



Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting highlights from December 20 - Next meeting January 24 -

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 9 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 is provided in the form of a report each month.

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.

- Christina Eileen donated \$191.83 for the Breakthrough Dance Production
- LA Chefs is hosting a Winter Feast Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings for all Galbraith students and staff.
- Blaine Hyggen, owner of Copy Express, donated sports jerseys for the volleyball and basketball teams at Westminster School. (Value approx. \$750)
- Ryan Smith donated \$2,000 and Chinook Counselling Centre donated \$150 towards the Nicholas Sheran Breakfast Program.
- The Friends of Nicholas Sheran School Parent Council with some support from Alexander, Sapriken & Waldron Accounting Inc. and Mrs. Robyn James, donated \$400 worth of Christmas cookies and packaging for the NS Christmas Concert
- Wholesale Club donated \$500 of gift cards targeting distribution to families in need for Christmas.

Recommendation It is recommended that the Board receive this 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. Congratulations to the schools, staff and students featured for the month of December:

Immanuel Christian Elementary School:

There are many highlights at Immanuel Christian Elementary School this year! We had three teams participate in the Grade 5 Division Volleyball League which was an exciting opportunity for skill development, meeting other Grade 5 students, and seeing various school buildings in our Division.

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4. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Immanuel Christian Elementary School:

We look forward to participating in the upcoming Division Basketball League as well!

In September, we held a Pastors Appreciation Pancake Breakfast which was well attended and provided opportunity for students to visit with their pastors over pancakes and show them around the building. Similarly, monthly chapels make it possible to gather as a school community, including staff, students, and parents. The Thanksgiving chapel was led by Grade 3 and the Remembrance Day chapel, by Grade 1. Advent chapels will begin at the end of November and our Christmas chapel will be led by Grade 4.

ICES had high levels of participation in the Legion's poster and writing campaign. Various posters were displayed at the Remembrance Day chapel and poems were also shared by the student authors. ICES continues to serve our local and global communities through various projects. In October, ICES had a successful food drive for the Interfaith Foodbank and will be hosting another in December. Throughout Advent, staff and students will be participating in a clothing drive (socks, mittens, and toques) for Streets Alive and Harbour House.

On a global level, students will be contributing funds they earned of their own accord (baking, shoveling snow, home chores) throughout the Advent season to Compassion Canada. These funds will then be designated by each classroom for specific Compassion Canada global initiatives.

Senator Joyce Fairbairn:

Medal of Honour Winners 2021-2022 School Year:

It is with great pleasure that we awarded our 2021-22 Senator Joyce Fairbairn Medal of Honour Class this past October. The award itself is founded in the endearing qualities of Senator Joyce and is best described in the nomination descriptor: Senator Joyce Fairbairn Medal of Honour. This award will honour Senator Fairbairn's dedication to and tireless work in making our world a better place. She is a special human being whose actions and decisions are rooted in, and inseparable from, who she is at heart: hard working, determined, strategic and strong. Not only was she a trailblazer for women in the fields of communications and politics, she was also a fierce advocate for the underprivileged, a leader in the truest sense of the word and an invested promoter of literacy. Each year, this award will be presented to students who exemplify the many meaningful and inspiring facets of our school's namesake. It is important to note that these are the only public awards presented to our students and is a big part of the culture and traditions that make up the Senator Joyce Fairbairn Community. Along with their shadow boxes our award winners are immortalized on our Medal of Honour Wall for future Falcons to see and aspire to.

Athletic Highlights for Senator Joyce Fairbairn Middle School:

We have had a great start to our Athletic seasons here at Fairbairn with much to celebrate. We have completed the Cross County and Volleyball season so far and are very proud of our coaches and athletes who have represented themselves, teams, families and Senator Joyce Fairbairn Middle School with true sportsmanship and a competitive spirit they can be proud of. Our Cross-Country teams competed in three meets this past season (Fairbairn, LSAA City Championship, and South Zone Championship). The Athletes had a blast representing their Falcons Cross-country team at such competitive meets. The highlight of the Season was a Second-place aggregate finish at the South Zone Cross Country Championships that saw more than 700+ athletes compete across six divisions.

Our Falcons Volleyball teams capped off a tremendous season with Dual LSAA City Championship Titles. The LSAA City Championships were held at Wilson Middle School on November 9th with the league semi-final and final matches. Both teams were successful in their semi-final matches and played Gilbert Paterson Middle School in their respective finals which gave the capacity crowds lots to cheer about (IE the boys second game in their best of three match was decided with a Paterson win (29-27) which sent the match to a third and deciding set).

We want to thank all our Players, Coaches and Parents for their support during the first 1/3 of our Athletic season and are looking forward to a great Basketball, Badminton and Track & Field season in the months ahead.

4. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Senator Joyce Fairbairn:

Fine Arts Accomplishments:

Even though it is still early in the year, we have already achieved some great accomplishments at Fairbairn. After taking part in some early band clinics with local experts, The Fairbairn band performed wonderfully at the Senator Joyce Fairbairn Medal of Honour ceremony, and a student soloist lead the school in the national anthem. Remembrance Day also provided opportunities for fine arts students to perform. Grade 6 drama presented a short readers theatre. Band students performed all new pieces and the assembly featured students as MCs. In November we were able to bring about a two-night festival featuring art, drama, dance, singing, instrumentalists, and many other assorted fine arts talents. This was an opportunity to showcase the many talents of our Fairbairn students that may traditionally not get an opportunity to perform in school-based events. The Foods classes catered the event with food created in class. We are proud of how well our students performed. Our grade 7 theatre for young audience class was also able to tour local elementary schools and perform original student plays to a gym full of adoring kids. A special thank you to Dr. Probe and Coalbanks Elementary Schools for kindly hosting our performers. As we approach the holiday season, the band and choir classes are preparing for the annual Fairbairn Cares concert in support of the Lethbridge Food Bank. To preview the remainder of the school year, you will be seeing a musical production, multiple choir performances, including the choir festival, a film festival, band concerts, band tours and curricular showcase performances. We are excited about all that is going on in our Fine Arts community.

