



Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting highlights from March 28 - Next meeting April 25 -

1. ASBA Zone 6 Meeting Report

At the ASBA Meeting on March 15th we had a conversation about how the various divisions choose their Edwin Parr Nominee. It varied from interviewing by the Board to just accepting what the Administration chooses. Again, please be aware of the awards deadlines from ASBA. We presented Kindergarten Proposal to Zone 6 again for approval at the May meeting. Two comments came from the proposal. One is to work with the AHS which has additional information on the impact of full-time kindergarten. The second was that in the proposal to make sure we ask for new money from the Government. On the issue of a bargaining unit for all non-union staff in public service it is indicated that the Government has no desire to look at that until after the election. We talked about advocacy for the upcoming election and that there was a zoom meeting on the 20th of March in the afternoon. There was a discussion about pathways and working to get more students into it. The Edwin Parr Awards will take place on May 17 in Taber at the Heritage Inn from 5-7 p.m. The May 17 meeting will take place at the Horizon Board Office from 1:30-4 p.m. April 30 the Edwin Parr videos need to be in. Interviews TBD and the committee. SACH has a desire to work more closely with the Trustees and do presentations on various health related matters. The Board accepted the report as information.

2. Public School Board Association of Alberta Meeting Report

On March 14 at the end of the Committee of the Whole Meeting, The Board met with Dennis MacNeal, President of PSBAA and Troy Tait CEO PSBAA. It was a good meeting where they shared positive things about what PSBAA does for our Board re: advocacy, governance and Professional Development. Highlights of what they presented was all Boards that belong to PSBAA treat their membership the same as ASBA and that all expenses for membership and governance come out of governance budget and not PD budget. They also mentioned the number of research projects available to read that they have compiled, the Canadian Geographic 24' by 28' map that shows Reservation and Residential School sites that is free to borrow by any school Division. Through PSBAA all trustees can access Indigenous Study from the University of Alberta at no extra cost. It was an informative meeting with plenty of dialogue between PSBAA and the Trustees. The Board accepted this information.

3. Committee Reports

Reports were delivered for the Facilities Committee, Poverty Intervention Committee, Community Engagement Committee, Policy Advisory Committee, Board Budget Committee, Division School Council and Community Conversations. The reports can be found starting on Page 5 of the [AGENDA](#).

4. 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 25 of the [AGENDA](#).

5. 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 41 of the [AGENDA](#).

6. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Congratulations to our Division students who took home medals at the Southwest Regional Skills Competition at Lethbridge College. The Regional Skills events showcase trades and technology occupations and reward students for their performance and commitment to these career paths. The Regional Competition is designed to develop a career awareness strategy that motivates youth to consider trades and technology occupations as a first-choice career option.

Congratulations to the following winners:

Carpentry:

Gold – Tate McGarry (Chinook High School).

Fashion Technology:

Gold – Cassie Trechka (Winston Churchill High School).

Silver – Jordan Magyar (Winston Churchill High School).

Bronze – Alyssa Sanders (Winston Churchill High School).

Graphic Design:

Gold - Mackenzie Meyers (Chinook High School).

Silver – Megan DeGroot (Chinook High School).

Photography:

Silver – Regina Villanueva (Chinook High School).

Bronze – Logan Kays (Chinook High School).

Welding:

Bronze – Shay Molnar (Winston Churchill High School)

G. S. Lakie Middle School Showcase:

So many things to celebrate at G.S. Lakie to this point of the school year. In September of this year we welcomed in the Spanish Bilingual program that we're proud to carry on from Coalbanks Elementary School. We are excited to see how this will evolve and grow over time.

Also, in September we hosted a successful school-wide Terry Fox run at Nicholas Sheran Park which also served as qualifying for the LSAA city championships that occurred the following week. Later that month a small committee hosted a storywalk around our school grounds to honour National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. It was a powerful exercise centred around the book "Secret Path" which is based on a true story about Chanie Wenjack.

Late fall brought us our first school dance in three years, which was a huge success (other than the fire alarm going off due to a smoke machine). Our annual Remembrance Day ceremony was highlighted by Captain Chuck Gresl delivering a moving speech about his experience in the Canadian military. Captain Gresl is the husband of a Lakie staff member and it left everyone speechless. Rounding out our time leading up to the winter break was our annual Halloween Haunted House which was hosted by our four PSIII interns, Gatorstock 42, and our Winter Wonderland band concert. Lastly, our Rep Boys Volleyball team had a very successful season in 2022 and came away as the SZJHAA (zone) champions for the first time in several years.

