



Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting highlights from January 24 - Next meeting February 28 -

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 10 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.

- Russ Stewart of Promax Agronomy Services Ltd donated \$1,000 of PC gift cards for the Galbraith Breakfast/Snack program
- Nicholas Sheran received \$150 from Rubaiyat Khan, \$500 from Laura and Jack DeHeer and \$200 from Janice Jackson towards their Breakfast/Nutrition Program.

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:

Dr. Gerald B. Probe Elementary:

It was Aug. 31 and Margaret was anxiously anticipating her first day of Grade 5 at her new school, Dr. Probe Elementary. Margaret had been thinking about what her first day would be like and was asking her mom so many questions about it; who would her teacher be? Would it be easy to make friends? Would school be fun? Would she do well? All questions her mother was wondering about too, but also hoping that the year would be a success, and that her daughter would be excited, happy and feel safe going to school.

Just after lunch, the phone rang. Margaret's mother answered the call, on the line was Mr. Campbell, Margaret's grade 5 teacher for the year. As it was her first year at the school, Mr. Campbell wanted to personally connect with Margaret's parents and ensure that he could answer any questions and formally welcome Margaret to his class. Mr. Campbell wanted to ensure Margaret was comfortable and confident heading into her first day, while this call was meant to make Margaret feel more confident, it may have given more relief to her mother! Margaret's mother asked questions about the classroom, Mr. Campbell's expectations, and what kind of things happen around the school that Margaret will enjoy.

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4. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Dr. Gerald B. Probe Elementary:

Coming out of a COVID year, Mr. Campbell had great excitement in his voice, and he began to identify some of the events that awaited Margaret this year. Mr. Campbell also spoke of the vision of Dr. Probe School, a community of confident, active learners who are inclusive and kind. Mr. Campbell explained that Dr. Probe students were encouraged to embody the “4Cs” (or character values) of the school, Care, Courage, Cooperation and Creativity. And further, how these values were embedded in the learning activities and opportunities available to students at Probe. As the call finished, Margaret’s mother thanked Mr. Campbell, beginning to share his enthusiasm and excitement for what seemed to be a promising year ahead.

The expression “time flies” could not have been truer for Margaret, Mr. Campbell and all students and staff at Dr. Probe. Heading into the Winter Break, time seemed to have passed by in the blink of an eye. Margaret’s first day of school and the 4 months that followed had proven to be very successful and she was truly feeling like a proud member of the school community.

One cold day in December, she was telling Mr. Campbell about how the year was going even better than he had said it would in August. As she began telling him her favorite things about her first year at the school, Mr. Campbell challenged her to write about her experience using the 4Cs of Dr. Probe to reflect and share her experience. A little hesitant, Margaret took up the challenge and, on Dec. 22, the last day of school before break, she left the following letter on Mr. Campbell’s desk:

Dear Mr. Campbell,

You challenged me to reflect on my first year at Dr. Probe by using the 4Cs of the school, with all the things that have already happened this year, I wanted to tell you about each core value and how much they mean to me.

Care

The first day of school, when my mom brought me into the office, she said something about this place felt like home. I did not know what she meant, but I feel like I do now. You give us so many opportunities to show care to others. The Terry Fox Run was so cool because we got to bring attention to an important person, Terry Fox, and the impact he has had on others, but we also got to see all the students from each west side elementary school when we met up in Nicholas Sheran Park – what a cool way to connect. We also did Heap the Jeep in November to support people who don’t have enough food to feed their families. Dr. Probe brought in over 1,200 pounds of food in just one week – Mrs. Howg told me that equaled about \$4,000 worth of donations! The school was also a site for Angel Tree donations, where presents were brought in to help families in need and that could not afford to buy them for their kids. My class alone took 20 tags.

You told us that we would be leaders this year because we are grade 5s. You didn’t tell us we would be “care” leaders! We get to be book buddies with the grade 1 kids down the hall and meet every week to read to them. My buddy said they never liked reading until they got to read with me. They told me they hope to be as good a reader as me someday!

