, and student learning has been enhanced through VR experiences, opportunities to 3D print products, work with elementary-safe wood working tools, and tinker and build with a variety of building materials in our MakerSpace and Learning Commons areas.

We look forward to the festive month of December where our school will host a Winter Wonderland family gathering. We are also excited for a special project in January that is being constructed with many of the Asian families in our school community where opportunities to learn about the Chinese New Year, customs and celebrations will take place.

5. Board Strategic Planning

The Board Strategic Planning session is scheduled for March 2-3, 2023. It is an opportunity for the Board to work together to set the strategic direction for the 2023/2024 Board Assurance Plan.

The Board provided the Superintendent with direction regarding: 1. Location 2. Desired outcomes and processes for the strategic planning session.

6. Provincial Grants for Mental Health and Learning Disruption

Lethbridge School Division was successful in securing two grants from Alberta Education that Division office staff developed and submitted in August and September.

1. Mental Health In School Pilot Program Funding. The total amount of funding is \$360,000 for the time period of December, 2022 to December, 2024. To be approved for the grant, the project had to enrich mental health supports and services in new and innovative ways.

Project Title: Digital Education and Intervention in Lethbridge School Division Lethbridge School Division has experienced a high level of digital citizenship issues throughout the pandemic, so much so that it is impacting the overall wellness of our students and staff. As part of the project, Lethbridge School Division will secure a teacher (Digital Citizenship Educator) and a social worker (Digital Citizenship Worker) to support digital citizenship and learning. The team will support in crisis situations to teach impacted students (and families) skills around appropriate use and supervision of technology. The team will work within our classrooms (universal lessons) as well as provide temporary counselling support (1:1 support and referral to outside support) to staff and students who require support. Thank-you to Morag Asquith, Associate Superintendent of Instructional Services, for developing the proposal and working toward implementation.

2. Learning Disruption Funding Lethbridge School Division will receive \$219,153 to provide literacy intervention programming for students in grades 2 to 4. To qualify for the grant, the Division had to submit results of literacy testing for students in grades 1 to 4 from the 2021/2022 school year as well as testing conducted in September, 2022. This funding will support the Division in organizing Boost intervention strategies similar to the literacy and numeracy intervention put in place last school year.

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6. Provincial Grants for Mental Health and Learning Disruption

The Board thanked Karen Rancier, Director of Curriculum, as well as Lead Teachers Jodie Babki and Michaela Demers for working tirelessly on Boost program implementation last year and moving into this year. Huge bouquets went out to all the elementary teachers who conducted the literacy assessments under a very short timeline in September. Their hard work will make a difference to providing students with support.

The Board received the report as information.

7. Student Illness Trends

Due to the fact there has been some attention drawn to attendance statistics of students across Alberta this fall due to illness, Superintendent Cheryl Gilmore provided student attendance trends for Lethbridge School Division for the past few weeks.

The Board accepted this as information.

8. 2022/2023 Budget Update

Included with the memo was a Budget update for the 2022/2023 school year based on Sept. 30 enrolment numbers. Director of Finance, Avice DeKolver, attended the meeting to review the update and responded to any questions the Trustees had.

The update begins on Page 49 of the [AGENDA](#).

The Board received the Budget Update for the 2022/2023 fiscal year as information.

9. Approval of International Trip

Geordan Olson from Lethbridge Collegiate Institute requested approval to take approximately 45 Grade 10-12 students on an International Trip to New York City, New York from Oct. 26-29, 2023. Information regarding the educational benefits of the trip, proposed itinerary, and risk checklists was attached. The estimated cost per student is \$2,300 in Canadian Funds. Fundraising opportunities will be available to students to offset the cost of the trip. The Lethbridge Collegiate Institute trip to New York City in October, 2023 was approved by the Board, on the condition that all Division policies and procedures are strictly followed, and with the understanding that future travel advisories and/or vaccination requirements may affect the trip's ability to proceed.

10. 2021/2022 Audited Financial Statement

School jurisdictions are required to submit an audited financial report to Alberta Education. Will Zobell, Partner and Amber Ericksen from BDO Canada LLP attended the meeting. Avice DeKolver, the Division's Director of Finance, presented the audited financial statements.

The Board approved the Audited Financial Statements for the 2021/2022 fiscal year, as presented.

The statement can be found on Page 112 of the [AGENDA](#).

11. Division Assurance Results Report

Alberta Education requires that each school jurisdiction develop an Assurance Results Report to be reviewed, approved, posted on the jurisdiction website, and submitted to Alberta Education by Nov. 30 of each year. The report captures the measures identified in each of the Board priority areas outlined in the Board 2020/2023 Education Plan and complies with Assurance Domain requirements for provincial reporting. The results in the report contain information from the provincial 2021/2022 Assurance Report. The division looks at results to inform planning for the next school year. Coordinator of Learning and International Education, Trish Syme, and Communication Officer Garrett Simmons have been instrumental in co-ordinating the production of the Assurance Results Report document. The Education Centre leadership team worked collaboratively to provide input into the report. Please access the Assurance Results Report here: [ASSURANCE](#).

The Board approved the 2021/2022 Assurance Results Report as presented.

12. 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. Coordinator of Learning and International Education, Trish Syme co-ordinates the meetings.

Policy 606.4: Institutional Schools - The Board unanimously passed a motion to change Policy 606.4 to a procedure.
Policy 605.2: Inclusive Learning Supports Out of Division Placements - The Board unanimously passed a motion to remove Policy 605.2.

The policies can be found on Page 184 of the [AGENDA](#).

13. Zone 6 Representative – Lethbridge School Division

Allison Purcell was elected as the Zone 6 Director on Oct. 19, 2022. Her position as Zone Director becomes official on Nov. 21, 2022 with her swearing the Oath of Office. As she cannot hold both a position as an ASBA Director and our Division Representative for the Zone, the Board needs to confirm/assign a new representative and alternate. Currently, Trustee Craig Whitehead holds the position of alternate representative.

The Board appointed Whitehead as the Division Zone 6 representative and Christine Light as alternate for the remainder of the year.

14. Community Conversations

Community Conversations are times 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.

Upcoming dates for Community Conversations are as follows:

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

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

The Board accepted this as information and will share the details 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. Committee Reports

Reports were delivered for the Policy Advisory Committee, Audit Committee, Division School Council and the Community Engagement Committee.

The reports can be found starting on Page 196 of the [AGENDA](#).

16. Correspondence Sent

Lethbridge School Division sent letters to Lethbridge-East MLA Nathan Neudorf and Lethbridge-West MLA Shannon Phillips, to invite them to the ASBA 2002 MLA Breakfast in Edmonton.

Regular Meeting video: [LIVESTREAM](#)



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