



Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting highlights from Nov. 26 - Next regular meeting Dec. 17 -

1. Committee Reports

Reporters were delivered for the Audit Committee, Division School Council, Community Engagement Committee, Joint City Committee, Poverty Intervention 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 and Robbie Charlebois, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources delivered their reports. The Instructional Services report was also presented for the Board by Jackie Fletcher. To read the reports, see Page 22 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 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 in November.

- Marjorie Armstrong (NSES Student Support Worker, Jen Robinson's mom) donated \$4,000 to support the purchase of school-wide Nicholas Sheran Elementary School t-shirts for students for a special event such as the Terry Fox Walk.

- Sean Andrews donated \$500 for the Senator Joyce Fairbairn Middle School Street Hockey Program.

The Board received the report as information.

5. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

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 in November 2024.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

5. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Lethbridge Christian School:

Once again, Lethbridge Christian School (LCS) has had an inspiring start to a new school year.

We're thrilled to welcome Linda Bateman as our new vice-principal, who brings experience in Christian education and a heart for community building. Karen McBeath joins us in the grade 6 classroom and as part of our learning support team, and we're also pleased to have Monique Barthel as our learning commons facilitator.

Our goals for this year include enhanced reading interventions in the elementary grades, exploring ways to increase students' writing stamina, and deepening our understanding of how a biblical worldview and spiritual formation can be integrated throughout our school.

In September, our students united once again for the Terry Fox Walk, an event that was both a fundraiser and a time of reflection as they walked with purpose and joined in prayer. Their efforts raised both funds and awareness, contributing to the fight against cancer. In October, our students participated in the "Feed the Bug" campaign, donating 820 lbs of food for the Interfaith Food Bank. Amy Granger from Interfaith spoke to our students about the importance of food security and how communities can work together to support one another. Moments like these reflect the heart of LCS and our commitment to instilling empathy and generosity in our students.

This year, middle school students at LCS have the opportunity to participate in a new, locally developed exploratory course called serving community. This course empowers students to match their own interests, talents, and abilities with needs in the community. By rolling up their sleeves and serving others, students learn invaluable lessons in compassion and leadership, experiencing the mutual benefits that come from giving back. Our grade 8 phys ed program also continues to be a highlight, offering activities such as pickleball, wall climbing, and even scuba diving. These off-campus experiences promote lifelong healthy living for our students and is a highlight of their experience at LCS.

Our fine arts program continues to flourish, with students eagerly preparing for the Spring Musicales in Three Hills in May of 2025. We're proud to offer our students the opportunity to represent LCS and showcase their talents alongside peers from other schools. In the spirit of Christmas, both our middle school band and elementary students are excited to perform in concerts for our school community.

We are grateful for the supportive community that surrounds LCS. This support was evident at our recent Remembrance Day Chapel, where a significant number of community members joined us to honor those who have served. Over the past two years, we have hosted literacy and numeracy nights to support parents, and this year we look forward to welcoming our families for a "faith formation night". This evening is designed to strengthen our community and deepen the connection between our school and the families we serve.

Dr. Robert Plaxton:

Oki and Greetings Board of Trustees!

As a community full of growing leaders and learners, we appreciate the opportunity to share our stories with you! Our school year has been busy, to say the very least. Our students and staff have "hit the ground running", as they say, with school-based events, shifts in reporting and grading, a new approach to parent communication and of course on top of all those the amazing learning opportunities being offered at our school. We will be continuing with year two of our, Farm to Table approach with our nutrition grant, and this year continuing with using our school kitchen to have students learn to prepare snacks and (hopefully!) small meals for our school population sourced from local farmers and greenhouses to encourage balanced eating choices with a focus on vegetables in our diet. We are looking forward to connecting with the Lethbridge Polytechnic culinary program as well!

Our grade level teams are fortunate to have built-in collaboration time in their timetables, and teams have been highly focused during this time to engage students with innovative, intentional and meaningful learning opportunities. Our grade 3 team, for example, is in its second year of implementing an outdoor learning inquiry focus where students have the opportunity to not only connect with the land and participate in land-based learning, but to take their learning outside each week.

5. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Dr. Robert Plaxton:

The team plans meaningful learning outside related to numeracy, science and social studies while also incorporating field journals, storytelling, sit spots with mindful reflection and art-based nature. Our grade five team has taken on the task of jumping into the pilot program for the social studies curriculum and are developing an inquiry-based activity where students take on the roles of social scientists, archaeologists and geographers (anyone else hear Indiana Jones theme music playing??).

