



Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting highlights from April 23 - Next meeting May 28 -

1. Committee Reports

Reports were delivered from the Division School Council meeting, the School Boundary Alignment Committee, the Policy Advisory 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 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 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 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 31 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.

- Ecole Agnes Davidson received a generous donation of \$555 from Wade Pierson at Panago Pizza North. The Board received the report as information.

5. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Park Meadows Elementary School:

We are pleased to share that at Park Meadows, we take great pride in recognizing the wonderful achievements of our small elementary school community. Our core PRIDE values - Positivity, Respect, Independence, Determination, and Empathy - are the guiding principles that help our students thrive.

From the classroom to the playground, these values play a central role in shaping our students into both scholars and compassionate individuals. Through Positivity, we create an environment where optimism and enthusiasm drive our learning experiences.

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5. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Park Meadows Elementary School:

Respect is the heart of our interactions, teaching our students to promote diversity and appreciate the uniqueness of each person. Independence empowers our students to explore, discover, and grow into confident learners ready to face any challenge. Through Determination, we teach the importance of resilience and perseverance in overcoming obstacles. And finally, Empathy, the heart of our community, reminds us to extend kindness and understanding to others, creating a nurturing environment where everyone feels valued and supported.

Additionally, we acknowledge the invaluable collaboration with our Indigenous Education Elementary Teacher, whose guidance has enriched our community. With Melanie we have enhanced our understanding of indigenous culture and history, ensuring that our staff are well equipped to teach foundational skills in their classrooms. This partnership exemplifies our commitment to inclusivity and cultural awareness, to ensure we have an enriching educational experience for all.

The Breakfast Club of Canada has had a significant and positive impact on our school since it was introduced this year. Thanks to their program, over 75 students are now able to start their day with a nutritious breakfast. By providing this essential meal, we are nourishing young minds and empowering students to succeed academically and socially throughout the day. This program creates a sense of community and compassion, enhancing the school experience for all those involved.

Our School Council plays an essential role in supporting our school by organizing fundraising events and various activities. Their dedication greatly enhances the educational experience for all students. Through their efforts in fundraising, the School Council ensures that every student has access to Field Trips and other learning resources and opportunities, ultimately improving the learning environment.

When surveyed, our students expressed their love for learning across all core subjects (depending on the student of course), Fine Arts (including drumming, dance, drama, and guitar/ukulele) and Physical Education and our playground equipment. KG loved centers and the gymnastics equipment in the gym. Grade five's valued the transitions to grade 6, their year end field trip...camping and grade 5 grad. All students cherished the variety of extra activities assemblies, and the presence of our beloved mascot Panthers (Stuffed Panthers named Shadow, Pepper, and Onyx), Dress-up days, Maker Space, and Genius Hour were also highlighted as favorite aspects of our school environment. Equally important, students recognized the dedication of our teachers, Educational Assistants, and support staff as fundamental components of their positive experiences at school.

Moreover, staff members have emphasized the profound sense of community and support for one another within our school. They value the genuine love for students, the abundance of activities tailored to student interests, and the opportunity to truly connect with students through looping.

Together, we want to celebrate our students, teachers, staff, and families who support the academic success but also foster the characteristics and integrity we value. We are proud of our small school, where PRIDE thrives, and the future shines bright.

Winston Churchill High School:

Cross-Country – Churchill had 18 students participating in the high school division, and of those 18, we had 8 athletes qualify for provincials! This is the highest number we have had qualify for Provincials in at least 14 years!

Junior Boys 4km: Gavin McIntyre, Bennett Zieber

Intermediate Girls 5km: Ally McDonald, Shanelle Mann

Senior Girls 5km: Aislyn Farn (our top finisher....4th in her division and was right behind 3rd!), Alexis Shannon, Johanna Zieber

Senior Boys 6km: Nick Theron.

At provincials, we placed 8th out of 44 schools in the 3A division as a school.

Our athletes were Aislyn Farn, Alexis Shannon, Ally McDonald, Bennett Zieber, Gavin McIntyre, Johanna Zieber, Nick Theron and Shanelle Mann. Our top finishers were Ally (14/112 intermediate girls) Aislyn (28/103 on senior girls) and Gavin (41/124 in junior boys).

