



Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting highlights from January 23 - Next meeting February 27 -

1. Committee Reports

Reports were delivered from the Boundary Alignment Committee, Division School Council, Policy Advisory Committee, Wellness Committee and the Community Engagement Committee. The reports can be found beginning on Page 3 of the [AGENDA](#).

2. Associate Superintendent Reports

Christine Lee, Associate Superintendent, Business and Operations and Robbie Charlebois, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources, delivered their respective reports for the Board. The Instructional Services report was also presented. To read the reports, see Page 20 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 were 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 starting in the October Board meeting.

The Board received the report as information.

The report can be found on Page 34 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 are the donations and support received by the Division.

- ICES received \$1,000 from Melvin and Jeanne Vaselnak
- Lakeview Elementary received \$2,000 from Bottomless Drilling Inc.
- Westminster Elementary would like to thank Margaret McKillop, Cynthia Suyker, K-40 Club of Lethbridge, and Kinsmen Club of Lethbridge who gave generous donations to their Breakfast Program, Harvey Labuhn who gave to our Sue Labuhn Learning Commons, LA Chefs and Perry Produce Ltd who paid for the whole school to go to the Glow Gardens at the Exhibition and Cargill Animal Nutrition that gave books to our students for Christmas.
- Galbraith Elementary would like to thank Aaron and Ted Ancil (Southern Monument and Tile Company) and the Crabb Family for the donation of \$1,000 to the Breakfast Program as well as LA Chefs for catering our Winter Feast of Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings for all students and staff!
- LCI would like to thank OrganicTan Lethbridge for their donation to the LCI Dance Program.
- Fleetwood Bawden received a \$500 donation from Jack Innes in honour of the McNeill Family.

5. Acknowledgements of Excellence

Dr. Gerald B. Probe Elementary::

It has been a great start to the school year at Dr. Probe School. Our Alberta Assurance Survey results were extremely positive and have challenged us to continue to find ways to make the learning experience exceptional for our students.

One of the ways we have approached this challenge is finding ways to connect with our families more purposefully and meaningfully. This year we launched “Soaring the Summit”, a series of four engagement evenings that seek to give students greater agency in their learning journey and to engender a deeper understanding of the resources and instructional strategies used at the school. Our first meeting, “Basecamp”, aimed to connect families with our “trail guides” (school staff), and begin thinking about the year ahead. The evening was also generously sponsored by Dunlop Ford, who provided a hamburger/hot dog dinner to all families in attendance.

October 19th marked our second step of this year-long learning journey, “Mapping the Trail”.

During the evening, students were provided with a portfolio which will support the documentation of their learning journey and serve as a vessel to communicate growth and progress with their families throughout the year. Further, the evening served to communicate the goals students have set for themselves and the strategies they will use to achieve them. In the spirit of “mapping the trail” families were also encouraged to set goals with their child(ren) that they can support at home. To better connect parents to our school programming, the evening had a literacy theme. Jodie Babki, along with Cason Machacek and Sydney Erlendson were on-site, and parents were introduced to instructional strategies, assessment and supports focused on the development of literacy and wellness.

Overall, the night was a success with over 80% of our students and their families in attendance.

An exit poll was conducted, with 120 families responding that they valued the evening and are planning to attend the next. We are looking forward to February 8th, where we invite parents back into the school for the next milestone “Tracking the Trek”. Families will gain insight into our approach to numeracy instruction and students, using their portfolios, will review their progress to date as well as their journey towards achieving the goals set in October.