The other thing I love about being a care leader is the Grade 5 Legacy Project. Each year the Grade 5s pick a way to support our school community and show everyone what it means to give back, just like the sign says in our front foyer at the school. I like that we get to help the senior citizens at Columbia Assisted Living Centre. They loved our messages of hope and seeing us on Halloween when we went through their lodge in our costumes. I cannot wait until we come back from break so we can visit them again to play games and read with them.

Co-operation

I love your class, Mr. Campbell, because of how often we get to work with other students during the day. You keep telling us how you want us to be “thinkers” and problem solvers and that the teachers have been working hard to make their classrooms places where students are active learners. I think some of the things you showed us in your teacher book, the one about being thinkers in math by Peter Liljedahl, is really fun for us and I hope we get to keep using vertical surfaces, random partner groups and all the other neat things you try.

4. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Dr. Gerald B. Probe Elementary:

Coming from my other school, I can't believe all the amazing things we actually get to do at Dr. Probe. One of my favourite memories will definitely be the Halloween Danceathon. We got to raise money so we can go on cool field trips this year (like the Wizard of Oz at LCI and next year's Dance Performance by the LCI Dance Academy that the whole school gets to see). When Mr. van der Meer told us we raised over \$14,000 as a school, I was blown away. I also won't forget the Winter Carnival we just had. My last school used to do a big concert, but at Probe we got to do so many fun activities like interacting with baby goats, singing with Santa Claus, visiting the "sugar shack" where Mrs. Brooks made us traditional maple syrup candies while Mrs. Hudson taught us how to play the spoons and we even got to make our very own snowman ornament. I took mine home and hung it in our living room window for everyone to see! My mom could not believe how many parents were at the school to help out. I don't know why that was so amazing to her, I told her there are parents at Probe everyday helping students read and working in teachers' classrooms.

I already think about how much I will miss Probe next year when I go to SJF, but you told me that there are ways that I can come back and visit like how the band students came and performed in our gym this year, or how in December the drama students came in to act out the plays they wrote. Or even the Grade 6 group that came to write Christmas letters with the Kindergarten students in Ms. Goruk and Ms. Moline's classes.

Creativity

You told me that last year one of the school's character values was changed from Concern to Creativity. You also told me that creativity can be more than drawing a picture, and can be how I solve a math problem, or make up new rules to a game, or even how I might have different ideas than other students in the class. One of my favorite creativity projects was when Tim Hortons challenged us to write them a description of our "dream donut". We had to convince them that it was the best donut by using creative language and a convincing description.

Ashlynn won, and she deserved it, her donut was so cool. When Stefa and Brian Pynn, the owners of the Westside Tim Hortons, came to our school they brought the donuts Ashlynn designed and we all got to have one. I thought that Ashlynn was the only winner, but you told us that there were 8 other classes that got to participate and Stefa and Brian chose a winner from each of those classes too! I know I already wrote about "care", but I also heard about how creative one of our grade 4 students, Sophie Neville, was in showing care this Christmas. Sophie raised over 1000 dollars that she donated to the Lethbridge Food Bank by selling gnomes she painted at Naturistas, a local health store in the city. She is not even in grade 5 yet and she is totally a care leader (who is super creative).

Courage

I left courage for last, because it was something my mom told me I needed to start in a new school this year. It was destiny to see that it is also one of the 4Cs at the school. After being here for a few months my courage has been tested. I joined Choir and was so nervous when we performed at Southminster United Church with the Lethbridge Symphony Orchestra. It was such a cool experience, and while I felt nervous on the way to perform, having all my friends around me made it so much easier.

That is what is so amazing about this school, the people. I have to agree with my mom, Probe does feel like home. I love the teachers here. I love the friends I have made.

After rereading this letter, I can see why you wanted me to write these memories down. There were too many to tell you during class, but they are also ones I never want to forget.