A return from the winter break saw a group of staff and students go to Banff for a three-night trip, which was a huge success and a lot of fun. We hosted our 2nd annual Westside Invitational basketball tournament in partnership with Senator Joyce Fairbairn in late January and our Rep Girls Basketball team finished 2nd in the LSAA city championships.

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6. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

G.S. Lakie Middle School Showcase:

This spring will saw our Fine Arts team, who is well known for the programs and productions they run, put on a large-scale show called “Oz - With A Twist”. This was a new and innovative approach where they joined forces to put on an amazing show. The collaboration of the arts involved approximately 200 students for eight shows at the Yates in early March.

Final highlights to mention are the addition of a donated piano to our foyer and our live student announcements twice a week. The piano allows our in-house piano players to liven the atmosphere of our foyer during certain times of the day. Our group of student reporters have done an amazing job of delivering school announcements to students live on YouTube twice a week with the inclusion of some short stories from around our community. It’s exciting to see what this will evolve to become!

Galbraith Elementary School Showcase:

We are so excited about the wonderful things that have been happening at Galbraith this year!

As we have returned to a more typical school year than has been seen recently, we have had deep conversations about “falling forwards” and “redefining normal”, taking the pandemic as an opportunity to consider what we value, what things we want to bring back post-pandemic, and what we can reimagine with a fresh start.

A major priority for us this year has been the engagement of our learning community. The success of this has been particularly evident during our Family Fun Nights, which we host once per month in our school gym. So far this year, we have hosted a Dodgeball Night, Learn to Draw Night, Winter Music Concert, Movie Night, and a Family Dance, with attendance at each ranging from 100-250 people! It has been so amazing to connect with our families and welcome them into our building for some fun and relationship building!

Something we have brought back this year is our Enrichment Fridays, where students get a chance to choose an activity related to their interests for an hour each Friday. Options available to students in this first round include Kick It Up! (a martial arts program), Ukulele Club, Volleyball, Badminton, Weaving, Painting, and Jewlery Making. It is incredible to watch the kids engage with learning something that may not traditionally be offered at the elementary school level, and to see the way that it fosters opportunities for them to connect with peers with similar interests! Speaking of engaging learning, some BIG things have been happening in our Learning Commons! Our Makerspace theme for the past few weeks has focused on dinosaurs through the inquiry question “What can dinosaurs teach us about life today?” This exploration started with the 3D printing of a T-Rex skeleton that measures almost six feet from head to tail! We got a sandbox for our Learning Commons and then buried the skeleton in the sandbox. The students learned excavation techniques as they worked to dig up the skeleton, and then worked together to try figure out what creature it was and how all the bones fit together. Then, they used research skills to find dinosaur books that showed different skeletons and worked hard to put all the pieces together as accurately as possible. Our new dinosaur skeleton was painted by a group of students in our painting Enrichment group to make it look more realistic, and it is now on display in our Learning Commons display case! The conclusion of our dinosaur unit included students using our school VR set, with each student getting their own headset that allowed them to go on a virtual fieldtrip as a whole class to learn all about dinosaurs and fossils.

Something new that we have introduced this year is a composting program! Our grade four students and teachers have taken the lead on this, as it ties into their science curriculum. Each classroom has been given a small compost bin, and the grade four students work in teams to empty them. The grade four students have been excited for this leadership opportunity, but it has been equally as exciting to see the other students get excited about having options to participate in a more sustainable way of handling their food waste. The project has required critical thinking and planning and has created powerful opportunities for learning as we work through the challenges and successes of implementing this school-wide project. It is a privilege to come to school each day and bear witness to the amazing things that happen here. We could not be prouder of our students and the way they model kindness, active citizenship, and innovation!

6. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Nicholas Sheran Elementary School Showcase:

Nicholas Sheran Elementary is continuing to work on school goals focusing on making sure all our students feel a sense of belonging in our school. We are part of a diverse community, and our staff works diligently to ensure our students have engaging and enriching academic school experiences. We began our school year by welcoming new families into the school before the opening day. This allowed us to begin making meaningful connections with new families and set the tone for students and families that Nicholas Sheran was a place where they belonged.

We promote parent involvement through having volunteers in classrooms and having grade level representatives at each parent Council meeting to highlight what is happening in classrooms. We involve the parents by having them participate in thinking routines and different strategies for learning. We held a Family Literacy Night in November which welcomed over 400 people into our building to explore and participate in activities to promote literacy.

We hosted a very well attended Indigenous Bingo night sponsored by our Division 51 Indigenous Team and had a beautiful Winter Concert to cap off 2022.

