



# Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

## Meeting highlights from February 28 - Next meeting March 28 -

### 1. Superintendent Retirement Recognition

Board Chair Allison Purcell began the meeting by recognizing Supt. Cheryl Gilmore for her service to Lethbridge School Division. The recognition can be found 40 seconds into the meeting livestream: [RETIREMENT](#).

### 2. Committee Reports

Reports were delivered for the Indigenous Education Committee, Community Engagement Committee and the Joint City/School Boards Committee. The Community Engagement Committee report included a summary of the Communication Survey, which begins at the 2:33:50 mark of the meeting livestream: [COMMUNICATION](#). The reports can be found starting on Page 3 of the [AGENDA](#).

### 3. 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 15 of the [AGENDA](#).

### 4. 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.

The report can be found on Page 31 of the [AGENDA](#).

### 5. Donations and Support

- Eagles-Ladies Auxiliary #2100 donated \$200 to the Galbraith Breakfast Program.
- Chris Bosman donated \$95.86 to Galbraith Elementary with the message "To the Galbraith staff. Thank you for finding the picture of my brother on the Senior Boys 1952/1953 Hockey Team. Your Kindness and interest you showed was refreshing. It was our family's first winter in Canada, Brian could skate well but he did not have a hockey stick and had to borrow his teammates sticks. My 84-year-old brother's memories were consolidated and I felt like a rock star walking out of the school. Thank you very much."
- Gilbert Paterson Middle School received \$450 from the Playgoers of Lethbridge
- Nicholas Sheran Breakfast Club received the following donations:
  - o Cut & Dried Coatings Ltd./Matthew Ylioja - \$1,500
  - o Fee Simple Law LLP/Michael Gabriel - \$500
  - o Mark Lencucha - \$500
  - o Costco Lethbridge #160 - \$300
  - o Diane Lencucha - \$300
  - o Headwater Equipment/ Matthew Stringer - \$250
  - o Penny O'Brien - \$200
  - o Safeway West/Jack Henderson - \$100 gift card

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

### **Lakeview Elementary School:**

Oki! Lakeview Elementary is a vibrant and diverse community that continues to grow and change. This year we have more than 25 different languages represented by our student population.

One of our main school goals is to build a culture of thinking. As part of this goal, we continue to reorganize and make physical changes within our building to cultivate collaborative learning spaces for students in both classrooms and common spaces. As well, our teachers are all participating in a book study, *Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics*, by Peter Liljedahl, and we are looking forward to participating in professional learning with Garfield Gini Newman in May to further our understanding of creating thinking classrooms. Lastly, the resources that were purchased to support the implementation of new curriculum have further helped to shape new practices that encourage critical thinking.

This school year our community has embraced opportunities that were not available during COVID.

From volunteers in classrooms to field trips, guest speakers, special assemblies, presentations and Grade 5 Volleyball/Basketball, the Lakeview community has been so grateful for the chance to return to these special traditions. New to our school this year is the weekly Wellness block where students participate in a variety of activities and practices that support emotional wellbeing. It has been equally popular with students from Kindergarten to Grade 5. Play and outdoor learning continue to be embedded in our school through school wide practices and is always an option during the Wellness block.

Finally, we are looking forward to additional opportunities in the second part of the school year to support and celebrate learning. We are excited to hold a celebration of learning in March as well as a literacy night in April. Both the Global Drumming group and the Alberta Opera Company will be performing at Lakeview in the coming weeks. Our Indigenous Education Committee is working with Melanie Morrow to plan an Indigenous Day in May, and planning has begun for a spring production based on Charlie Mackesy's book, *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*, to be performed May 4.

We are grateful for the support of our community and our School Council for funding the field trips and special events.

### **Chinook High School:**

Chinook continues to focus this year on re-establishing its community and identity after the disruption and changes of the last few years. This includes every staff member working in a PL inquiry group under one of the following areas: clarifying our identity and strengthening community, building wellness for learning, increasing student engagement in learning, and forming common, critical understanding of barriers to learning. While we have seen highlights in all of these areas, the ones that are really visible right now are the pieces around clarifying identity and strengthening community.

