



Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting highlights from March 26 - Next meeting April 23 -

1. Committee Reports

Reports were delivered from the Working Conditions Committee, Division School Council, Policy Advisory Committee, Poverty Intervention Committee, Facilities Committee, Community Engagement Committee and Spirit of 51. The reports can be found beginning on Page 3 of the [AGENDA](#).

2. Associate Superintendent Reports

Christine Lee, Associate Superintendent, Business and Operations, Robbie Charlebois, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources and Morga Asquith, Associate Superintendent, Instructional Services, delivered their respective reports for the Board. To read the reports, see Page 44 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 the spring, 2024 retreat are attached. An update on progress regarding the implementation of strategies under each priority area was provided in the form of a report each month.

The report can be found on Page 59 of the [AGENDA](#).

4. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

G.S. Lakie Middle School:

Middle schools are busy places and we've had lots to celebrate at Lakie this year. We welcomed our second group of Spanish Bilingual students this past September and we're excited to see this program continue to grow and evolve. The month of September also saw us host our annual school-wide Terry Fox run at Nicholas Sheran Park. Our school typically joins the two events into one, which also serves as qualifying for the LSAA cross country championships that take place a week later. Lastly, the first month of school ended with a powerful Blackfoot Confederacy Flag Raising event which involved many special guests. This meaningful day included a school-wide Walk for Reconciliation which paid tribute to National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. We've worked tirelessly over the past number of years to find impactful ways to incorporate Indigenous events and teachings in our school. In addition to the Flag Raising ceremony, we also had a staff member produce a large 3D "Oki" sign to display at our school.

Our weekly Indigenous Leadership group worked with a local elder to put a proper Blackfoot name to their group and our leader, Jennifer Shields, brought in members of the Blackfoot community to work with our youth. We are excited to work with Oshana Christiansen to incorporate a new Indigenous Studies option in grade 6 for the third term later this spring.

Late fall saw us host a well-attended school dance. Barbie was the theme and fun was had by all!

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4. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

G.S. Lakie Middle School:

Our annual Remembrance Day ceremony highlighted former Lakie teacher, Daniel Yaretz, speaking to staff and students from his Navy ship on the other side of the world. Daniel took this a step further by stopping at Lakie in January to speak with some staff and students about his experiences in the Navy. In addition to Mr. Yaretz sharing his stories with Lakie, we also had a great presentation by Christie Schipper on the effects of screen time and social media. Madi Cameron will take this a step further by presenting to our school later this month about the same topics. 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. Skiing, sleigh rides, gondola rides and site seeing all made for a memorable trip for all! January also saw us co-host our 3rd annual Westside Invitational basketball tournament in partnership with Senator Joyce Fairbairn.

Just this month, Kristi Legge, put on another amazing dance show titled "Luminosity". Approximately 150 students put their talents on display for four shows at the Yates Memorial Theatre. Her shows continue to wow anyone in attendance and leave her students with memories for a lifetime. Other members of our Fine Arts team, Sheldon Arvay, Keith Griffioen and Courtney Wehlage hosted amazing term end shows throughout this year which allowed students to perform in front of their loved ones. Our entire team is incredibly talented, and our students are fortunate to learn from them. Sheldon Arvay has also applied his diverse talents by working with a small team of students to provide our school with live announcements on YouTube twice a week. It's a ton of fun to watch the exposes and stories they present.

Finally, we were excited to open our new outdoor sports court to our school and surrounding community this winter. Thanks to a grant by the Lethbridge Community Foundation and years of fundraising by our students and families, we were able to have a much larger basketball court completed along with a gagaball pit, pickleball courts, four-square courts and picnic tables. It will be a great legacy that many will enjoy for years to come.

Galbraith Elementary School:

The Galbraith Elementary School community has had a great year so far and is excited to continue this path for the rest of the 2023-2024 school year. We would like to highlight one of our school goals this year: to increase engagement for the purpose of learning within our school community.

We are lucky to have an engaged school council team at Galbraith, ready to help with events, fundraising, and ensuring that Galbraith students are supported and learning! One project we have recently collaborated on is a Parent Library, which gives parents the opportunity to borrow books from the school on various topics such as parenting, mental health, cooking, healthy living, and student learning.

