



Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting highlights from May 28 - Next meeting June 25 -

1. Committee Reports

Reports were delivered from the Facilities Committee, School Boundary Alignment Committee, Division School Council, Policy Advisory Council, the Poverty Intervention Committee and the Board Budget 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 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 38 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.

- Nicholas Sheran Parent Council ran a Dance-A-Thon FUNdraiser and raised over \$6,300 for Nicholas Sheran School
- Aaron Fitchett donated \$100 to the Nicholas Sheran Breakfast Program
- Stephen Woodcock applied for a grant through the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation - They have issued \$8,000 to go towards an Indigenous Medicine Garden at Nicholas Sheran
- Gilbert Paterson received a \$1,000 donation to our Choir Program to help with the cost of provincials from Katrina Goth.

The Board received the report as information.

5. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Wilson Middle School:

Ok! and hello! Wilson Middle School has been busy this school year!

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5. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Wilson Middle School:

All of our sports teams have represented Wilson well throughout the year. Gio Gomez won gold in the U13 Cross Country LSAA City Championships. Corigan McIntyre and Rylee Cruse also finished in the top 10 within their running age category. Our volleyball and basketball teams managed to win one or more of the tournaments that they attended this year. Our Senior boy's basketball team made it to the LSAA City Championships this year. They narrowly lost in the finals to Gilbert Paterson. In grade 6 badminton, Lanaya Bereza and Avery Cruse won Girls Doubles and Rehema Musagara received silver in girls singles at the LSAA City Badminton Championships.

In April, our fine arts department put on the incredible production of Frozen Jr. Over 100 students participated in this production. There were 11 shows over 4 days. Sold out crowds every evening and many northside elementary schools were able to attend our morning performances. Our grade 7 and 8 bands have been preparing for their trip to the Edmonton Music Festival in mid May. All of our bands competed in the Lethbridge Music Festival in March. Our grade 6 & 8 band were awarded superior scores and our grade 7 band received excellent scores.

Wilson continues to pride ourselves on celebrating the rich diversity within our building and providing as many opportunities as possible to our students. We were able to use funds from our school council to get an esports club running. It is amazing to see so many students coming out and enjoying this new activity. We continue to take students on Outdoor education canoe trips to Nicolas Sheran, grade 6 social studies and science trips to the University of Lethbridge and City Hall, our entire grade 8 population did their annual Waterton Hike, the grade 7s are off to the Telus Sparks Science center in Calgary in a few weeks, and guitar students have put on several excellent rockband concerts this year. At the end of March, students had the opportunity to participate in Holi celebration in our school field. We also have a group of students heading to Buffalo Rock Tipi Camp outside of Fort Macleod. Students will spend the night sleeping in a tipi, participate in some educational programming that explores the parallels between Indigenous and Western Science and connection to the land.

Coalbanks Elementary School:

Welcome to Coalbanks Elementary School! We are a vibrant, growing, and bustling school that serves 650 students and their families from the community of Copperwood. Here at Coalbanks you will find a dedicated and collaborative staff committed to the success of student growth and achievement. We are diligent in our belief that every student can be successful given the right tools and structures to support a diverse learning community. In saying that, we are very pleased and proud of our accomplishments around literacy and numeracy. For this current year, the percentage of students that are at or above grade level is 70% when it comes to literacy.

We have also made numeracy a school priority as well and we are pleased to share that 96% of our students in Grades 1-3 are at or above the grade level expectation in Math. In grade 4 we have 86% at or above grade level expectation when it comes to numeracy. Our grade 5s did not complete the Elk Island numeracy assessment. They completed the MIPI assessment as they were still using the older curriculum. However, our grade 5s performed very well with 76% being at or above grade level with regards to numeracy skills. This is something that we celebrate! Coalbanks also celebrates innovation through our creative approach in our Learning Commons and Maker's Space. This is the hub of the school where students freely flow in and out to be imaginative and inventive through multiple outlets. Some of our notable clubs are robotics, coding, Lego, leadership, team sports and book clubs. We have even started our first Coalbanks Esports club for our Grade 4/5 students, which has been a huge hit. We will be hosting our first Esports tournament at Coalbanks on May 24.

Coalbanks is also fortunate to have a state-of-the-art outdoor play space where students can engage with their peers and build strong friendships and connections. Coalbanks offers a variety of co-curricular opportunities (robotics, chess, crochet, Esports, volleyball, basketball, walking/running club, dance, skipping club, handbells, choir, that every child can participate in.

There is something for everyone at Coalbanks.

