



Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting highlights from April 25 - Next meeting May 23 -

1. Committee Reports

Reports were delivered for Division School Council, School Boundary Alignment Committee, Board Budget Committee, Policy Advisory Committee and Division Student Leadership. The reports can be found starting on Page 3 of the [AGENDA](#).

2. 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](#).

3. 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 30 of the [AGENDA](#).

4. 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.

- Chinook High School received \$3,228.50 to cover bussing from Lethbridge to Calgary for our War and Remembrance Europe Tour and \$345.38 from Austin Hornberger to the Chinook Dance Program for Choreography .
 - Nicholas Sheran Elementary received \$500 towards their breakfast program from Ramton Homes and \$4,915.59 of large and small donations from parents for the NS Dance-A-Thon Cash Drive to go to the NS Parent Council.
 - Dr. Robert Plaxton received \$500 from A&W - WT Hill Blvd. S., \$500 Panago Pizza North, and \$500 and \$250 anonymous donations all towards their grade 4/5 Ski Trip.
- The Board received the report as information.

5. 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.

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5. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Park Meadows Elementary School Showcase:

Park Meadow Elementary School is a small northside school with a diverse student population. We continue to focus on our PRIDE characteristics – Positivity, Resiliency, Imaginative, Dynamism and Empathy. We celebrate our students through energetic assemblies where we recognize all who demonstrate these qualities.

Park Meadows is fortunate to have many students who utilize different forms of communication: technology, body movement, eye gaze, verbal and visual. We are also excited to have students from many different countries represented in our school. Our diversity is our strength and we continue to learn from each other!

This school year, we have showcased the first ever elementary Hip Hop dance show in Lethbridge and our Winter Concert, “Ice Storm”, incorporated bucket drumming, dancing and singing.

Our Communication Circle is a weekly learning opportunity for students to learn to communicate through visuals. This school year, we have showcased the first ever elementary Hip Hop dance show in Lethbridge and our Winter Concert, “Ice Storm”, incorporated bucket drumming, dancing and singing.

We are grateful to our school council for purchasing stencils and paint so that students can utilize more of the outdoor space through interactive play.

Park Meadows has been thrilled to open up our doors to the community. Here we welcomed the Hurricanes into our school! We also had a group of students from Winston Churchill who completed a random act of kindness activity with all of our students. We hope this will be the first of many opportunities to collaborate with other North side schools. We are always excited for Andrew to come in for Music Therapy! Our students enjoy singing and clapping along.

Genius Hour is back! We had 6 weeks of mixed grade students choosing activities outside of their classroom for an hour every Friday. From coding, to D & D, crafting, games, yoga, basketball and more!

Our Grade 1s have been creating The Best Part of Me writing activities and wrote inspiration cards for the cancer ward.

Professional Learning: Our school is excited to share about our fantastic Professional Learning. We were fortunate to have Brandon and Danica present to our staff. They both spoke of their experiences going through the school system with different needs. Our staff walked away knowing what it’s like to experience the school system with down syndrome, Tourette’s and anxiety.

Our school Literacy Committee have also been hard at work creating a scope and sequence for phonics and teaching staff about comprehensive literacy instruction.

Our Grade 5s played well during our basketball season. They improved in confidence and skill throughout. We were proud to cheer them on!

We have been also excited to dive into Maker Space in the Learning Commons. This month, we are learning about Lights and Shadows. Previously, students worked on creating innovative ways to transport dinosaurs and tractors over a highway. Our grade 5s played well during our basketball season. They improved in confidence and skill throughout. We were proud to cheer them on! Our students in grade 1 and 4 participated in the ICE Scholarship Showcase and demonstrated their creativity through art!

Over the summer we had our upstairs renovated, our gym painted and we are preparing to install an adapted bathroom this coming summer.

WCHS Showcase:

Volleyball • SR Griffins South Zone Champs HS • SR Bulldogs South Zone Bronze Medal

Basketball • SR Griffins South Zone Champs • SR Bulldogs South Zone Champs

Cross Country • Team Silver Medal at 3A South Zone Championships • Gavin McIntyre, grade 9 Juvenile Boys placed

1st • Ally McDonald, grade 10 Junior Girls placed 2nd • Aislyn Farn, Alexis Shannon and Johanna Zieber, Grade 11

Intermediate Girls, placed 8th, 13th and 19th respectively. • Laura Pizarro, grade 12 senior girls, placed 3rd

Our fall production of Murder’s in the Heir was a massive success.

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5. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

WCHS School Showcase:

Amanda Dang (Grade 12) and Eleah Klassen (grade 9) advanced to the finals of the Polar Expressions Publishing National Writing Contest out of thousands of entries.