Beyond our “Soaring the Summit” initiative, we have enjoyed many other exciting events at the school. Some highlights include:

- Participating in and connecting with West-side elementary schools through our annual Terry Fox Run
- Participating in the Run for Reconciliation
- Collecting over 1000lbs of food donations for the Interfaith Food Bank
- Setting a record for the highest sales during our Scholastic Book Fair
- Watching our Senior Choir perform with the Lethbridge Symphony
- Receiving an email from a Canadian Veteran to compliment the job our Grade 5 students did planning and performing in our Remembrance Day assembly
- Partnering with Tim Hortons to support the Smile Cookie campaign as well as through a “Donut Design” creative writing contest
- Raising close to \$10 000 during our Fall Fundraiser which will go to support student field trips and our resources for the Learning Commons
- Receiving \$10 000 from Kidoodle to support the development of our Indigenous Outdoor Learning Classroom (IOLC) or “Pommotsiysinni (Transfer of Knowledge)”.
 - o This project is well underway with concrete poured and rocks laid around our circular learning space
 - o Spring will see finalization of the space with landscaping and signage (fundraising will continue)
- Serving as an Angel Tree donation site

Lastly, 2023 ended with a great deal of fun for students as they took part in our annual “Winter Activities” day. Students enjoyed wagon rides outside, making maple syrup candy, a visit with Santa among many other activities. Moving forward we are looking towards many more exciting opportunities for our students and their families, including our “Family Literacy Day” at the end of the month, our Green Shirt Day Assembly to raise awareness of the importance of organ donation, and our Spring concert (to name a few).

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5. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Lethbridge Collegiate Institute:

LCI's Commitment to Indigenous Excellence:

In addition to all of the great things that have happened at LCI, our school has also had an excellent year partaking in and examining indigenous culture. Knowing that we live, work, and play on the traditional lands of the Blackfoot people, LCI has worked closely with our division leaders to promote our awareness of the Blackfoot culture. In that, we have purchased a full-sized tipi (large enough to fit an entire class of high school students in), and went through an entire traditional naming process (our Blackfoot name translates into "Vision Quest").

LCI also had a flag-raising ceremony where the Blackfoot Confederacy flag went up as a permanent installation in front of our school. Our entire student body engaged in a week's worth of lessons on Indigenous culture and ways of knowing which all culminated with 1500 students all wearing orange shirts on the front lawn of LCI while we paid our respects to the Truth & Reconciliation process. Different teachers continue to explore indigenous ways of knowing in their classes, ranging from a newly offered Blackfoot Culture class, to our welding shop creating a solid steel, 4 foot OKI sign which will also soon stand proudly in front of LCI.

- Indigenous Poster Display is up
- Green & Gold Basketball Tournament had 16 total girls and boys teams this year
- LCI will host the 4A Volleyball Provincial Tournament next fall
- LCI Dance Show runs January 31 and February 1
- LCI Drama had a successful run of the play Peter Pan
- LCI has experienced considerable growth - this year 1480 students and next year 1600 students.
- LCI has created its own Education as an Additional Language Program - anticipating 35 students, now have between 90-100.

6. Town Hall

The Division will host its annual [TOWN HALL](#) event on February 6, 2024 at Victoria Park from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the gymnasium. Participants can include Division students, parents/caregivers/guardians, staff members or community members. Everyone is welcome at Town Hall, and the more people who participate, the better the discussions will be around the table.

The purpose of the meeting is to seek feedback to assist the Division and Board of Trustees as we work on strategic planning for the 2024/2025 school year. This year the format will be a little different. Stakeholders will have a chance to provide feedback in the following areas:

School Levels

Elementary

- What are the successes of the Elementary school experience in Lethbridge School Division?
- Where can we improve the Elementary school experience in Lethbridge School Division?

Middle School

- What are the successes of the Middle School experience in Lethbridge School Division?
- Where can we improve the Middle School experience in Lethbridge School Division?

High School

- What are the successes of the High School experience in Lethbridge School Division?
- Where can we improve the High School experience in Lethbridge School Division?

Specific Topics

Learning and the Future of Education

- What should the future of learning and education look like?

Kindergarten and Early Learning

- What can the school division do to make early learning programs and kindergarten more accessible to parents?

6. Town Hall

Technology

- What are the positive aspects of using technology in schools?
- What are the negative aspects of using technology in schools?
- What suggestions do you have related to technology in schools?