Chinook has seen a resurgence of student and staff collaboration to build both our identity and community. A return to full participation in all curricular and co-curricular activities has been marked by wildly successful multiple class collaborations to put on a large scale musical, *Mama Mia* in the fall, along with a full return to all of our fine and performing arts performances (E.g. Rock and Jazz shows at the Owl, Choir, Band and Guitar Concerts, etc.) with more coming up in the spring.

Club participation in both numbers of clubs and students participating is higher than ever this year, with students actively seeking ways to participate in school and grow the community as well as express their identity within the school. Our leadership class has expanded to include a larger teaching staff this year, and the events they run, both by themselves and in conjunction with other clubs (e.g. working with Culture Club) serve as the heart and glue of the community and strive to give back through many fundraising events (e.g. Christmas food drive - Chinook was again the Tri-high winner). All sports programs have been in full swing as well, with a renewed focus on growth and student athleticism that aims to grow people as well as athletes. A large part of the community as well as wellness focus has been finding opportunities for student voice in shaping the community. Staff have developed in conjunction with students a series of round table questions and events to gather that input and provide information back as to how it will be used in planning and making the school better. These are well under way.

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### **Chinook High School:**

Finally firmly re-establishing growth as the centre of all of our decisions has been evident this year, and is seen every day in conversations between all community members, and in our students who are our best ambassadors when new people come into the building. We constantly get comments about how warm and welcoming the students (and staff) are.

### **Gilbert Paterson Middle School:**

#### **LEARNING:**

**LITERACY** - There are many elements to the ongoing literacy supports and approaches at GPMS. From a whole school lens, staff have been engaged in conversations around disciplinary literacy noting various modes and methods and are beginning to reflect on how time is spent on instruction of key elements of literacy. The school literacy committee is comprised of teachers from all grades, as well as French and English, and are reading and considering pieces from Kittle and Gallaghers 4 Essential Elements. Students who are requiring additional supports in literacy can access programs at tiered levels following assessments administered by classroom teachers alongside our learning support teacher.

- **NUMERACY** - Many classrooms are actively engaging in Building Thinking classrooms, promoting student engagement and giving voice to all students in a math classroom. Students are up at wipebooks solving all kinds of thinking tasks, working collaboratively and processing how to find the answers. They are ENGAGED! The thinking is visible, and students are actively showing their number understanding in so many ways. We are so proud of all our staff working diligently at building THINKERS. Many of these teachers are engaging with other middle and elementary school teachers in Lethbridge and other parts of Alberta, Saskatchewan and BC to plan, creating and learning from each other. Having numeracy experts like Peter Liljedahl and Richelle Marynowski to guide our practices certainly solidifies our WHY in building thinkers.

- **ASSESSMENT** – Our staff has been involved in professional dialogue around assessment and reporting. We have gathered feedback from students, parents and teachers around what makes effective feedback for learning and will continue to develop our understanding of how to best serve students and provide parents with meaningful information through future PL and collaboration time.

#### **FRENCH IMMERSION:**

- Our French immersion students are participating in the Franco Albertan flag raising ceremony on March 3rd along with student at Agnes Davidson and LCI. In order to continue building our functional French language skills, our students have had the opportunity to view French movies in partnership with Cinemagine, as well as celebrating cultural traditions from Nova Scotia during the month December, participating in Carnaval activities and our rock band performing songs in French. Our Grade 8 students are also participating in the DELF language proficiency exams in April and our Gr. 8 Voyage Québec trip is back after a 3-year hiatus! We look forward to sending 73 participants on this trip to Ottawa, Montréal and Québec. Our teachers have also been engaging in professional learning focusing on finding engaging books for our students and developing writing continuums and assessment practices with Faculté St-Jean profs.

#### **ATHLETICS/FINE ARTS**

- **Tiger Basketball** – Congratulations to our Rep Girls who won GOLD and the Rep Boys who won SILVER at the LSAA Championships. Between our four teams and club programs, we had over 100 students playing basketball this season.