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5. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Winston Churchill High School:

Congratulations to our Bulldog Volleyball team for winning the Zone Championship. The team competed in Strathmore in the 3A Volleyball Provincials.

We are incredibly proud of our Math Club and their work in planning and hosting our first ever Northside Elementary Math Night. It was a huge success. Take a look at the link and be sure to watch the video: [MATH NIGHT](#).

Congratulations to the cast and crew for an amazing run of Mean Girls: The Musical!

Our Basketball program welcomed players from Australia in November. The teams visited Northside Elementary schools to host basketball clinics for students. We included the link about the visit: [Australian high schoolers head to Churchill as part of basketball tour](#).

A total of 18 Bulldog Basketball Players participated in the Australian leg of our sport exchange with Northside Christian College of Brisbane during the Easter holiday. It was an amazing experience that included 6 games for both the SV and JV squads, and sightseeing events of Brisbane, the Gold Coast, Australia Zoo, Tangalooma, and a National Rugby League game.

Our Griffin Curling team (Jacey Kern, Rory Heaton, Kaylee Robinson and skip, Karissa Badke) won city championships. They beat LCI 10-0 in the final. The girls qualified for zones! Griffin curling team won the Curling Zone Championships, beating LCI in a close match, 8-7.

Churchill Cerberus Robotics Team competed in Calgary:

Comical Robotics: Record: 6-4 (Ranked 34th in Rockies Division out of 67 Teams)

Caffeine Required: Record: 5-5 (Ranked 33rd in the Prairies Division out of 67 Teams)

Griffin Robotics: Record: 2-8 (Ranked 61st in the Prairies Division out of 67 Teams)

Our kids are very excited for next year!

Karma Patel (grade 12) has been offered a direct entrance to Medical School in Edinburgh.

Zitong Wu (grade 12) has been offered a direct entrance to Medical School at King's College in London, England.

Akshara Nagaruru (grade 12) has been offered a direct entrance to Medical School at King's College in London, England.

Johanna Zieber (grade 12) has been offered a direct entrance to Medical School in Ireland.

Our Senior Bulldog Basketball team won our home tournament!

Aislyn Farn and Kira Eftoda represented the Griffins in the Deep South All-Star Basketball Game!

Hayden Forsyth and Olivier Koribikomeye represented the Bulldogs in the Deep South All-Star Basketball Game!

We are proud of our awesome students for their participating in the ICE Showcase Evening: Josephine Younda-Kwal, Abigail Deng, Aluel Deng - Celebrating Culture – Wherever You're From, You're Churchill Family, Keanne Mendoza, Maliha Kabir, Madelyn Thornton, Mikaela Erickson-Aguilar, Ziqiao Chen - Eloquentia – Bringing Debate to You, WCHS – Archery, WCHS - Robotics, Autumn Koch - Custom Canvas Shoes, Zitong Wu, Karma Patel, Arman Bidarian, and Nick Theron - Math Club, Maliha Kabir, Madelyn Thornton, Mikaela Erickson-Aguilar, Ziqiao Chen – Dismantling Racism in Education – Student Led Workshops and Seminars, Jerry Wang – last year's recipient for his project on Drumming, Samreet Mutti – last year's recipient for her Bollywood Dance Project.

WCHS grade 12 student, Aislyn Farn just signed on to play basketball next year with Medicine Hat College!

IB Art show has opened and will be on display at CASA from now until June 1. The art display will be on the second floor and will include artwork by the following students: Kailey Nakamura, Isabelle Gutierrez, Sasmitha Rodrigo.

Eleah Klassen (Grade 10) has made the short list for the Analog Short Story award!

This year WCHS is proud to enter their very first Dragon Boat team, consisting of 19 students and 5 staff.

We are proud of Akshara Nagaruru! Akshara is behind the Baby Bundle Drive being done in partnership with the food bank, building off an existing program at the facility. Akshara and a few of her friends are hard at work putting together bundles of items like diapers, sanitary wipes, teethingers and more that will be distributed through the existing Baby Bundle Program. Please see the article: [Lethbridge student teams with Interfaith Food Bank to help local families](#).