Governance

- What feedback do you have for the Board of Trustees about how they govern the Division?

Students, staff, parents and guardians and community members will have an opportunity to provide feedback related to these areas at the town hall event or through a survey. Trustees will have opportunities to facilitate conversations and circulate through the room at different times throughout the evening.

The Board received the report as information.

7. First Quarter Financial Report

The 2023/2024 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 2023/2024 First Quarter Financial Report as presented.

The report begins on Page 49 of the [AGENDA](#).

8. Proposed Revisions to Policy 601.2.1

The motion proposed (1) the addition of a non-operational day in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and (2) edits of the title of breaks to be secular rather than faith based (Christmas to Winter, Easter to Spring).

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada published 94 Calls to Action, including:

80. We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour Survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process.

In March 2021, the Government of Canada responded to this Call to Action by creating this federal statutory holiday on September 30 through legislative amendments in Parliament.

The Government of Alberta recognizes this day as an Optional Holiday which allows employers and governing bodies the option to recognize this with the same practices applied to General Holidays (such as time off, time off in lieu, holiday pay, etc). Jurisdictions including Prince Edward Island, the Northwest Territories, the Yukon, Nunavut, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba, and British Columbia recognize this day as a statutory holiday.

Since 2021, Lethbridge School Division has the following record:

2021 – recognized, non-operational day on Thursday September 30, 2021

2022 - recognized, non-operational day on Friday, September 30, 2022.

2023 – recognized on calendar on Saturday September 30, 2023 – no non-operational day in lieu.

The motion would provide guidance for consistent recognition of the Call to Action 80 from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, and be in alignment with the ASBA position statement that 11.2. September 30th National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: The ASBA advocate to the Alberta Government to declare September 30th as a statutory holiday for the recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. (FGM 2022)

Our Board, division and community aim to continue our collective work toward Truth and Reconciliation, and this small act in response to a direct call to governors from the Truth and Reconciliation commission will move us along the path.

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8. Proposed Revisions to Policy 601.2.1

Secular Language

While public education communities continue to strive to be inclusive of all learners, our policy does not reflect the language being used today in our schools. While the breaks provided for in the policy are scheduled around Alberta General Holidays of Christmas and Easter, our schools use language such as Winter and Spring to reflect these times. This recognizes that for many of our students, these times of year may not include a Christmas nor Easter celebration, may include celebrations of other types at that time of year or others, or simply have no ties to religious holidays whatsoever.

Best practice in public, secular organizations is to update this language when possible. The provided edits recommend a small update in language to reflect the practice happening in Lethbridge School Division schools currently.

Policy Update

Given that the recommended policy updates are updated to reflect the current practice of Lethbridge School Division (recognition of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Secular language), this motion is made in alignment with the following policy:

Policy 203.1 Policy Development 4.2.2. which reads:

Amendments which alter or add to a policy without significantly changing the intent shall be made by Board motion.

Discussion on Policy 601.2.1 begins at the 1:38:55 mark of the [LIVESTREAM](#).

The Board unanimously approved the following motion: That the Board take Policy 601.2.1 School Year, and return it back to the Policy Advisory Committee as a priority, and to come back after the feedback from the public from all of the stakeholders.

9. School Year Calendar for 2024/2025

The draft 2024/2025 calendar has been discussed and reviewed with school administrators, representatives of CUPE 2843, representatives of the ATA, members of the Education Centre leadership team, parent representatives from Division School Council and surrounding school divisions.

Discussion on the calendar begins at the 2:11:55 mark of the [LIVESTREAM](#).

The Board approved the following motion by a 6-1 vote, with Trustee Craig Whitehead opposed: That the Board request the Superintendent to investigate how best to provide adequate time to our Kindergarten teachers to perform parent teacher interviews in March, and report that information back to the Board for the Board to consider amending the calendar.