Some strategies that we have been using to build our community engagement are using social media (check out our busy Facebook page one day!), a monthly newsletter emailed to all families, "good news" postcards, our very popular Family Fun Nights, and monthly assemblies that families are invited to attend.

We are also prioritizing staff connecting with families at the door, on the phone, and at school events. Some of our school events this year have included our Celebration of Learning, parent teacher interviews, Treaty 7 Day Celebration, and our Community Fair.

The Galbraith Community Fair was a new event this year, which invited families to check out the awesome organizations which support people in Lethbridge, such as the Family Centre, My City Care, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the Lethbridge Public Library, Building Brains Together, and many others. We were so grateful for the participation of these busy organizations and the over 300 people who came to learn about them.

We look forward to providing more opportunities for our families to engage in learning this year! Some things to look out for are our Healthy Lifestyles Evening coming up in May, more Family Fun Nights (Round Table Board Gamerie will be joining us in April), our March Madness Literacy Celebration, Welcome to Kindergarten and Grade 1, and our Spring Concert, which will highlight our wonderful Fine Arts program.

Enjoy the rest of the 2023/2024 school year! Thank you so much for your support.

4. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Nicholas Sheran Elementary School:

We have been enjoying a great school year so far at Nicholas Sheran Elementary School.

Our school has a phenomenal staff, incredible parents and guardians, and of course a fantastic group of students who live our core values (Responsibility, Collaboration, Resilience, and Compassion) each day. Collaborative learning days have been the norm for this year, and we appreciate how our teachers have become so dedicated to bringing new curriculum to life for our students. We have been the generous recipient of some targeted intervention funding, and we support literacy interventions each afternoon with our BOOST program (guided by the division). Our school also benefits from nutrition grant funding; this year we expanded our universal breakfast program and included a dishwasher and reusable dishes and utensils so that we reduce waste in our community. Students also have access to universal classroom snacks and bag lunches through our community partnerships and local non-profit groups.

Parent and guardian engagement continues to grow in our community. This year we hosted a successful Family Numeracy Night (November) and a Family Literacy Night (February), and both were well-attended. Our School Council has grown to a healthy size, and we continue to benefit from an engaged family network of supports taking care of our school. In addition to School Council, and in response to staff and family concerns over traffic around our school (and parking lot concerns), we have partnered with the City of Lethbridge to create a School Travel Planning Committee. This committee participates in the development and implementation of a School Travel Plan for our school that my increase road safety, decrease traffic congestion, and increase the number of children using active modes of transportation to and from school. This committees' work extends through the spring.

Our in-school music program is vibrant and supportive as we connect all students to a qualified and passionate music teacher, Mr. Owen Sheedy. In terms of our extra-curricular music programming, there is also a lot to celebrate. Mr. Sheedy, along with Mrs. Nadia Britton, and numerous parent and staff volunteers, offer Grade 4 handbells, Grade 5 handbells, Junior Choir, and Senior Choir. Aside from performances at school, our music groups participated in Festival music this month. Our Junior and Senior choirs performed at the Soup Kitchen Benefit Concert, and our Senior choir will perform 'O Canada' at the Lethbridge Hurricanes game later this month. We have been nurturing our relationship with the residents at Age Care Columbia, a senior's community near our school, and we have plans to perform for the residents soon.

Our Grade 5 students involved in choir had the special opportunity to perform at the Lethbridge Airport for an afternoon last December through a partnership with the City of Lethbridge; returning travellers were greeted by our students and their music as they arrived off their flights!

We have exciting things happening in our Learning Commons! Last November we hosted the 'Nicholas Sheran Market' where students had opportunities to extend their financial literacy skills by buying, selling (and sometimes bartering!) for goods over a two-week period.

We jumped into our 'Where Are You From?' bulletin board (students coloured flags from the areas of the world where they are from), and we connected those flags to the corresponding countries. We have expanded this project so that we have now ordered flags representing all the countries and homelands we are connected to, and our next step is to hang the flags in a permanent hallway installation. The 'Spuds in Tubs' program is next on the agenda for our Learning Commons as we connect in-school programming to the real world of small-scale food production that anyone can do at home. There are always highlights from the Learning Commons on that section of our school website.

Of course, these are just some of the highlights from our school so far this year. We look forward to the months ahead so that we continue learning and growing together at this beautiful school!

5. 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.