6. Education Week, April 15-19, 2024

Education Week is a celebration of community. The school is not just a building in the neighbourhood, it is the foundation of the community. The first Alberta School Week (Education Week) was held December 2–8, 1928. Now, Education Week is from April 15-19, but the purpose remains the same. Education Week celebrates the importance of education and the remarkable things happening in Alberta schools and provides all Albertans with an opportunity to highlight the important role education plays in shaping the future of our province. To celebrate Education Week at the Division level this year, the Lethbridge School Division trustees delivered baskets of apples to each school for staff appreciation.

7. Approval of International Trip

Jen Scott from Lethbridge Collegiate Institute requested approval to take approximately 30 grade 10-12 students on an International Trip to Auckland, New Zealand from April 14th – April 28th, 2025 (dates are subject to change). Information regarding the educational benefits of the trip and proposed itinerary were attached. The estimated cost per student is approximately \$7,500 in Canadian funds.

The Lethbridge Collegiate Institute trip to New Zealand in April 2025 was approved by the Board by a 6-1 vote (Trustee Christine Light was opposed), 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.

8. Approval of International Trip

Joshua Maret from Chinook High School requested approval to take approximately 30-35 Grade 10-12 students on an International Trip to Reykjavik, Iceland from April 18th – April 24th, 2025. Information regarding the educational benefits of the trip and proposed itinerary were attached. The estimated cost per student is approximately \$5,500 in Canadian Funds.

The Chinook High School trip to Iceland in April 2025 was unanimously 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.

9. 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 Board adopted the revisions to the policies as presented by the Policy Advisory Committee, or as amended.

Policy 601.2.1 School Year - For Approval of Amendments

Policy 600.2 School-Based Decision Making - For Approval of Amendments

The policies can be found on Page 66 of the [AGENDA](#).

Discussion on Policy 601.2.1 begins at the 1:35:25 mark of the [LIVESTREAM](#).

A motion to table Policy 601.2.1 was defeated by a 6-1 vote (Trustee Craig Whitehead voted for the motion.)

A motion to amend the policy, to add the phrase, "and a minimum of 475 hours of for Kindergarten," to regulation 1, along with adding Christmas/winter to regulation 2.4, adding Easter/spring to regulation 2.5 and to change regulation 2.7 to read, "provide for two half days for parent teacher interviews in the fall and a half day for parent teacher interviews in the spring," passed by a 6-1 vote, as Trustee Genny Steed voted against the motion.

A motion to approve Policy 601.2.1, as amended, was passed 6-1, as Trustee Genny Steed voted against the motion.

A motion to approve Policy 600.2, as amended, was passed unanimously.

10. CUPE 2843 Memorandum of Agreement between the Board and CUPE Local #2843

The Lethbridge School Division negotiating committee and CUPE Local #2843 reached Memorandum of Agreement dated April 11th, 2024. The agreement is for a term from September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2024. This Agreement is in compliance with the Public Sector Employers Act and has been approved by the Public Bargaining and Compensation Office of the Province of Alberta.

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10. CUPE 2843 Memorandum of Agreement between the Board and CUPE Local #2843

CUPE Local # 2843 held a ratification vote on the Agreement on April 18, 2024.

The Memorandum of Agreement between the Board of Trustees of Lethbridge School Division and the Canadian Union of Public Employees No. 2843 dated the 11th of April, 2024 was approved by a vote 6-1, as Board Chair Allison Purcell voted against the motion.

11. Committee Review

Board Committees, as outlined in Policy 203.4, are intended to serve the functions of:

- Advisory: to provide information and/or advice; and/or
- Operational: to carry out specific duties and/or responsibilities.