The Board defeated the following motion by a 5-2 vote, as Trustees Christine Light, Allison Purcell, Tyler Demers, Kristina Larkin and Craig Whitehead were opposed: That the Board amend the calendar to move the March 17 system-wide PL day to the end of the Easter break.

The Board approved the 2024/2025 School Year Calendar as presented, by a vote of 6-1, with Trustee Andrea Andrechuk opposed.

The calendar can be found here on the Division website: [CALENDAR](#).

10. School Year Calendar for 2023/2024

The Board requested the Superintendent to explore the potential to provide additional time for Kindergarten parent teacher interviews in March of 2024.

The motion passed by a 5-2 vote, with Trustee Kristina Larkin and Trustee Craig Whitehead opposed.

11. Public Forum

Nicole Williams made a Public Forum presentation on the topic of membership in the Alberta School Councils' Association.

The Public Forum presentation begins at the 2:32:21 mark of the [LIVESTREAM](#).

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12. Surveys

The Lethbridge School Division and its Board of Trustees values input from stakeholders and utilizes surveys as a strategy for gathering feedback and information. While survey results have provided important data and effectively informed practice and policy, we continue to receive questions and concerns clarifying standard practice for how surveys are designed, distributed and utilized.

The Board made a request to the Superintendent to provide information about how surveys are designed, distributed and utilized by our division, as well as divisions of similar composition to ours, and that the board allows 45 days for receipt of information.

The motion passed by a 5-2 vote, with Trustee Tyler Demers and Trustee Kristina Larkin opposed.

Discussion on the topic begins at the 3:10:20 mark of the [LIVESTREAM](#).

13. ASCA Funding

Previous to this year, The Board of Trustees has routinely allocated funds to cover the cost of an annual ASCA (Alberta School Council Association) membership for each School Council within the division and memberships were purchased on an automatic basis. This year, at the request of DSC (Division School Council) representatives, school councils were given autonomy to choose if they would like to join ASCA or not.

The Board currently reserves funds to pay the registration fee for one representative from each school council to attend the ASCA Conference and AGM (annual general meeting) should they choose to do so, as well as \$250 to assist with travel costs to Edmonton. Councils without an attending member instead utilize that \$250 as the council determines. Historically, the majority of School Councils do not have a member attend the Conference and AGM and the funds reserved for registration fees remain unused and unavailable for other use. For those that do choose to attend, \$250 is not adequate to cover travel costs. Development of a system allowing pooling of funds would more adequately provide accessibility for those wishing to attend the Conference and AGM.

School Council representatives have expressed appreciation for the board's support and requested consideration of the following recommendations:

Recommendations:

1. It was recommended that the board allow the decision regarding ASCA membership to continue to be made by school councils on an individual basis each year. The motion was passed unanimously (Trustee Christine Light was absent for the vote).
2. It was recommended the board consider School Councils choosing not to purchase an annual ASCA membership be granted access to the funds originally reserved to cover membership cost to be used as needed by the council for parent learning purposes. The motion was passed unanimously (Trustee Christine Light was absent for the vote).
3. It was recommended the Board create a general fund for monies allocated to cover the ASCA conference and the AGM registration fees and develop a framework for the equal distribution for those wishing to attend the conference and AGM. The motion was passed unanimously (Trustee Christine Light was absent for the vote).

Discussion on the ASCA topic begins at the 3:26:22 mark of the [LIVESTREAM](#).

14. Policy Consultant

The Board unanimously passed the following motion: That the Board hire a consultant for the expressed purpose of helping us re-do our policies, and that we enter into a negotiation with that consultant.

15. 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.

Board Chair Allison Purcell indicated nothing has been booked yet for February. A Community Conversations event is being planned for March, at a westside location in the evening.

16. Public Forum Response

The Board of Trustees provided a response to the Public Forum presentation on Dec. 19 from Nicole Williams. The response can be found on Page 85 of the [AGENDA](#).

Regular Meeting video: [LIVESTREAM](#)



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of the Board of Trustees
for January 23.
The next Regular Meeting
is set for February 27.**