Sincerely,
Margaret

Lethbridge Collegiate Institute:

1. Fall began with a full slate of athletics (football, volleyball, golf, x-country)
2. LCI hosted the zone cross country event at Nicholas Sheran Lake
3. E-sports at LCI has developed into a national level program
- LCI hosts an E-sport computer lab for competitions

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4. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Lethbridge Collegiate Institute:

4. LCI's Fall Production – "Wizard of Oz" was held at the school
5. Christmas Concert for choir and band were held
 - Choir "Under Winter Moon"
 - Band "A Not So Silent Night"
6. Hosted a school dance "Winter Waltz"
7. Dance Academy has their upcoming show February 1 - 4 ..." Breakthrough"
8. Grade 9 students participated in the Cardboard Boat races at the U of L pool
9. Student leadership students led us in the Tri-high Food Drive. Over 8000 pounds of food was donated by the three city schools (LCI, Chinook and WCHS)
10. Disney trip planned for band at Easter
11. Return to an in-person academic awards night
12. Continue to prepare for ongoing growth

4. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

General Stewart Elementary:

General Stewart is very proud to share our highlights so far this year. We consistently work to build community with our students and families. We purchase school shirts each year and this year they are Pink and are being given to students on Pink Shirt Day to build community and awareness. During the past two years, we moved to Daily Morning Meetings over Teams during which we had a rotation of students from each class that participate in the announcements by sharing Celebrations of the Day as well as Jokes of the Day. This has been very successful in continuing to connect students and classes within our school so we have continued this practice. On Fridays, our grade 5 students rotate hosting our meetings and they take over all of the technical and speaking parts, including our Land Acknowledgement and gratitude statement, which is spoken in Blackfoot. We also have Melanie Morrow join us for our Tuesday Morning Announcements for our Indigenous Education spotlight. We also implement Thinking Thursdays and Wonder Wednesdays to engage students in thinking routines and expand their viewpoints and critical thinking skills. In addition, General Stewart has traditionally held monthly walks to Henderson Lake and this is something that continues to this day. When we hold these events, we invite parents to join us. We have also hold Halloween Parades, Remembrance Day Assemblies, and Holiday Celebration Concerts. In addition to holding these activities in person, we also live stream them for families that are not able to attend. We host a book fair and our annual March Book Madness Tournament of Picture Books. We are also planning on holding a French Celebration of Learning for Le Festival du Voyageur. We have also started a new program this year for Second Languages which is Spanish. Our grade 4 and 5 students have instruction in French and Spanish for half of the year.

Our Numeracy Instruction has a new addition this year in the form of Math Up which is a fantastic On-Line resource that we are excited to use alongside the Building Fact Fluency Addition/Subtraction and Multiplication/Division Kits. Our Literacy Instruction is continuing to focus on how we can best meet each students needs by using data to help them grow. Our Balanced Literacy Program involves independent and levelled reading groups and instruction in Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary, and Comprehension. Our school focus this year is on UDL and how we can implement this framework to further increase student engagement and instruction. We are working with the Coalbanks staff on this journey and it is very exciting!

We have had two Kids Markets and are planning on a third that will take place in the Spring.

This is also our second year of implementing Enrichment Days where students select from a variety of activities that staff offer. These have been highlights of each school year. We have also purchased a large inflatable outdoor movie screen that we have used for our Community Engagement Nights. Our students participate in the inter-school volleyball and basketball leagues which have been great opportunities to learn, grow and meet students from other schools. We also have two 3-D printers and have worked over the past two years to build capacity in our students to design and print models. Last year, every student in our school from K-5 worked in 3D Builder to design an object that we printed for them to take home.

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4. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

General Stewart Elementary:

A team of our Grade 5 student seven designed and printed the keepsakes that we give to our Grade 5s at the end of each year as a gift from the school. We have also put together “Lip Dubs” for each of the past 4 years where students Celebrate the school year and their time at General Stewart.