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5. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Senator Buchanan Elementary School:

Thank you for allowing us to share what is happening in our school.

We have had a very busy 2023/2024 school year at Senator Buchanan. We are a very caring, inclusive and diverse school community, supporting 292 students from Kindergarten through Grade 5. We are passionate about embracing differences and bringing awareness to wellness for our entire school community.

We feel so supported by Executive Council seeing the needs in our building. We are thankful for both Executive and the Board to support our diverse population and always hearing what we need to best support our community.

We stay connected to our community in many ways. We hosted our annual Welcome Back event, serving over 700 bowls on Kona Ice to our community as we welcomed back families into the building. We tie this event to our AGM to encourage parent participation in our School Council. Our strength in community connection is evident throughout our building.

We also have a very active Grade 4/5 Leadership Council who represent our student perspective in our school. They help with many tasks within the building including having a voice in budget setting, purchasing and setting priorities for the school year. They are also very active in service learning and contribute to the community also spreading kindness and appreciation. Each year, our out-going Grade 5 Leadership students leave behind a school gift.

We are currently working towards an outdoor learning space for all students to enjoy.

Our staff work collaborative in Grade Levelled Teams, meeting weekly for one hour to develop their further understandings in topics of their choice. They then engage in generative dialogue with administration and each other to further push curiosity and growth.

As a school, we continue our Character Education through the Circle of Courage. Our school awards and assemblies to support students in this program. We have embarked in professional learning as a staff to push our understandings of the Medicine Wheel and how to support our students in their learning. We have also tied our awards into a large art project outside our school, where each award becomes part of our medicine wheel around a tree.

We are very proud of our universal breakfast, lunch and snack programs. We can serve our entire building now in approximately 15-30 minutes. We cannot express our gratitude for the community support and funding we receive for this important part of our school. We happily upgraded our fridges and freezers to commercial equipment which allows us to store more food for our school. The Roost has evolved into a wonderful space to meet the nutritional needs of our students.

We are happy to share with you that we have received several grants already this year and have done lots of fundraising. We have received grants from RBC, President's Choice, and The Legacy Foundation to support our various projects in the school. We continue our partnerships with The City of Lethbridge, The Lethbridge Hurricanes, Zrim Masonry, Canterra Seeds, MyCity Care, Lakeview Bakery, Cobs Bread, EFree Church, Bridge Community Church and the Chinese Opera Society to support our students. We are excited to use these funds soon to further improve our school. We are looking forward to wrapping up our school year together as a community.

6. School Graduations

High School graduation ceremonies will be held in-person.

Liaison trustees were provided with the graduation plans of the high schools. Graduation is a tradition that honours graduates and provides opportunity for celebratory closure to a milestone in the lives of these young men and women.

The Board received the report as information.

7. School Trustee Liaisons for 2024/2025

Superintendent Mike Nightingale provided an update on School Trustee Liaison Assignments for 2024/2025.

Recommendation

The Board received the report as information.

8. Alberta Esports Championship 2024 Gold Medal Winners

Two teams from Lethbridge Collegiate Institute took home gold at the Alberta Esports Championships 2024 held in Lethbridge earlier this month. Lethbridge School Division proudly hosted the event, which saw 18 Division technology staff support the competition throughout the weekend. LCI's provincial championships were in Valorant Gold and Rocket League.

The Valorant Gold roster included Matthew Fedoruk, Gavin De Jong, Gabriel Gorner, Isaac Gill and Rocco D'agnone. The head coach was Mike Harrison. The Rocket League roster included Kade Fraser, Parker Taylor, Alex Vervecken and Agrim Paudel. The coaches were Will Kellett and Cam Findley.

The Board received the report as information.

9. International Trip Fees

Trustee Kristina Larkin made a request to administration, when they are reviewing the process for developing and communicating school fees, that they also consider international trips fees as part of that conversation.

9. Approval of International Trip

Samuel Yamamoto from Lethbridge Collegiate Institute requested approval to take approximately 55 grade 9-12 students on an International Trip to New York, NY, USA from April 16-21, 2025. Information regarding the educational benefits of the trip and proposed itinerary were attached. The estimated cost per student is approximately \$3,000 in Canadian funds.

The Lethbridge Collegiate Institute trip to New York in April of 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.

10. Approval of International Trip

Gordon Vatcher from Lethbridge Collegiate Institute is requested approval to take approximately 42-45 Grade 9-12 students on an International Trip to Berlin, Amsterdam, Paris and London from April 16– 27, 2025. Information regarding the educational benefits of the trip and proposed itinerary were attached. The estimated cost per student is approximately \$4,500 in Canadian funds.