And our grade two teams are choosing to dive deeply into assessment and is participating in the new elementary report card pilot, which has encouraged deep reflection and analysis of current and new assessment practices with their students. On the note of assessment, one of the focus areas for our improvement plan this past year was to determine how to engage and improve parent communication around student learning and progress. After time engaging in reflection, assessment review, collecting parent and staff feedback, and connecting with other school sites for collaboration, we are excited to be introducing our new Hive Nights to our school community!

We are thrilled to introduce and invite our community to experience a new approach to parent engagement and communication evenings this year. In a refreshing shift from traditional meetings and structures, we're introducing a more innovative and engaging format that puts our students and learning at the heart of the discussion. These new formats are designed to showcase student progress and achievements in a way that is transparent and directly involves them in their own learning journey. Through this process, parents and guardians will see a shift in the traditional reporting methods and more opportunity for in-person dialogue with teachers.

We believe that understanding and assessing progress goes beyond grades or scales — it's about individual student growth, strengths, and areas to develop and that the connection with parents in this process is essential. We have had our first event, called "Hive Night #1: What's the Buzz?", and look forward to our next event, "Hive Night #2: Builder Bees" on November 21st. Board members are of course welcome to come by! Lastly, we would like to highlight the tremendous support of our parents and school community, as this year we have the fortune of having our very first School Society established. We feel very fortunate to have such a supportive community! Thank you for allowing us this opportunity to showcase our school!!

Nicholas Sheran Elementary School:

At Nicholas Sheran Elementary School, our core values of Responsibility, Collaboration, Resilience, and Compassion, guide us each day. Our school has an exceptional staff who work with parents, guardians, and family members, to learn alongside our students. With around 400 students from our Early Education Program (EEP) through to Grade Five, we are a kind, caring, diverse, and welcoming learning community that encourages one another to celebrate our unique gifts and talents for all to appreciate.

Our music program continues to thrive at Nicholas Sheran. We have maintained our schoolwide music programming from grades one to five. Through the leadership, talent, and guidance of Mr. Owen Sheedy, we have a Junior Choir, Senior Choir, and two sections of performance handbells groups (grade four and grade five). We could not offer our music programming without the time and talent of another teacher, Mrs. Nadia Britton, and our phenomenal accompanist, Mrs. Lauren Mitten. Several teachers (and a few students, too), provide supports to music programming throughout the school year. We appreciate the ongoing support that our community shares for our music program — together, we share the magic of music with any student who wants this opportunity. Last year, our Senior Choir was awarded First Place in the Grade 4-6 recorded submission category at the Provincial Choral Festival. We are so proud of our students!

Something new this year is that we have created embedded programming for social-emotional learning through the Second Step program. Our talented Student Support Worker, Mrs. Jen Robinson, guides students toward deeper understanding of their own goal setting, emotional regulation, and interpersonal relationships through this important programming. One day each week, we have Mrs. Cathy Kitagawa (Teacher Counsellor) at our school, and she connects with students and teachers to achieve their wellness and planning goals; she is even introducing the Mind Up program to selective classrooms as well.

5. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase

Nicholas Sheran Elementary School:

We are in our second year of our Wellness Grant initiative to broaden our picture book collection to include diverse voices, perspectives, and stories. This work builds upon our project from last year that increased our collection that connects to the school's core values. Ms. Mallory Finnie (grade one) and Mrs. Daja Woods are instrumental to this important project – we can't wait to share these books with our students.

We are excited about several new projects that have taken off in our school this year. Our school division Family Support Team has been offering a pilot of the Nobody's Perfect Parenting Series, which is a program that offers parents a safe space to meet others with children the same age and with shared interests or concerns. The amazing Family Support Team offered this pilot to Kindergarten and EEP programs to start.

Another exciting pilot program at our school is the KinderCare Pilot Program which was developed to meet the day-time childcare needs of registered Kindergarten students at our school this year. This one-year pilot program is hosted at both our school and Senator Buchanan, and we look forward to learning and growing throughout the year. We could not achieve any of these exciting accomplishments with the hardworking support staff, educational assistants, and caretaking team members in our building – thanks for all you do!

We are grateful to our dedicated and supportive School Council for all they do for our students and teachers. Already this school year, their efforts to fundraise have led to new outdoor line painting for recess games, acquiring much-needed student regulation tools for classroom use, and support for our Learning Commons non-fiction collection. We benefit from our talented and supportive parents and caregivers who make up School Council, and we look forward to continuing that work all year.