Our students have been busy with full school assemblies, Jr and Sr Choir, handbells, basketball, Big Brothers and Big Sisters Game On, and student led clubs in grade 5. We just hosted a Project fair with students completing presenting on their projects for Sci-Fusion at the University of Lethbridge, and the Galt Museum Heritage Fair. We are excited to be partnered with the Victoria Park Grade 9 Volunteerism class who has been coming to our school to do collaborative art projects with students from grade 2 through 5. We are looking forward to spring where our students will be involved in our Sports Day and our annual Color Run as well as honouring National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21.

Our staff meetings and Professional Learning days are built around exploring new resources to support curriculum, anti-bias/anti-oppression work, and how to continue supporting our students in learning outdoors. We are grateful to be located on such an amazing piece of land and to have support from our School Division to dream big and meet the needs of our students and community.

7. 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.

- Senator Joyce Fairbairn received a \$3,000 grant towards their Outdoor Education program for Fly Fishing from the Prix Foundation-Desjardin Foundation.
 - Nicholas Sheran received a \$200 gift card from Home Hardware West and three cases of sausages from Lethbridge Meats and Seafoods Ltd. for their breakfast program.
 - Thank you to all the sponsors (listed on next page) who sponsored a successful ICE Scholarship Showcase.
- The Board received the report as information.

8. Edwin Parr Nominee

Each year the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) recognizes six outstanding first-year teachers with the Edwin Parr Award. ASBA invites each school jurisdiction to submit the name of one first year teacher as its nomination for the Edwin Parr Award. Lethbridge School Division is honoured to have many amazing first-year teachers to consider for this award and it is never an easy task selecting the Division nominee. Lethbridge School Division is proud to present our 2023 nominee from Winston Churchill High School, Jamel Sayyad. Jamel is a University of Lethbridge graduate who teaches Math, Science and Physical Wellness.

“The Winston Churchill High School’s administrative team is so proud that Jamel Sayyad is the Divisions’ nominee for the Edwin Parr Award. Jamel is not only an outstanding teacher but a truly exceptional human.”

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8. Edwin Parr Nominee

“His ability to build positive, nurturing, and meaningful relationships for the purpose of learning is remarkable. Jamel creates a wonderful, welcoming, and safe learning environment where students know they are cared about and their learning is prioritized. He makes mathematics fun and accessible for all students by creating curiosity, wonder, and confidence. Jamel is an exceptional teacher and we are so very proud that he calls Churchill home.”

- Tracy Wong (Principal), Jamie Bach (Vice-Principal), Aaron Fitchett (Vice-Principal), & Morgan Day (Vice-Principal)

“I am beyond grateful to have even been considered for this award, let alone nominated. I love my job, and I love my Churchill family, so it is very important to me that I give them the best version of myself everyday. The love and support I get from my community is what allows me to be successful in what I do, and it is a tremendous honour to represent them and Lethbridge School Division. Thank you so much.”

– Jamel Sayyad

The Board received the report as information, and took the opportunity to have Jamel Sayyad share his experiences during this year.

More information on the Edwin Parr nomination can be found here: [EDWIN PARR](#).

9. Provincial Champions

Provincial champions were invited to attend the Board meeting.

Players and coaches from the Immanuel Christian Secondary School Provincial 2A Girls Basketball Champions received certificates from the Board of Trustees:

- Shanika Veenendaal
- Halle Aleman
- Taylor Withage
- Norah Dekens
- Hayden Van't Land
- McKennan Konynebelt
- Hannah Klingenberg
- Nyomi Heins
- Rylee Van't Land
- Yar Biar
- Georgia Schooten
- Coaches - Mike Greeno, Emily Greeno, Erin Barwegen, Kirsten Barwegen, Norm Dekens.

The Board congratulated the athletes and coaches.

More information on the Board recognitions for the ICSS Eagles can be found here: [EAGLES](#).

More details on the provincial championship tournament can be found here: [PROVINCIALS](#).

10. Public Member Presentation to the Board

Nicole Williams made a presentation to the Board on the topic of personal communication devices, and listed a number of points for the Board to consider.

The presentation begins at the 1:03:50 mark of the livestream: [PUBLIC PRESENTATION](#).

11. International Trip - LCI

Joelle Lavergne from Lethbridge Collegiate Institute requested approval to take approximately 20 Grade 9-12 students on an International Trip to Cut Bank, Montana, USA on Sept. 1, 2023, for a cross-country running competition. Information regarding the educational benefits of the trip and the proposed itinerary was attached. Aside from individual food, costs for transportation are expected to be fully funded by fundraising.

The Lethbridge Collegiate Institute trip to Cut Bank, Montana in September of 2023 was approved by the Board, on the condition that all Division policies and procedures are strictly followed.