The Lethbridge Collegiate Institute trip to Berlin, Amsterdam, Paris and London 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.

11. Approval of International Trip

Jonathan Dick from Winston Churchill High School requested approval to take approximately 30 grade 10-12 students on an International Trip to Ireland from April 17-27, 2025. Information regarding the educational benefits of the trip and proposed itinerary were attached. The estimated cost per student is approximately \$5,495 in Canadian funds.

The Winston Churchill High School trip to Ireland in April of 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. Authorization of Locally Developed Courses – Middle School

Alberta Education requires that all locally developed grade 6 to 9 courses be authorized for use by the Board of Trustees. As the middle schools and high schools have expanded their educational opportunities for students, it has become necessary to create several locally developed courses to adhere to Alberta Education policy. Erin Hurkett, Director of Learning, has worked closely with the secondary schools to develop course outlines and student learning outcomes for each course. Although the courses are categorized by school, it is recommended that the courses be approved for use in all Division schools. A full description of all requested courses is attached on the next page:

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12. Authorization of Locally Developed Courses – Middle School

G.S. Lakie Middle School (Grade 6, 7 & 8)

Animal Care 101 (new)

Board Games (new)

Drivers Education (continuing)

Introduction to Chess (continuing)

Media Yearbook (new)

G.S. Lakie Middle School (Grade 6, 7 & 8)

Outdoor Education (continuing)

Strength and Conditioning (continuing)

Gilbert Paterson Middle School (Grade 6, 7 & 8)

Book Club (continuing)

Cosmetology (continuing)

Drivers Education (continuing)

Film Studies (continuing)

Outdoor Games (continuing)

Problems, Puzzles, and Games (continuing)

Soccer Development (continuing)

Lethbridge Christian (Grade 6, 7 & 8)

Bible (continuing)

Serving Community (new)

Winston Churchill High School (Grade 9)

Boardgames & Puzzles (new)

Wilson Middle School (Grade 6, 7 & 8)

Cultural Cuisine (new)

Dinosaurs & Paleontology (continuing)

Esports (new)

Sculpture (new)

The Board of Trustees approved the use of the above Locally Developed Grade 6 to 9 courses in all Division middle and high schools from Sept. 1, 2024, to Aug. 31, 2028.

13. 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 609.1 Assessment of Student Achievement - For approval of amendments

Appendix 502.1 Student Code of Conduct - For review

The policies can be found on Page 131 of the [AGENDA](#).

Discussion begins at the 1:52:50 mark of the [LIVESTREAM](#).

The Board adopted the revisions to Policy 609.1, as amended.

The Board also unanimously passed the following motion regarding Appendix 502.1: That the Board approve Appendix A of Policy 502.1 Student Code of Conduct as amended, with further direction for the Policy Advisory Committee to prioritize reviewing this appendix as early as possible in the 2024/2025 school year. This review should include opportunity for stakeholder feedback regarding the appendix.

14. Division Assurance Plan

The 2024/2025 Division Assurance Plan was presented.

The plan can be found on Page 140 of the [AGENDA](#).

The Board approved the 2024/2025 Division Assurance Plan as presented.

15. Trustee Code of Conduct

The Education Act legislates School Boards are responsible to: 33(1)(k) develop and implement a code of conduct that applies to trustees of the board, including definitions of breaches and sanctions, in accordance with principles set out by the Minister by order, (l) comply with all applicable Acts and regulations

Currently, neither Policy 202.1 Trustee Code of Conduct, nor Policy 202.1A Appendix A Trustee Code of Conduct, comply with legislation. Definitions of breaches and sanctions are not included within the policy. The absence of this information leads to both non-compliance to legislation and inhibiting the ability for the Board to be held accountable for its conduct in a fulsome and appropriate way.

In March of 2024, the Board began working with a consultant on the policy framework. As this work does not necessarily include the rewriting of policy, and as the date of completion is unknown, amending Policy 202.1 Trustee Code of Conduct should begin in a timely manner.

The following motion was put to a vote: That the Board acquire Colin Fetter Brownlee LLP to draft a Trustee Code of Conduct Policy to bring the Board in compliance with legislation.

Trustees Tyler Demers, Allison Purcell and Genny Steed voted against the motion, and Trustees Andrea Andreachuk, Kristina Larkin and Christine Light voted for the motion (Trustee Craig Whitehead was not in attendance). As a result of the 3-3 vote, the motion was defeated.