The Grade 12 K&E students made treats and small snacks each week of semester one which were sent to Freddy's on Main in Cardston, a grassroots community group aimed at supporting individuals experiencing poverty and food scarcity.

In December, the students had the opportunity to serve lunch to the patrons. They experienced a Blackfoot prayer given on the food and were able to spend time playing games with and getting to know the individuals there. After leaving the students reflected on their time there noting that it was a meaningful and eyeopening experience. They felt the joy of service and one student said, "I wish I could go and serve every week."

Students involved: Julian Bischke, Drayton Gearing, Jaycus Chief Body, Madison Lemieux, Martin Prince, and Chantelle Flohr.

Kanye Melting Tallow & Maria John were nominated for the Honouring Spirit Award.

Interact Volunteer Showcase – Our Interact Club is putting on the second annual volunteer showcase. This is an opportunity for students to connect with volunteer organizations to contribute to our community in a meaningful way.

Interact Club also raised \$1,000 to support the victims of the devastating earthquakes in Syria and Turkey.

Steven Yang was named one of 36, 2023 Loran Scholars.

Masataro and Keitaro Tatsuno were recognized as Stars of the Lethbridge Kiwanis Music Festival.

We had 4 students compete in the Southwest Regional Skills Canada Competition at the College:

- Shay Molnar received Bronze in Welding. (14 students competed)
- 3 Churchill students competed in Fashions (6 students competed)
- Alyssa Sanders – Bronze - Jordan Magyar – Silver - Cassie Trechka - Gold (She will be off to Edmonton for the Provincial Skills Competition in May)

WCHS Archery Team competed at the NASP Archery Provincials with many of our shooters finishing in the top ten of their age individually. This is the first year we entered as a team and finished 5th out of 11 Teams in the Bullseye Competition and 5th and 9th.

Jamel Sayyad was named Lethbridge School Division's Edwin Parr Award nominee.

We held our very first Culture Day on March 24. This event was organized by our amazing Leadership students.

6. Education Week, May 1 to 5, 2023

The first Alberta School Week (Education Week) was held Dec. 2-8, 1928. Its purpose then, as now, is to call attention to the importance of education and to show the public the good things happening in Alberta schools.

Education Week provides all Albertans with an opportunity to highlight the important role education plays in shaping the future of our province.

The theme this year is Learning Uplifts All.

Education week is a great time to celebrate public education and work contributing to an inspired future that includes:

- Optimal learning conditions for every child
- Creative and innovative learning programs
- Students who enjoy learning and who achieve their learning goals
- Parents and communities that are involved and supportive of learning
- School leaders who are also teachers
- A well-thought out curriculum delivered by well-prepared professionals
- Opportunities for staff to continue developing their skills as professionals.

To celebrate Education Week at the Division level this year, the Lethbridge School Division trustees will recognize staff and celebrate the week using the website and social media.

The Board received the report as information.

7. Recognition of Provincial Champions – Wrestling

Provincial champions were invited to attend the Board meeting:

- Ryder Lowry
- Nolan Gobel.

The Board congratulated the winners.

More information about the tournament, which was hosted by Lethbridge Collegiate Institute, can be found here:

[WRESTLING PROVINCIALS](#).

8. Public Member Presentation to the Board

Kaylee Low delivered a presentation on the topic, Use of Technology in Schools, which covered the following areas:

- Share research on how technology affects the developing brain.
- Share research on how technology impacts classroom learning.

The presenter requested the Board implements Division-wide policies promoting a more intentional use of technology to enhance the digital wellbeing of students.

The presentation begins at the 53:45 mark of the livestream: [PUBLIC PRESENTATION](#).

9. 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.

501.7 Non-Resident Students - Approval - passed unanimously

502.5 Student Transportation - Approval - passed unanimously

802.2 School Fees - Approval - passed unanimously

Discussion on the policies begins at the 1:14:38 mark of the livestream: [POLICIES](#).

The policies can be found starting on Page 52 of the [AGENDA](#).

10. Rates for Division Meal Allowances

As part of regular review of division allowances within the annual budget process, it was identified that the Division Meal Allowances are insufficient. Based on comparisons with similar school divisions, and based on assessments within the Board Budget Committee, the recommended rates are below:

Breakfast - Current Rate - \$10, Proposed Rate - \$15

Lunch - Current Rate - \$15, Proposed Rate - \$20

Dinner - Current Rate - \$20, Proposed Rate - \$30.

The Board unanimously approved an increase to the Division Meal Allowances as indicated above, effective Aug. 1, 2023.

