



Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting highlights from February 27 - Next meeting March 26 -

1. Committee Reports

Reports were delivered from the Public School Boards Association, Indigenous Education Committee, Spirit of 51 Committee, Shaping the Future Conference Report and the School Boundary Review Committee. The reports can be found beginning on Page 3 of the [AGENDA](#).

2. March, 2024, Kindergarten Parent Teacher Interviews/Celebrations of Learning

At the January 23, 2024 regular Board meeting, the following motion was passed:

Trustee Genny Steed moved:

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

Per policy 601.2.1 School Year, Lethbridge School Division provides designated time for elementary parent teacher interviews and/or celebrations of learning. The policy states the school year shall normally have “an afternoon and a morning for parent teacher interviews in the fall and a morning for parent teacher interviews in the spring”. In the 2023/2024 school year calendar, October 25, 2023 was designated as a day for elementary parent teacher interviews and the afternoon of March 14, 2024 is designated as time for elementary parent teacher interviews.

Due to the structure of kindergarten programming, Kindergarten teachers typically have more students and families to accommodate for parent teacher interviews compared to a typical grade 1-5 home room configuration. To ensure kindergarten teachers have enough time to meet with all families for parent teacher interviews, the Division has often provided additional time for Kindergarten teachers to complete their parent teacher interviews.

For example, this year, Kindergarten teachers received an additional full day on October 24, 2023 to complete parent teacher interviews. Currently, there is no additional time scheduled for Kindergarten teachers to complete parent teacher interviews in March of 2024.

From an operational perspective, given the late notice, it would be difficult to cancel programming for kindergarten students the morning of March 14, 2024 as a late cancellation of regular programming has the potential to create challenges for families.

Consequently, it appears the best course of action is to provide the option of excusing Kindergarten teachers from professional learning sessions scheduled on March 15, 2024 if necessary to complete additional parent teacher interviews or engage in celebrations of learning. The decision to excuse Kindergarten teachers from professional learning would be made at the school level, on a case-by-case basis, by having school-based administration consult with Kindergarten teachers.

We anticipate that not every Kindergarten teacher will require additional time for parent teacher interviews and will be able to participate in professional development.

The Board received this as information.

3. March, 2025, Kindergarten Parent Teacher Interviews/Celebrations of Learning

At the January 23, 2024 regular Board meeting, the following motion was passed:

School Year Calendar for 2024-2025

Trustee Genny Steed moved:

“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.”

Per policy 601.2.1 School Year, Lethbridge School Division provides designated time for elementary parent teacher interviews and/or celebrations of learning. The policy states the school year shall normally have “an afternoon and a morning for parent teacher interviews in the fall and a morning for parent teacher interviews in the spring.”

Due to the structure of Kindergarten programming, Kindergarten teachers typically have more students and families to accommodate for parent teacher interviews compared to a typical grade 1-5 home room configuration. To ensure Kindergarten teachers have enough time to meet with all families for parent teacher interviews, the Division has provided additional time for Kindergarten teachers to complete their parent teacher interviews. The approved 2024/2025 school year calendar has the following dates designated for elementary parent teacher interviews and/or celebrations of learning:

- Oct. 22, 2024 – Kindergarten parent teacher interviews only (grade 1-5 students have a regular school day).
- Oct. 23, 2024 – Elementary parent teacher interviews (this includes kindergarten to grade 5)
- March 13, 2025 afternoon only – Elementary parent teacher interviews and/or celebrations of learning (this includes kindergarten to grade 5)

In the past, the Division has provided additional time in March for Kindergarten teachers to host parent teacher interviews and/or celebrations of learning. In some years an entire additional day has been provided and in other instances an additional half day has been provided. Some school-based administrators report that additional time is not required for Kindergarten March interviews and/or celebrations of learning while others report that additional time would be beneficial.