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5. Donations and Support

Listed below are the donations and support received by the Division.

- Kinsman club of Lethbridge donated \$10,000 towards Probe's Indigenous Outdoor Learning Classroom
- G.S. Lakie would like to recognize and thank the many sponsors for their generous sponsorship of our Dance Show, Luminosity. Total sponsorship that came in was \$6,885.

The Board of Trustees and The Community Engagement Committee would like to thank the Sponsors of the 2024 Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship (ICE) Showcase and Scholarships. Thanks to our sponsors generous support \$15,000 was raised to support the ICE Showcase and ICE Scholarship fund.

Event Sponsors (\$1,500)

TLD

Ward Bros Construction Ltd

Southland Transportation

Dejong Architecture

Marsh

1st Technicall

Intellimedia

Scholarship Supporter:

BDO LLP

FWBA Architects

Brownlee LLP

Dawson Wallace Construction

Ducan Industries

Inspiris

RBC

RW Mechanical and Plumbing

Cavendish Farms

Guardian Security

Recommendation:

The Board received the report as information.

6. Request for Information: Surveys

At the Jan. 23, 2024 Board meeting Trustee Genny Steed proposed the following motion which was passed by the Board:

That the board requests 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 this information."

Garrett Simmons and Mike Nightingale reached out to contacts across the province regarding their processes, policies and procedures related to surveys. This information was sent to Trustees via email on March 9, 2024 via email. Trustees were also provided with a summary of how Lethbridge School Division currently creates surveys, which is similar to the process other Divisions follow across Alberta.

The Board received this as information.

7. Edwin Parr Nominee

Lethbridge School Division is pleased to announce that Mahaliah Peddle from Gilbert Paterson Middle School has been selected as the division's 2023/2024 nominee for the Edwin Parr Award for outstanding first-year teachers. Mahaliah joined the Gilbert Paterson community at the beginning of the 2023/2024 school year where she has been teaching Grade 6/7 French Immersion.

7. Edwin Parr Nominee

Prior to completing her Bachelors of Education in Modern Languages (French/Spanish) at the University of Lethbridge you could find Mahaliah supporting our students and school communities as an Educational Assistant and as the assistant coach for club volleyball at Gilbert Paterson.

"I am honoured and grateful to be nominated for this award," said Peddle. "Seeing my students try new things, learn, and grow as individuals are some of the biggest joys of teaching. I am also grateful to be a part of the amazing school community at Gilbert Paterson Middle School. My colleagues are incredibly supportive and encouraging and have helped me in countless ways to become the teacher I am today. I am deeply honoured to represent my school and the division through being nominated for this award."

"The Gilbert Paterson Middle School Administrators are thrilled to extend heartfelt congratulations to Mahaliah on being the Edwin Parr nominee for our Division. Her exceptional dedication, passion and commitment to our French Immersion program has not gone unnoticed, and this recognition is truly well-deserved. Having had the privilege of witnessing your teaching firsthand, we have been impressed by your innovative approaches, genuine care for your students, and unwavering dedication to their educational success. We thank you for your outstanding contributions to the field of education and the positive impact you have made in students' learning. All very best; on est super fier de toi Mahaliah et de tous tes talents que tu partages avec notre communauté chaque jour. Un certificat bien mérité!

- Morgan Day (Principal), Catherine Thorsen (Vice Principal) and Pierre Legal (Vice Principal) - Gilbert Paterson Middle School Administrators.

Mahaliah's dedication to the school community can be seen on a daily basis by the Paterson community and on behalf of Lethbridge School Division we are thrilled to announce Mahaliah as our division nominee for the Edwin Parr award!

The Board received the report as information.

8. Recognition of Provincial Champions

Provincial champions were invited to attend the Board meeting.

The Board recognized the Immanuel Christian Secondary School girls basketball team, which included players Zarah Sincennes, Jaeda-Lynn Moradel, Halle Aleman, Taylor Withage, Norah Dekens, Hayden Van't Land, Brooke Ferrie, Nyomi Heins, Yar Biar, Holly Boone, and Georgia Schooten, along with coaches Mike Greeno, Emily Greeno, Norm Dekens, Trina Smith, Kirsten Barwegen and Erin Barwegen.