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

501.2 - Eligibility for Early Childhood Services - Approval. All in favour

503.5 - Student Activities - Approval. A motion to rescind Policy 503.3 and move it to a procedure, was passed unanimously.

607.3 - Instructional Resources - The policy will be sent back to the Policy Advisory Committee.

502.3 - Suspensions and Expulsions - Approval. All in favour.

Discussion on the policies begins at the 1:51:30 mark of the livestream: [POLICIES](#).

The policies can be found starting on Page 61 of the [AGENDA](#).

13. Public Forum

Nicole Williams made a presentation to the Board as part of the Public Forum portion of the meeting. Public Forum begins at the 2:16:10 mark of the livestream: [PUBLIC FORUM](#).

14. Second Quarter Financial Report

Avice DeKolver provided a presentation on the Second Quarter Financial Report.

The report can be found on Page 69 of the [AGENDA](#).

The presentation begins at the 1:30:30 mark of the livestream: [SECOND QUARTER](#).

15. Board Budget Belief Statements for preparation of 2023/2024 Budget

In preparation for the development of the budget for the following school year, the Board of Trustees review the Belief Statements that guide the preparation of the budget. The Belief Statements provide high level guidance on preparing an annual budget that fiscally manages the Division's funds in a responsible manner, ensuring that the educational needs of students are met within a balance budget, as required by the Education Act.

The Board of Trustees Belief Statements for preparation of the 2023/2024 budget were attached.

The Board approved the Board of Trustees Belief Statements for preparation of the 2023/2024 Budget as presented.

The Board Budget Belief Statement can be found on Page 103 of the [AGENDA](#).

16. 2024/2026 Capital Plan

The Executive Summary to the 2023/2024 to 2025/2026 Capital Plan for the Division is provided for review. The 134-page detailed Three-Year Capital Plan is located on the Division website: [CAPITAL PLAN](#).

The Board accepted the 2024-2026 Capital Plan as presented.

The executive summary of the report can be found on Page 105 of the [AGENDA](#).

A video that outlines the plan can be found here: [CAPITAL PLAN](#).

17. School Liaisons

Although the school liaisons are chosen by our Executive Assistant and are changed each year, I (Craig Whitehead) would like to make a slight adaptation to the school liaisons. It is hard to really develop a relationship in a school by only being there for one year.

Secondly, because we have an odd number of trustees, and some have four schools and others have three the school liaisons from four schools should be rotated among the trustees so that it evens out the yearly workload.

Whitehead recommended that by the April Board Meeting, if a trustee would like to keep the same school liaison, they may so request it. Also, that the two different trustees are given four schools instead of three each year.

The motion, That by the April Board meeting, if a Trustee would like to keep the same school liaison, they may so request it, was defeated by a 6-1 vote.

A second motion, Also, that the two different trustees are given four schools instead of three each year, was passed unanimously.

18. Safe routes to School in Lethbridge School Division Schools

Considering the conversation at the last board meeting regarding safety around buses unloading and loading at schools and the amount of people between buses and jaywalking I (Craig Whitehead) think we need to look at encouraging schools to get involved with both the Lethbridge Police Service, the City of Lethbridge transportation committee, and the AMA. This is found on pages 138 and 139 of the Transportation Safety Plan Report 2020. Furthermore, the Board could encourage where possible the creation of school patrols at schools.

The Board passed the following motion by a 6-0 vote (Board Chair Allison Purcell abstained):

That the Board explores working with the City of Lethbridge, Lethbridge Police, the AMA and various school in our Division to work on safe routes to school.

19. Negotiation Update

The negotiating committees for ATA Local #41 and Lethbridge School Division have signed a local Memorandum of Agreement. The Memorandum of Agreement was presented to the Lethbridge School Division Board of Trustees for ratification.

The members of the negotiating committees expressed their appreciation for the respectful, authentic and meaningful dialogue that occurred throughout the negotiations.

The Board ratified the agreement by a vote of 6-0 (Trustee Andrea Andreachuk abstained).

20. Community Conversations

A time or date has not yet been selected for April's Community Conversations.

Details on April's event will be posted on the Community Engagement website: [COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS](#).

21. Welcome Back Event

The Welcome Back Event for August 2022 consisted of a pancake breakfast hosted by the Board at Chinook High School for all Division staff. During the two years of COVID restrictions, the Board Chair provided a virtual message to be shared with all staff in place of the Welcome Back event. Years prior, the event was hosted in one of the high school gyms and consisted of a keynote speaker and continental breakfast.

The Board decided to once again host a breakfast event, which will be held this year on Sept. 1, 2023.

Regular Meeting video: [LIVESTREAM](#)



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