It was recommended that the Board consider amending the 2024/2025 school year calendar to provide Kindergarten teachers with an additional half day on March 13, 2025 to complete parent teacher interviews and/or celebrations of learning. This would mean there would be no school the entire day for Kindergarten students on March 13, 2025 and grade 1-5 students would attend school in the morning but not in the afternoon.

This is consistent with the practice of providing additional time for Kindergarten interviews in the fall and we believe provides an appropriate balance between ensuring adequate time for instruction while providing Kindergarten teachers with time to meet with families.

The Board passed the following motion, 5-2, with Tyler Demers and Craig Whitehead voting in opposition:

That the Board amend the 2024/2025 school year calendar to designate March 12 and March 13, 2025 for Kindergarten teachers to engage in parent teacher interviews and/or celebrations of learning.

4. 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 32 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 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 47 of the [AGENDA](#).

6. 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.

- Park Meadows received \$600 towards their Breakfast program from the Ladies Auxiliary F.O.E. #2100
- Dr. Robert Plaxton would like to recognize Shawn & Ebony Verbonac, Wesley Lebeau, and Hayley Fisher for their donations to the school.
- Lethbridge Christian School received a donation of brand-new Lego sets, valued at approximately \$325, from Kim Ankermann on behalf of Lethbridge Denture Clinic.
- G.S. Lakie would like to recognize and thank the many sponsors for their generous sponsorship of our Dance Show "Luminosity" total raised to date for the show is \$4,000.

The Board received the report as information.

7. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Lakeview Elementary School:

Lakeview Elementary is committed to building a culture of thinking. The classrooms are vibrant hubs of collaboration, where students are empowered to express their ideas and make mistakes. Our teachers integrate visible thinking routines and inquiry-based learning into their curriculum, encourage students to actively engage in thoughtful discussions, ask probing questions, and explore various perspectives. To share our learning with parents, Dr. Chris Mattatall, from the University of Lethbridge presented to our school community on resiliency and nurturing a growth mindset. This presentation was well attended by our parent community and received lots of positive feedback.

This year, we have placed an even greater emphasis on creating a healthy and holistic learning environment for all students. The integration of weekly wellness opportunities and outdoor learning initiatives has not only positively impacted the physical and mental well-being of our students but has also contributed to a more engaged and enriched educational experience. Some of our favourite wellness options include:

- Button making
- Tea and Toast
- Free gym
- Outdoor play
- Zen den
- Play commons
- Knitting
- Arts and crafts
- Reading Room
- Learning Commons exploration
- Hot chocolate walks.

We are excited about expanding these initiatives to further enhance the overall quality of education provided at Lakeview.

Finally, we express immense gratitude for the unwavering support and collaboration from our vibrant community. The success of our initiatives, from our breakfast program and snacks in our classrooms to wellness opportunities and outdoor learning, is a testament to the collective effort and commitment of parents, local businesses, volunteers, and community organizations.

Gilbert Paterson Middle School:

Paterson is having an exciting year! We have grown to 830 amazing students and they are busy improving our community!

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

7. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Gilbert Paterson Middle School:

We have over 300 students in our band program and they played for a full house before the winter break at Southminster Church. Our handbell and choir programs have been busy with concerts and preparing for Festival as well.

We recently had 70 students involved in our production of Brother's Grimm: Out of Order. The cast performed 10 shows for our students and many elementary schools.

This year in athletics our cross-country teams were the aggregate winners in all 6 categories.

We were also the 1J South Zone Champions. Both of our Representative Basketball teams are headed to zones in March. They both went undefeated in league play.

Outside of school we have two climbers (Ben Anthony and Lily- Anne Tagoe) on track to becoming the first western Canadian regional medalists from Lethbridge. In other news, Dave Virk competed in the national rubix cube competition this past August!

We have had success in the fine arts world as well. Mason Sherwood played "Colin" in The Secret Garden in the fall. Hannah Boehme played "Brigitta" in the Sounds of Music with the Lethbridge Symphony. We also had a large group of students representing Paterson in the Alberta honours band. Those students include Aislin Falkenberg, Addy Bourgeois, Caleb Rau, Arven Narra, and Jubilee Dueck.