This Board currently maintains the following standing committees as outlined in Policy 203.4.1v whose general descriptions can be found in Exhibit 203.4.1.A

- Board Audit Committee
- Board Budget Committee
- Community Engagement Committee
- Division Wellness Committee
- Facilities Committee
- Indigenous Education Advisory Committee
- Policy Advisory Committee
- Poverty Intervention Committee
- Spirit of 51 Committee
- Superintendent Evaluation Committee

While there are also Special (Ad Hoc) Committees per Policy 203.5 and Joint Committees per Policy 203.6, Board Standing Committees are those over which the Board has specific and sole responsibility for establishing and maintaining.

These committees currently support excellent goals and many cases of effective advocacy or operational effectiveness have been achieved over the life of these committees. When committees are most effective is when they are specifically related to the priorities of the division, are not duplicative in nature with another board, operational, or community committee, and effectively chaired and administered.

In cases where committees are less effective, we have seen struggles of time and resources being used for topics which are not the priority of the Division and therefore taking time away from priorities, misunderstandings or miscommunication with stakeholders including public, staff, and board which lead to delays or ineffective use of time or money, and missed opportunities to create impact in division priorities and learning.

As we approach the final full school year of this Board in 2024/2025, it can be the opportunity of this team to realign committees with Division priorities, support effective Board Committee operations, and prepare the incoming Board with a well-organized tool for Division growth which is prepared to onboard new committee members without delaying impact.

Areas of review recommended include but would not be limited to:

- Required or Recommended Standing Committees per legislation or other regulatory requirements
- Recommended Standing Committees based on operational need and alignment with Division priorities
- Draft Resources for Board Committee Chair use (i.e. agenda and minute templates, email list management, year over-year records management, a Chair's guide)
- Budget requirements (annual requests, eligible expenses, monitoring, reporting)
- Responsibilities and scope of Board Committee Chairs and division staff
- Recommendations to best support stakeholder involvement

Our students, parents, community members, staff, administrators, executive council and Trustees are active, interested, and capable people who have so much to contribute – and they are busy people already working in many other ways on student learning. Our Board can support improved committees to ensure we best appreciate and use the time and talents of those involved.

A motion which stated that each Board Committee Chair and Liaison complete the provided Committee Assessment Form and submit to the Board Chair by June 6, 2024, was passed by a 6-1 vote, as Trustee Craig Whitehead voted against the motion.

12. Virtually Installed: Lethbridge Schools

Virtually Installed: Lethbridge Schools. Students. Art. is back for 2024.

Student artwork will once again be displayed virtually and in person. Art from students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 will be included in an online exhibition on the Lethbridge School Division website. The exhibition will go live on May 1.

The in-person art show, Arts Alive and Well in the Schools includes art from students in Grade 9 to Grade 12 at the Southern Alberta Art Gallery. Those pieces of art will be on display from May 11 to June 15.

Virtually Installed is a collaboration between Lethbridge School Division, Holy Spirit Catholic School Division and École La Vérendrye, in partnership with the University of Lethbridge, the Allied Arts Council and the Southern Alberta Art Gallery.

We are excited to continue having both shows running simultaneously... more visibility, more art, more opportunity for our city to show off the incredible talents of our students!

The Board received the report as information and extended appreciation to Kathy Knelsen for her efforts to coordinate this celebration of student art in Lethbridge and Garrett Simmons who takes the lead on organizing the virtual exhibit.

13. Welcome Back Event

The Welcome Back Event for August 2022 and 2023 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 gave direction for the organization of the August 2024 Welcome Back event, and indicated its preference to host another pancake breakfast event.

14. Public Forum

The Lethbridge School Division Board of Trustees heard a Public Forum presentation from Amber Murray at the April meeting. The presentation from Murray begins at the 2:34:00 mark of the [LIVESTREAM](#).

15. Community Conversations

Allison Purcell provided an update on the May Community Conversations event, which was set for May 15 from 9-10 a.m. at Frank's Redwood Specialty Waffle Cafe. The Board received the report as information.

16. Public Forum Response

The Board of Trustees provided a response to the Public Forum presentation on March 26 from Nicole Williams. The response can be found on Page 78 of the [AGENDA](#).

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The Board of Trustees provided a response to the Public Forum presentation on March 26 from Amber Murray. The response can be found on Page 79 of the [AGENDA](#).

Regular Meeting video: [LIVESTREAM](#)



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