Learning Commons:

Our learning commons is excited to see that our STEM focus and Maker Stations are going extremely well. Students have been high engaged in the Learning Commons with these great activities, as well as fun literacy-based activities like our "Starbooks book tasting".

Mike Mountain Horse:

It is hard to believe that it is only December when reflecting on all the exciting and engaging experiences that Mike Mountain Horse students, families and staff have experienced this year! August began with amazing learning opportunities for staff focusing on best practices in Numeracy, best practices in Literacy and restorative practices for supporting students. We faced the challenge of enrollment growth in our kindergarten, necessitating the hiring of an additional teacher a week before students started school. What a gift! In September we welcomed families to join their children in classrooms during the first week of school. It was wonderful to see families interacting in classrooms again. Our Welcome Back Spirit assembly and Meet the Teacher Open House evening were absolutely packed with smiling families. Thanks to the incredible turn out at our Meet the Teacher Evening, we had several new faces join our school council and school council society, bolstering our already engaged and highly active council and society. Students participated in the west schools Terry Fox Walk around Nicholas Sheran, celebrated Blue and Yellow Day, and engaged in rich learning to celebrate and honour Orange Shirt Day and National day for Truth and Reconciliation.

October was the perfect time to engage in embedded Collaborative Learning Time for teachers. A new addition to our school timetable, each Friday for one-hour, alternating grade level teaching teams meet with admin to focus on planning, learning and best practice while students are engaged in universal mental health learning with our teacher counsellor and physical education and wellness with our learning support teacher. We hosted our first family education evening focused on Bullying vs Conflict, held our first 7 Sacred Teachings assembly focusing on Respect, began generative dialogue meetings with grade teams and began our First Five sessions to support staff new to our building or in their first five years of teaching. And the highlight of the month was definitely our School Council Society sponsored Halloween Dance-AThon! Our amazing school community rallied to raise almost \$16,000!

November was just as busy with a beautiful in person Remembrance Day Assembly, Superhero dress up day, Report cards, our second Spirit assembly celebrating Courage, successful Kindergarten parent teacher conferences and the addition of a grade one classroom, due to an ongoing increase in enrollment!

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4. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Mike Mountain Horse:

Several of our families attended and enjoyed the Indigenous family Bingo evening sponsored by the Indigenous education team and we are already planning a similar event for our school community! As we near the end of December, several grade levels have engaged in exciting project-based learning experiences including a 'trip' to Saskatchewan by our Grade 2s, writing and publishing graphic novels in grade five and an exploration of celebrations around the world in Grade 1.

We are hosting our second annual Winter Window Walk with the addition of family caroling in the gym. We are celebrating festive Fridays - Red and Green Day, Tinsel Time, Ugly Sweater and Socks, Pajama Day - each Friday in December and celebrating our school's diverse population by focusing on winter and holiday themes. Whew! It has been a whirlwind four months full of learning, families and fun and we can't wait for the New Year!

5. School Year Calendar for 2023-2024

The DRAFT 2023-2024 Calendar brought to the Board has been discussed and reviewed by school administrators and the Calendar Committee consisting of representatives from Division School Council, CUPE 2843, Human Resources Director, ATA, and Administrators' Committee.

The Board approved the 2023/2024 School Year Calendar by a 5-2 vote.

The calendar presentation begins at the 1:04:30 mark of the meeting [LIVESTREAM](#).

The calendar can be found on Page 39 of the [AGENDA](#).

6. 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.

Upcoming dates for Community Conversations are as follows: 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 information with their respective schools as able. The information will be shared publicly on the Division website and social media channels.

7. Board Donations for Christmas

In the spirit of giving, the Board of Trustees made a \$50 donation per school to the charity of each school's choice. This is in lieu of Christmas Treats.

The list of donations can be found on Page 41 of the [AGENDA](#).

8. City of Lethbridge Budget Discussion

The City of Lethbridge concluded operating budget deliberations Nov. 18. Pending final approval, property taxes are set to increase by 5.1% in each of the next four years. There are some areas of the city's budget deliberation that have impact on students and families.

The Board discussed the potential impact of the city's budget deliberations on students and families.

9. Remembrance Day Wreath

Organizations honour veterans by purchasing and laying a wreath during the Remembrance Day Ceremony in the City of Lethbridge.

The Board approved the purchase of a wreath, and will lay a Remembrance Day wreath at future Remembrance Day ceremonies to honour veterans.

10. Committee Reports

Reports were delivered for the Facilities Committee, Division School Council, Team Lethbridge Mission December, Community Engagement Committee and the Poverty Intervention Committee.

The reports can be found starting on Page 45 of the [AGENDA](#).

11. Division Student Leadership

At the request of board members at the November 2022 Board meeting, it was requested to provide information about the Division Student Leadership committee. As board representative for the Joint Committee, Kristina Larkin shared an update.

The update can be found on Page 54 of the [AGENDA](#).

Regular Meeting video: [LIVESTREAM](#)



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