Finally we are excited to share that a Grade 8 student, Gracia Apsassin- Flamont- First Rider is the 2023/2024 Junior Siksikaitsitapi princess for the province of Alberta. Gracia is an accomplished jingle dancer, singer, and speaker.

We are very proud of all our Tigers!

8. Town Hall Update

The Division hosted a successful [Town Hall event](#) on February 6, 2024. We are in the process of collating the information shared at the event and through the survey that was posted on our website. The Division received a total of approximately 1,605 responses to the following questions:

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?

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?

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?

Thank you to all those who were able to attend the event and/or complete the survey. As well, thank you to the many staff members who worked so hard to make the event a success. It is expected that a summary of the responses will be posted on the Division website on March 7, 2024.

The Board received this as information.

9. Board Strategic Planning Retreat

The Board and Executive Council will engage in assurance and strategic planning on March 7 and 8, 2024. Below is an outline of topics that will be covered during the sessions.

- Review the Assurance Framework mandated by Alberta Education which is comprised of the following domains:
 - o Student Growth and Achievement
 - o Teaching and Leading
 - o Learning Supports
 - o Governance
 - o Local and Societal Context
 - Review data from Town Hall, Annual Results Reports, Assurance Plan and other information to identify key themes and trends
 - Identify action the Division is currently taking to meet expectations in each of the Assurance Domains
 - Identify short-term and long-term priorities for each of the Assurance Domains
 - Begin the process of aligning budget allocations with priorities identified in each of the Assurance Domains
- The Board received this as information.

10. Policy Review

Division policies are reviewed to ensure they reflect the position of the Board. The Policy Advisory Committee has representation from the Board, Division School Council, employee groups, and Division and school administration. The following policies were discussed:

Policy 501.3.1 School Choice - The Board approved amendments to the policy, by a 6-1 vote, as Trustee Craig Whitehead voted against the motion.

Policy 600.1 Guiding Principals for Educational Programming in Schools - The Board voted unanimously to remove Policy 600.1.

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

Discussion on the policies begins at the 1:49:15 mark of the [LIVESTREAM](#).

11. 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. Board Chair Allison Purcell told the Board the next community conversations event will be held in the evening, on the westside at Petals, Paws and Beans at a yet-to-be determined date. The Board accepted this as information and will share with their respective schools as able. It was further recommended that the information is shared publicly on the division website and other social media channels.

12. Public Forum

The Lethbridge School Division Board of Trustees heard three Public Forum presentations at the Feb. 27 meeting.

The presentation from Nicole Williams begins at the 2:28:58 mark of the [LIVESTREAM](#).

The presentation from Viviana Lartiga Castillo begins at the 2:34:53 mark of the [LIVESTREAM](#).

The presentation from Amber Murray begins at the 2:40:30 mark of the [LIVESTREAM](#).

13. Alternative Program Application

On Oct. 20, 2023 the Board of Trustees received a proposal from the Lethbridge Muslim Association for an alternative program within Lethbridge School Division per Policy 606.1 Alternative Programs. Since the initial proposal, there has been further dialogue between the Division and representatives of the Lethbridge Muslim Association. The Board and Division have determined that the proposal from the Lethbridge Muslim Association for an alternate program is not feasible at this time.

We appreciate the respectful dialogue that occurred between the Division and representatives from the Lethbridge Muslim Association. The Board received this as information.

14. Policy Consultant

The Board of Trustees has signed a contract with policy consultant David Steele to establish a new policy framework for the Division. The Board will begin its work with Steele in mid-March to late-March. Board Chair Allison Purcell added stakeholders will be involved throughout the process, and further updates will be provided.

15. Public Forum Response

The Board of Trustees provided a response to the Public Forum presentation on Jan. 23 from Nicole Williams. The response can be found on Page 67 of the [AGENDA](#).

Regular Meeting video: [LIVESTREAM](#)



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