



Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting highlights from Oct. 22 - Next regular meeting Nov. 26 -

1. Committee Reports

Reporters were delivered for Division School Council, Indigenous Education Committee, Spirit of 51 Committee, Wellness Committee and the Policy Advisory Committee.

Reports can be found starting on Page 3 of the [AGENDA](#).

2. Associate Superintendent Reports

Christine Lee, Associate Superintendent, Business and Operations, Robbie Charlebois, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources and Morag Asquith, Associate Superintendent of Instructional Services delivered their respective reports for the Board. To read the reports, see Page 88 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. An update on progress is provided in the form of a report each month, starting in the September Board meeting.

The report can be found on Page 106 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 since Sept. 1, 2024.

- Park Meadows:
 - o \$1,000 from the Ladies Auxiliary Ladies Auxiliary F.O.E.#2111 towards our breakfast program
- Galbraith:
 - o \$1,000 from the Ladies Auxiliary F.O.E. #2100 for their Breakfast Program
- Mike Mountain Horse Elementary
 - o \$505.00 from Kona Ice
 - o \$1,000 from Saad Alibrahim

The Board received the report as information.

5. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

École Agnes Davidson:

Even though we have only had a month of school, École Agnes Davidson is off and running with the start of a fantastic school year. We started the year before the students walked through the doors with a “meet the teacher” event on August 29th. This was the first year we had done this event before the start of the school year and the feedback from parents was outstanding. Students felt more settled and ready to start school the following week. Next, we had a very strong group of parents attend our first School Council meeting of the year making some exciting plans to support our students in the year ahead. They have organized hot lunches throughout the year for the students to enjoy and are planning a Holiday Market on November 23rd as a fundraiser event. Although the provincial testing took time, teachers commented that they had some great 1:1 time with their students and now have a good sense of their students’ learning needs right from the start of the school. Teachers are now excited to really move ahead with the learning in the classroom. September 27th found our entire school gathering outside in our playground donning our orange shirts for a group photo. This is one of our marks of reconciliation, coming together as a school community to mark Truth and Reconciliation. We have also committed to other acts of reconciliation this year such as the reading of several Indigenous books by Indigenous authors. École Agnes Davidson is thriving with clubs and activities for our students ranging from Handbells, Sr. and Jr. Choir, and Yogo Club. In the coming months we will also see the Grade 5 Volleyball and Basketball leagues take place which are always very popular amongst our students. One of the unique events at Agnes Davidson is our Feel Good Friday. This is promoted by our school counselor and a highlight of the week by everyone. Each Friday we have special morning announcements and jokes hosted by our students. It is a time we highlight the achievements of our students and connect as a school community, ending our week on a very positive note. École Agnes Davidson wouldn’t be who we are without celebrating our roots to the French culture. In the next month we will be hosting a “cultural food tasting” for our students. This time around it will be Tourtiere, a traditional Quebecois meat pie, miam miam!

Victoria Park High School:

Oki and hello Board Members! We hope that this has been a robust fall for you thus far – may the learning that is happening in schools and beyond be infectious at the board level, as well. We appreciate your efforts to engage with our schools and are delighted to share with you some of what we would consider to be the greatest celebrations of the short school year thus far...

Through our work at Victoria Park High School and Lethbridge Alternative Schools and Programs, we are currently supporting 300+ students in achieving their preferred futures. Our days include the joys, successes, challenges and heartbreaks that come with supporting human beings in their growth and development. Along the way, we have much to celebrate and are very proud of the learning that our students and staff are engaging in. Some of the highlights this year have included:

- Creating a place to belong and be a part of something larger than the individuals themselves
- Our purposeful reflection and response design to our school-wide focus on Jonathan Haidt’s “The Anxious Generation”
- Our school-wide focus on youth health, from physical to relational to financial health, we are exploring!!!
- Because we are constantly working to develop programming that is both responsive and engaging, we have made a significant focus on increasing our number of high interest/high experience option offerings.