These videos are highlighted on our YouTube Channel. We are once again participating in a School Smudging Ceremony this year as well as using Rocks from Orange Shirt Day to create our own Winter Count in conjunction with Ms. Morrow. This will be a great activity as part of our Aboriginal Day Celebration. Thanks for giving us this opportunity to share some of our highlights this year!

5. Town Hall

Lethbridge School Division is hosting the annual [Town Hall Meeting](#) in person on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023 from 6:30–8:30 p.m. The meeting will be hosted at **Victoria Park High School** in the gymnasium.

The purpose of the meeting is to seek feedback to assist the Division and Board of Trustees as they explore Division priorities. The feedback will frame consideration of the 2022/2023 Education Plan and budget.

The questions Trustees are seeking feedback on is as follows:

We are all partners in education who collectively support student learning.

Question 1: “In what ways are we successfully supporting students to help them grow as learners?”

Question 2: “Where do you see room for improvement in supporting students as learners?”

Trustees decided how they wish to engage with the stakeholders during the Town Hall.

Choices included being assigned to a table for each question, being assigned to a cluster of tables to circulate, circulating without clusters assigned to individual trustees, or a different engagement strategy the trustees envision. Trustees wished to be assigned to the cluster of tables for the evening.

The Board received the briefing as information and will apprise administration as to the role they would like to assume during table discussions.

6. Board Strategic Planning

Trustees will be engaged in strategic planning March 2-3, 2023. Superintendent Cheryl Gilmore provided a review of a tentative agenda for Board feedback.

The Board provided any feedback and direction regarding the draft Strategic Planning agenda that was provided at the meeting.

7. International Trip, Chinook High School

Kevin Schenk from Chinook High School requested approval to take approximately 36 Grade 9-12 students on an International Trip to The British Isles from April 19-30, 2024. Information regarding the educational benefits of the trip, proposed itinerary, and risk checklists were attached. The estimated cost per student is \$4,800 in Canadian Funds, fully paid by the student. Donations can be collected by the student to offset the cost of the trip.

The Chinook High School trip to the British Isles in April 2024 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.

8. 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.

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8. Policy Review

The Board adopted the revisions to the policies as presented by the Policy Advisory Committee:

Policy 500.1 - Student Rights and Responsibilities - Amendment - all in favour

Policy 502.3 - Suspensions and Expulsions - The Board unanimously passed a motion to send the policy back to the Policy Advisory Committee for further review. (Trustee Genny Steed was absent from the vote).

Policy 605.1 - Inclusive Learning Supports - The Board unanimously passed a motion to send the policy back to the Policy Advisory Committee and to Trish Syme (the Co-ordinator of Learning), to provide the Board with the exact picture moving forward.

Policy 207.1 - Lethbridge School Division Ward Boundary Review - The Board passed a motion to discuss the document at a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

The policies can be found on Page 43 of the [AGENDA](#).

9. First Quarter Financial Report

The 2022/2023 First Quarter Financial Report for the Division was provided for review. Director of Finance, Avice DeKolver, was in attendance to respond to any questions Trustees had. The Board approved the 2022-2023 First Quarter Financial Report as presented. The report can be found on Page 51 of the [AGENDA](#).

10. 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 those attending 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. **(CANCELLED)**
- Tuesday, Feb. 14 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Virtually on Teams – watch the website/Facebook for the link
- Tuesday, March 7 1:30-3 p.m. Lethbridge Fish and Game Association - 946 9 Ave. S. #922

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

11. Committee Reports

Reports were delivered for the Wellness Committee, Division School Council, Division School Council and the Policy Advisory Committee.

The reports can be found starting on Page 86 of the [AGENDA](#).

12. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal

Lethbridge-West MLA Shannon Phillips attended the meeting to present a Queen's Platinum Jubilee medal to Trustee Kristina Larkin. For more on the presentation, please click on this link: [MEDAL](#).

Regular Meeting video: [LIVESTREAM](#)



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