11. Use of Technology in Schools

We have received communication from parents, staff, students and shareholders indicating the importance of supporting safe and healthy practises for technology use in schools.

It was recommended that Board members form an ad hoc committee for the purpose of exploring the use of technology in schools and recommend strategies to the Board, which may include the development of belief statements and guiding principles.

The motion was passed unanimously.

12. Funding for Displaced Students, refugee students and refugee claimants advocacy

Edmonton Public School Division is putting forward an emergent position statement to Alberta School Boards Association for the Spring General meeting regarding advocacy to the Province of Alberta that students who are identified as displaced students be eligible for five years of funding equal to that of those as refugee students.

Further information was included in an attachment from the Edmonton Public School Division.

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12. Funding for Displaced Students, refugee students and refugee claimants advocacy

It was recommended that the Board support the ASBA emergent position statement from Edmonton Public School Division for displaced students, refugee students refugee claimants advocacy, and as well agree to be the seconder of the motion. This impacts the Division and the students within our Division in similar ways identified in the EPS background information.

The motion was passed unanimously.

13. Non-union compensation

As part of the Board of Trustees priorities for staff wellbeing, respect for the hard work across the Division, as well as financial stewardship, the Board of Trustees aims to ensure fair compensation for all Division employees. To this end, the Board wishes to provide the following:

A two-per-cent increase to non-union employees, excluding executive council, effective Sept. 1, 2023.

This is having followed a 1.75-per-cent increase, effective Sept. 1, 2022, for a total compensation increase of 3.75 per cent over two years.

It was recommended that the Board approved a two-per-cent salary increase to non-union employees, excluding executive council, effective Sept. 1, 2023.

The motion passed by a 4-2 vote, with trustees Genny Steed and Craig Whitehead opposed (Trustee Andrea Andrea-chuk was not in attendance).

14. Non-union compensation - Associate Superintendents

As part of the Board of Trustees priorities for staff wellbeing, respect for the hard work across the Division, as well as financial stewardship, the Board of Trustees aims to ensure fair compensation for all Division employees. To this end, the Board wishes to provide the following:

A 3.75-per-cent salary increase to Associate Superintendents, effective Sept. 1, 2023.

This aligns their salary increase rate to their employee group on non-union employees, after their accepted proffer to be exempted from the non-union salary increase in Sept. 1, 2022, as part of ongoing salary and budget considerations.

It was recommended that the Board approved a salary increase of 3.75 per cent for Associate Superintendents, effective Sept. 1, 2023.

The motion passed by a 4-2 vote, with trustees Genny Steed and Craig Whitehead opposed (Trustee Andrea Andrea-chuk was not in attendance).

15. Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression Procedure

The Board approved the third reading of the ARAO policy during our Sept. 2022 meeting. It has been outlined that Trustees will collaborate with an ARAO Admin Committee, and Division School Council for review of definitions and the development of procedures.

It was recommended that Board engage in discussion with executive representation to follow up and begin scheduling this initiative.

Discussion on the agenda item begins at the 2:15:15 mark of the livestream: [ARAO](#).

16. Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) Conference and AGM – April 21-23, 2023

The ASCA Conference and AGM was held April 21-23. Board Chair Allison Purcell provided an oral report.

The Board received the report as information.

17. Election Advocacy

Trustees reviewed ideas for provincial election advocacy and established advocacy priorities.

A postcard outlining the Board's advocacy priorities has been developed for the purpose of trustees distributing to members of the public. As well, a document was developed providing more information for each priority advocacy.

The postcard and document were attached. More information can be found here: [ADVOCACY](#).

18. ASBA Zone 6 Update

Christine Light provided an oral report to update Trustees on the ASBA Zone 6 meeting on April 19. The Board received the report as information.

19. Expulsion Committee

The Expulsion Committee convened on April 24. The committee was comprised of Christine Light, Genny Steed and a principal from a school that was not the student's school. The committee heard representation from the principal recommending expulsion from the school and the provision of an alternative program better suited to meeting the student's needs. The committee also heard from the parent and representatives of the parent. The committee supported the expulsion of the student, with conditions for return to school. The conditions consider the best interests of the student and the school context that requires a safe environment for all students and staff. Careful consideration was given to the alternate program that the Division is able to offer the student.

20. Correspondence Received

The Division received a letter from the Minister of Education, Adriana LaGrange, to approve the Division's request for additional access of \$1.28 million from operating reserves.

21. Correspondence Received

The Division received a letter from Alberta Education for the approval of up to \$175,000 to cover costs to allow the Division to examine areas of the westside to determine the best possible solutions to address continued capacity concerns in west Lethbridge.

Regular Meeting video: [LIVESTREAM](#)



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