Some of the options this year include:

- Active Lifestyles class
- Workplace Readiness class
- Brains, Bones and Blood class
- Forensic Science
- Experimental Psychology
- Wheels and Wildlife
- Nature, Wellness and Healthy Relationships class

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5. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Victoria Park High School:

Some of the options this year include:

- Team Games Class
- Art class
- Volunteerism Class
- Foods Class
- Construction class
- Cosmetology class
- Leadership and Social Responsibility class
- You and Your Child— Young Mom's

Program

- Photography Class
- Fashions Class
- The continuation of a Driver Experience Program which will enable students of Victoria Park High School who have little to no access to a vehicle the opportunity to gain driving experience they otherwise would not have available to them. The responsibility and skill development, along with getting to know the community volunteers, has given students levels of confidence they would otherwise not have. With access to an eventual driver's license and experience with driving, students' lives will open up with opportunities in the areas of personal development, independence and the world of work.
- A renewed commitment to getting out of the traditional classroom/building and using nature and the community as our learning space
- As always, the creation of a caring, compassionate, soft place to land, where students are able discover and nurture their own strengths and abilities, connecting to purpose and passion in their education

The realities of supporting people in their growth and development give us cause for constant joy, laughter, worry, and anticipation. Through it all, we make a concerted effort to practice recognition of the determination that it takes to succeed, and to celebrate the forward movement that we see in our students' lives. Thank you for your ongoing support of our school and programs.

Chinook High School:

The school year at Chinook High School is off to an incredible start, thanks to the collective energy and commitment of our students, staff, and the broader school community. From academics to athletics, fine arts to student clubs, we've already seen tremendous growth and success across the board.

Our athletics program has had an exciting start. Volleyball, cross country, and football have been in full swing, with athletes demonstrating their dedication, teamwork, and our philosophy to "Compete with Character". Whether on the court, track, or field, our students are putting in hard work and representing Chinook High with pride. These programs continue to build a sense of community, sportsmanship, and school spirit, and we are confident this momentum will carry through the rest of the season.

In fine arts, our programs in dance, choral, rock and pop, and band are flourishing. A standout moment of the fall was hosting the "Tri High Autumn Band Concert" on October 2nd. Chinook High welcomed students and staff from LCI and Winston Churchill for a full day of workshops, learning, connection, and music. The beauty of the event wasn't in competition but collaboration. Students worked side by side, learning from each other and their directors, culminating in a powerful performance in front of a packed audience on our very own Chinook stage. The concert featured 130 students from all three schools, performing a variety of pieces, from the whimsical Tetris Theme to the dramatic "Night on Bald Mountain." It was a night to remember, as the audience was treated to the impressive talents of these young musicians, leaving everyone in attendance proud of the work and dedication that went into the performance. This spirit of collaboration and celebration was apparent right from the first week of school.

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5. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Chinook High School:

Our “Howfest” event highlighted our students’ musical talents and offered an opportunity for our fine arts programs to shine. Howfest was also indicative of the commitment of our staff, who continually strive to provide platforms for our students to connect and show pride in our community.

Another highlight of the year has been our “Fall Club Rush.” With 30 student-led clubs already up and running, there’s something for everyone. These clubs vary widely in focus, from academic enrichment and games to entrepreneurship and social awareness. The diversity of our clubs ensures that every student has the opportunity to connect with peers who share their interests, fostering a greater sense of belonging and a strong connection to Chinook High and the broader community. Whether students are interested in starting a business, tackling social issues, or simply playing games with friends, they can find a club that speaks to their passions.

Overall, the start of the year has been marked by enthusiasm, engagement, and a deep commitment from both students and staff. We’re incredibly proud of what we’ve already achieved, and we’re looking forward to building on this strong foundation as the year progresses. Whether in academics, athletics, fine arts, or clubs, the opportunities for growth, learning, and connection at Chinook High are plentiful, and we’re excited to see what comes next!

6. Response Discussion to Public Presentation on Inclusive Education Parent and Community Advisory Panel

A Public Presentation was made by Sital Parekh at the September 24, 2024 Board Meeting. Stemming from Parkland School Division’s current practice and the desire to have an effective and collaborative process with greater parent-voice input, Sital proposed that Lethbridge School Division establish an Inclusive Education Parent and Community Advisory Panel. It was recommended that the Board be advised of the work currently happening in conjunction with Inclusive Education. The Board also discussed the opportunity for further communication of information to the Board on this topic.