The Board also recognized the Lethbridge Collegiate Institute mixed curling team, which included players Art Andizo, Kale Higginson, Kamille deJong, Liv Swift and Rhett Whittmire, along with coaches Zach Rhodes, David Fletcher and Cory Hoffner.

9. Public Member Presentation to the Board

Tiffany Hill provided a presentation on the need for modernization at Lethbridge Collegiate Institute.

The presentation from Hill begins at the 1:28:00 mark of the [LIVESTREAM](#).

10. Presentation on Artificial Intelligence

Director of Technology Jesse Sadlowski was invited to give a presentation on Artificial Intelligence in schools.

Sadlowski's presentation begins at the 1:53:10 mark of the [LIVESTREAM](#).

The Board received the report as information.

11. Approval of International Trip – Winston Churchill

Alexa Koshman and Emily Morrison from Winston Churchill High School requested approval to take approximately 30 Grade 9-12 students on an International Trip to New York, NY, USA from April 21-25, 2025.

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11. Approval of International Trip – Winston Churchill

Information regarding the educational benefits of the trip and proposed itinerary were attached. The estimated cost per student is approximately \$3,800 in Canadian Funds.

The Winston Churchill High School trip to New York in April 2025 was approved by the Board on the condition that all Division policies and procedures are strictly followed, and with the understanding that future travel advisories and/or vaccination requirements may affect the trip's ability to proceed.

12. Public Forum

The Lethbridge School Division Board of Trustees heard two Public Forum presentations at the March meeting. The presentation from Amber Murray begins at the 2:29:20 mark of the [LIVESTREAM](#).

The presentation from Nicole Williams begins at the 2:36:25 mark of the [LIVESTREAM](#).

13. Second Quarter Financial Report

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

The report can be found on Page 97 of the [AGENDA](#).

14. Budget belief statements for preparation of 2024/2025 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 reviewed the Belief Statements for preparation of the 2024/2025 budget and made suggested changes. The Belief Statements with tracked changes were attached.

The Board approved the Board of Trustees Belief Statements for preparation of the 2024/2025 Budget as presented.

15. 2025/2027 Capital Plan

The Executive Summary to the 2024/2025 to 2026/2027 Capital Plan for the Division is provided for review. The 136-page detailed Three-Year Capital Plan may be located on the Division website.

A motion to amended the Capital Plan, to switch the order of the New Construction and Modernization Project Requests list, to swap the No. 2 project, West Lethbridge (South) Elementary School with the No. 4 project, West Lethbridge High School, was defeated by a 4-3 vote, as Tyler Demers, Kristina Larkin, Christine Light and Craig White-head voted against the motion.

The Board accepted the 2025/2027 Capital Plan as presented, by a vote of 4-3, as Andrea Andreachuk, Allison Purcell and Genny Steed voted against the motion.

Discussion on the Capital Plan begins at the 3:21:50 mark of the [LIVESTREAM](#).

The summary of the report can be found on Page 127 of the [AGENDA](#).

16. Community Conversations

Allison Purcell provided an update on the April Community Conversations event, which is set for 6-7 p.m. on April 22 at Petals, Paws and Beans, located at Unit B 989 Columbia Blvd. W. The Board received the report as information.

17. Galbraith Elementary School Modernization - Planning Funds

Lethbridge School Division has been notified by Alberta Education that the Galbraith Elementary School Modernization has been approved to proceed to the design phase of funding approval.

This brings this project one step closer to full construction funding.

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17. Galbraith Elementary School Modernization - Planning Funds

The Division is pleased with the announcement that we are moving closer to full project construction. The Division will be working with Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure on project scope, and schematic design this year. Galbraith Elementary School Modernization is the number one priority in the Division's Three-Year Capital Plan. The Board of Trustees received the report for information.

18. Public Forum Response

The Board of Trustees provided a response to the Public Forum presentation on Feb. 27 from Nicole Williams. The response can be found on Page 142 of the [AGENDA](#).

19. Public Forum Response

The Board of Trustees provided a response to the Public Forum presentation on Feb. 27 from Viviana Lartiga. The response can be found on Page 143 of the [AGENDA](#).

20. Public Forum Response

The Board of Trustees provided a response to the Public Forum presentation on Feb. 27 from Amber Murray. The response can be found on Page 144 of the [AGENDA](#).

Regular Meeting video: [LIVESTREAM](#)



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