- **Treasure Island** – Congratulations to our two casts and crew who just completed an exciting four-day run of our school fine arts production for audiences of family, friends, peers and elementary schools in our small gym theatre. Thank you to our dedicated teachers who directed and organized this tremendous effort and a return of live theatre to the school after two years!

- **Band and Choir** students are preparing for the Lethbridge Music Festival next month and our Rock Band students are putting together a rock show with their friends from G.S. Lakie for charity next month!

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### 6. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

#### Gilbert Paterson Middle School:

##### CITIZENSHIP:

- The Homeroom Rep Group is a compilation of one student from each class at Gilbert Paterson. These students meet once a month to discuss happenings, issues, or events around the school. A few of the topics addressed so far this year include assessment and assessment practices, the school division town hall questions, as well as what students enjoy about the school and/or changes they would like to see. Input is valued and shared with staff as well as school council and this has been an amazing tool to give agency and build confidence and investment in all groups.
- Ordinary Heroes and Diversity presentation with Shand Watson - In January, Shand shared this amazing program with our grade 6 students where they recognize how ordinary things and people can make BIG differences and impacts in our lives. The students' final project is to write a letter or card to someone who has made an impact on their life, and this gets mailed to that person. Shand also spent time in February in a Diversity and inclusion conversation with our Grade 8 students. Shand shared various stories and scenarios about how to build a positive, kind and caring "brand" for yourself and how to "market" yourself in your community. Shand is an amazing ENGAGING presenter / Making Connections partner who clearly connects with youth. Thank you for sharing your skills and knowledge with our community.
- Grade 6,7,8 Leadership – These groups have been responsible for many important and engaging activities that build positive school culture at Paterson in the last month. These include theme days like Beach Day, Valentine's Day Candy Gram fundraiser for the Make-AWish Foundation, Kindness Week activities and Pink Shirt Day celebrations, Black History Month displays, announcements and activities as well as lunch time grade level intramurals to name a few! These groups help build positive spirit and engagement with their peers.

### 7. Early Education and PUF Programming

Early Education Co-ordinator Rochelle Neville made a presentation on how Early Education and PUF Programming is structured and the program that is provided to children.

The report begins at the 1:10:55 mark of the livestream: [EARLY ED AND PUF](#).

The Board received the report as information.

### 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. Co-ordinator of Learning and International Education, Trish Syme co-ordinates the meetings.

502.3 - Suspensions and Expulsions - For Approval - The policy was sent back to the Policy Advisory Committee for more discussion.

605.1 - Inclusive Learning Supports - For Approval - The policy was approved by a 6-1 vote, with Allison Purcell voting against the motion.

Discussion on the policies begins at the 1:52:45 mark of the livestream: [POLICIES](#).

The policies can be found starting on Page 38 of the [AGENDA](#).

### 9. Community Conversations

Trustees hosted a virtual Community Conversations session on Feb. 14.

The next Community Conversations is March 7 from 1:30-3 p.m. at the Lethbridge Fish and Game Association Hut, located at 946-9 Ave. S. #922.

More information on Community Conversations can be found here: [COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS](#).

The Board received the report as information.

#### **10. Full-Time Kindergarten Subcommittee**

In the fall, the committee made a presentation at the ASBA fall general meeting to promote the concept of fully-funded, full-time Kindergarten. The committee was unsuccessful in its first attempt with a motion at that meeting but intends to put the motion forward again at the next ASBA fall general meeting in November. The new proposal will be presented at a zone meeting in May.

#### **11. Public School Boards' Association of Alberta Meeting Report**

Trustee Craig Whitehead reported that the spring general meeting will be in Calgary this year, and added the Board will be meeting with the PSBAA president and executive secretary on March 14 as part of the Committee of the Whole meeting.

#### **12. School Boundary Review Committee**

Trustee Craig Whitehead reported that the committee was formed in September, but has not yet met. It was agreed a meeting date would be set through consultation with trustees.

#### **13. Correspondence Received**

Lethbridge School Division received a copy of a letter sent to the Minister of Education by Elk Island Public Schools. The letter outlined Elk Island's hope the Government of Alberta would put more funding towards the School Nutrition Program.

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



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of the Board of Trustees  
for February 28. The next meeting  
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