Discussion begins at the 1:24:50 mark of the [LIVESTREAM](#).

7. Joint City/School Boards Committee

A review of Lethbridge City Council’s active Boards, Commissions and Committees was conducted as per direction from Council. On July 25, 2024, the Review of Boards, Commissions, and Committees Report was presented to the Governance Standing Policy Committee.

Recommendation #5 states:

That the Joint Committee of the City of Lethbridge and Lethbridge School Boards be disbanded, encouraging Schools and the City to communicate directly with the elected boards through the Standing Policy Committee meeting structure and Administration when required. The relationship between the three serving school boards within Lethbridge and the City of Lethbridge is vital to the delivery of quality of education to students, reflecting the spirit of shared pride and vision for our community, and maintaining the recognition of being a city that serves as a model and leader in collaborative partnership between organizations.

Christine Light provided a summary of steps being taken to advocate for the continuation of this committee.

Discussion begins at the 1:49:10 mark of the [LIVESTREAM](#).

The Board unanimously passed the following motion (Trustee Kristina Larkin was absent from the meeting): That an updated letter be sent to city council stating that the school board is recommending item No. 5 be defeated and further to that, the Board recommends item No. 16 be amended to include the school boards.

8. Inclusive Education Parent and Community Advisory Panel

Lethbridge School Division over the last number of years has had many requests as well as made some progress to engage with parents regarding inclusive education but the request for more and consistent offerings continue.

Around 2018, parents in the Division brought in Dr. Dianne McConnell, a well-respected speaker in the world of inclusive education, working previously for Alberta Education, and other school Divisions in the province. She engaged with parents about Individual Program Plans, about team meetings, about parents being engaged in their student’s education and for them to advocate for their student’s needs.

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8. Inclusive Education Parent and Community Advisory Panel

In October 2019, a Division parent group, met to gather and share feedback to schools around building greater inclusive practices. This was followed by bringing in speaker Shelley Moore.

In June 2023, the Division hosted a Diversity and Inclusion Parent Table.

In May 2024, the Division hosted an Inclusive education parent session focusing on Individual Support plans for students. In September 2024, parent presented to the Board at the regular Board meeting referring to the Parkland School Division Inclusive Education Parent and Community Advisory Panel. It is a new panel that had first call for members in 2022 and again this past June 2024. The panel accepts applications and selects a variety of parents and community members to sit on the panel that meets on a regular basis (at least 6 times a year). The objective of the panel is to provide inclusive education advice, and/or action items for administrative consideration. The work of the panel is considered as enhancing the work of the Division in its development of an inclusive education system, and as enabling parent and community voices to be included in the process.

Discussion begins at the 2:08:40 mark of the [LIVESTREAM](#).

The Board unanimously passed the following motion:

It is recommended that the Division create an Inclusive Education Parent and Community Advisory Panel that allows for ongoing opportunities to discuss inclusive education in Lethbridge School Division.

9. Reducing barriers to Trusteeship for future Boards – providing health benefits for trustees

Trusteeship (for Lethbridge School Division) is a role that is available to residents in Lethbridge as per the Local Authority Elections Act (other eligibility rules apply) and the Education Act and as a Division we should help to reduce barriers for those considering to run. Financial means and employment that is conducive to the role of trustee is important, but also means it is limiting to those that may consider running. As a Division, we could help to reduce some financial barriers for those that are elected and it may expand opportunity for those considering running for trusteeship.

Many boards across the province provide health benefits (100%) to their school board trustees as a means to ensure the wellbeing of all within the Division. As a Division, we have moved to provide health benefits to all of our employees, with a belief that the well being of those that work for us is important. For our trustees, the same importance should be placed. The well-being of our trustees should be a priority, as our trustees are making decisions for the Division and should be taking care of themselves and be well.