The following motion was then put to a vote: That the Board direct the policy consultant prioritize the amending of Policy 202.1 Trustee Code of Conduct and Policy 202.1A Appendix A Trustee Code of Conduct to bring the Board in compliance with legislation. The motion was passed unanimously.

16. Social Studies Curriculum – Piloting

With the release of the new social studies curriculum, the decision to pilot the curriculum this fall is up to school divisions to determine. The new social studies curriculum is slated for required implementation in the 2025/26 school year. In recent news articles it is stated that “of the 61 Alberta school boards using the province’s curriculum, 35 will take part in the pilot, including 27 public boards, six Catholic and two francophone boards.” (CBC News)

Many questions have been asked if Lethbridge School Division will be piloting in the 2024/25 school year. Teachers have brought forward the question on a few occasions as they prepare for the new school year, as well some staff wanting to know prior to them applying for potential positions within the division. Parents are wanting to know if their students will be using the new curriculum as they look ahead to the new school year.

It was recommended that the Board be provided with information regarding steps taken to decide if Lethbridge School Division will pilot the new social studies curriculum in the 2024/25 school year. It is further recommended that information regarding the piloting be made publicly available and provided to staff within the Division.

The Division has decided to provide the option for teachers to pilot the curriculum during the 2024/2025 school year. The Board heard that at this point 22 teachers in seven Division schools have indicated their interest in piloting the curriculum. Trustees were also informed the Division was not mandating that teachers pilot the new curriculum, teachers have autonomy to decide if they will pilot the new curriculum. Trustees heard there are a variety of reasons that teachers may choose to pilot new curriculum, one of the primary reasons is it provides teachers with an opportunity to provide feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the new curriculum.

17. Alberta School Councils’ Association Conference and AGM/ASCA Membership

The Alberta School Councils’ Conference and AGM was held April 26-28. The Minister of Education spoke and held a Q&A. There were keynote speakers such as Barbara Coloroso and Justice David Hancock and plenty of break out sessions for parents and trustees. There was many great opportunities for networking as well as trade show booths on many topics. On Sunday, the AGM occurred with many resolutions debated, amended and decided on.

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17. Alberta School Councils' Association Conference and AGM/ASCA Membership

The Advocacy Resolution results are attached. The day was long, ending 13 hours after being called to order with approximately 140 voting school councils (both present in person, on virtually and by proxy votes).

In addition, a reminder to school councils in Lethbridge School Division that in January of 2024, the Board moved "That the Board allow the decision regarding ASCA membership to continue to be made by school councils on an individual basis each year." As school councils wrap up this year and consider their upcoming agendas, to ensure to have the discussion of ASCA membership at your school council tables.

The Board accepted the report as information.

18. Spanish Bilingual Program – High School

Lethbridge School Division has offered a Spanish Bilingual program at Coalbanks Elementary School for the past 8 years and at GS Lakie Middle School for the past 2 years (including current year). It is a program that has been important to our community, our division and our Board. It has proven successful over the years but there remains many questions from families as they progress through the years.

Families have approached some trustees with questions around the future years of Spanish Bilingual programming at the High School level. The first group of students that entered the program 8 years ago, (currently grade 7), will be entering high school in 1 year (Sept 2025).

Students and their families are inquiring what the high school Spanish Bilingual programming will look like, what will be offered and which high school would house the program.

As well families want to ensure the sustainability of the program at the Middle school level, with questions arising around why does Spanish Bilingual programming not go the same direction of the other students from Coalbanks to Senator Joyce Fairbairn Middle School, families unsure of what to expect as they enter middle school and wanting to ensure the continuity/commitment of the Spanish Bilingual programming in middle school if numbers reduce as seen in the first cohort. It was recommended that information be shared with the Board on the future years of Spanish Bilingual programming.

The Board heard Division representatives will be connecting with high schools with the Calgary Board of Education and the Edmonton Public School Board to gather information on how Spanish programming is delivered in high schools in those cities.

Trustees were also informed Chinook High School is excited about delivering programming for Grade 9 students for the 2025/2026 school year, when the current Grade 7 Spanish Bilingual cohort moves on to high school. The Board heard that Grade 7 cohort is small, and the Division will need to be mindful of the numbers interested in continuing on with Spanish at the high school level. With that in mind, the Division is planning to launch an expression of interest process in January or February of 2025 for next year's Grade 8s who may be interested in accessing Spanish programming and attending Chinook.

19. Public Forum Response

The Board of Trustees provided a response to the Public Forum presentation on April 23 from Amber Murray. The response can be found on Page 220 of the [AGENDA](#).

Regular Meeting video: [LIVESTREAM](#)



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of the Board of Trustees for May 28.
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