This would be consistent with our neighbouring Divisions such as Holy Spirit School Division, Livingstone Range School Division, Medicine Hat Public School Division whom all pay 100% of health benefits for trustees as its important to care for the wellbeing of trustees.

Next October is a new election for school board trustees, and trusteeship should be for everyone, not just those that have the financial means to reduce their employment, potentially no longer having access to benefits (if they move from full time to part time employment etc.)

Discussion begins at the 2:37:50 mark of the [LIVESTREAM](#).

The Board following motion was defeated by a 4-2 vote, as Allison Purcell and Genny Steed voted for the motion, and Andrea Andreachuk, Tyler Demers, Christine Light and Craig Whitehead voted against the motion (Trustee Kristina Larkin was absent from the meeting):

Trustee health benefits will be paid at a rate of 100% as per all employees within the Division, beginning in the next school year (2025/2026).

10. Voluntary Retirement: Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund Members and Local Authorities Pension Plan Members

For the past several years, the Board has approved a Voluntary Retirement opportunity for Alberta Teachers' Association Retirement Fund Members, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) 290, CUPE 2843 and non-union employees. This allows employees who qualify to collect a pension and are members of the Alberta Teachers' Association Retirement Fund or Local Authorities Pension Plan to retire as of January 31, 2025, and then begin a temporary contract with the Board effective February 1, 2025, to June 26, 2025 (or the end date as per the appropriate employee calendar). This opportunity is subject to the terms and conditions of the Alberta Teachers' Association Retirement Fund or the Local Authorities Pension Plan.

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10. Voluntary Retirement: Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund Members and Local Authorities Pension Plan Members

The process for accessing this opportunity is as follows:

- An email will be sent to all Division employees informing them of the Voluntary Retirement opportunity.
- Any employee intending to access this opportunity will be required to notify the Division in writing of their intention to retire by Dec. 13, 2024. This notification must be provided in the letter format prescribed by the Division.
- The Division will respond in writing if the staff member qualifies for the Voluntary Retirement opportunity.
 - o Criteria for qualification includes, but are not limited to:
 - Member of an approved pension fund
 - Eligible for retirement per the pension fund
 - Process parameters outlined by the Division have been met
- Should the employee qualify, they will be placed on a temporary contract from Feb. 1, 2025, to June 26, 2025 (or the end date per the appropriate employee calendar).

The Board unanimously passed the following motion (Trustee Kristina Larkin was absent from the meeting): That the Board extend the Voluntary Retirement opportunity for the 2024/2025 school year to employees who qualify to collect a pension and are members of the Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund or Local Authorities Pension Plan (CUPE 290, CUPE 2843 and non-union employees). Employees intending to access this opportunity will be required to notify the Division in writing, per the process outlined by the Division and submit a letter of retirement effective Jan. 31, 2025. These employees will be offered a temporary contract effective Feb. 1, 2025 – June 26, 2025 (or the end date as per the appropriate employee calendar).

11. West Lethbridge Elementary School Boundary Changes Feedback

At the September board meeting, a report of the School Boundary Alignment Committee on proposed changes to West Lethbridge elementary school boundaries was presented. An online survey was conducted to gather feedback on the proposed changes.

Christine Lee provided a verbal summary of the feedback at the 3:02:15 mark of the [LIVESTREAM](#).

The Board will hold a Special Meeting on Oct. 29 to further discuss and possibly approve the boundary changes as presented or amended. The Board received the report as information.

A summary of the survey results can be found on the Division's Community Engagement website: [RESULTS](#).

12. Facilities Committee Report

Discussion on the Facilities Committee report begins at the 3:07:40 mark of the [LIVESTREAM](#).

13. Lethbridge Historical Society

The society is partnering with The City of Lethbridge and Lethbridge School Division to hold a recognition event on Dec. 10 at City Hall to recognize the election of the first two women to public office. On Dec. 9, 1924, Susie Bawden and Mary McCeleneghan were elected to the Lethbridge Public School Board.

The two women were officially sworn into office in early 1925.

Regular Meeting video: [LIVESTREAM](#)



**Highlights from the Regular Meeting
of the Board of Trustees for October.**
**The next Regular Meeting
is set for Nov. 26.**