Our Indigenous Education elementary teacher, Ms. Mel Morrow, and our Indigenous Education Coordinator, Mr. Joel Tailfeathers, have been part of our school-based learning about Indigenous medicine garden plants and foundational knowledge of Blackfoot worldviews and cultural considerations. We are grateful to them for their partnership and guidance as we embark on our two-year Indigenous Medicine Garden project and our student-led Classroom Land Acknowledgement projects. We have important learning to do!

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

6. Town Hall Update

A verbal update was given by Superintendent Mike Nightingale.

The Division will host its annual Town Hall event on Feb. 4, 2025, at a location to be determined.

The Board received this as information.

7. Annual Education Results Report

Alberta Education mandates that each school jurisdiction develop an Annual Education Results Report (AERR). This report must be reviewed, approved, posted on the jurisdiction website and submitted to Alberta Education by Nov. 30 each year.

The report captures the measures identified in each of the Domains outlined in Alberta Education's Assurance Framework and complies with Provincial requirements for reporting. The results in the report contain information from the 2023/2024 school year.

The Division examines and analyzes these results to inform planning for the next school year. The report was developed collaboratively with staff from the Education Centre.

The Board unanimously approved the 2023/2024 Annual Education Results Report as amended, through the following motion brought forward by Trustee Allison Purcell:

I would like the Board to approve the 2023/2024 Annual Education Results Report, as amended, with recommendations incorporated from the Board meeting of November 26.

The report can be found, starting on Page 51 of the [AGENDA](#).

8. Grade Configuration Follow-up

At the September 24, 2024 Board meeting, the following motion was presented by Trustee Genny Steed and passed unanimously. "That the Board request the Superintendent, Mike Nightingale, to provide information pertaining to Grade Configuration and report back to the board at the November Committee of the Whole Meeting."

Information regarding grade configuration was presented to Board members at the November 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting. The School Boundary Alignment Committee will continue the work of examining grade configuration within the Division.

It is important to note, this examination is preliminary and primarily focused on information gathering at this stage. If there be a desire for a more extensive review of grade configuration, a strategic plan will be developed to gather feedback from stakeholders.

The Board received this as information and provided feedback on future direction.

9. Enrollment Growth Follow-up

At the May 27, 2024 Budget meeting, the following motion was presented by Trustee Andrea Andreachuk.

"Subject to the enrollment contingency of \$754,000 being allocated to classroom teachers and educational assistants if enrollment projections are met by Sept. 30 that the instructional expenditures and transfers be approved."

The motion was approved by the Board with the following votes cast - For: Christine Light, Kristina Larkin, Tyler Demers, Andrea Andreachuk, Craig Whitehead, Against: Genny Steed, Allison Purcell.

Although enrollment increased compared to the previous year, the growth was insufficient to make the \$754,000 available for use in the 2024/2025 school year.

Executive Council provided a verbal update on how the Division has been managing this situation.

The Board received this as information.

10. 2024/2025 Budget Update

Included with the agenda memo was a Budget update for the 2024/2025 school year based on Sept. 30 enrolment numbers. Director of Finance, Avice DeKolver, attended the meeting and reviewed the update and responded to questions from Trustees.

The Board received the Budget Update for the 2024/2025 fiscal year as information.

The report can be found, starting on Page 100 of the [AGENDA](#).

11. LCI Cross Country Team Provincial 4A Banner

Lethbridge Collegiate Institute made history at the Cross-Country Provincial Meet in Grande Prairie on Oct. 19 by bringing home the 4A Provincial Banner - a first for a school from the South Zone.

Team members were invited to attend the meeting to be recognized by the Trustees.

Coaches and athletes included Janene Ward, Aubree Jubber, Alyssa Sutherland, Bailey Hill, Erin Pinder, Illario Tata, Heather Jubber, Wilson McKee, Emma Martineau Henry, Tait Low, Olivia Laing, Noah Sparklingeyes, Taya Zgurski, Rawley Heggie, Zoey Stephan, Lainey Jubber, Neveah Mangal, Sarah Kozub, Sadie Sheen, Liv Swift, Luke Low, Reggie Pollack, Anna Johnson, Bria Good and Steven Chatterton.

12. Team Lethbridge — Nov. 5-7

Team Lethbridge is a configuration of 19 diverse business and community organizations who continue to collaboratively work towards making our city truly live its community brand Lethbridge: Brighter Together. This eighth Team Lethbridge mission was an opportunity to connect, inform, discuss, and ideally find innovative initiatives to help move our province forward, with Lethbridge helping lead the way.

Christine Light and Mike Nightingale represented Lethbridge School Division on this year's mission to Edmonton.

12. Team Lethbridge — Nov. 5-7

The following meetings were attended to:

Hon. Dale Nally, Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction (Christine Light)

Hon. Nathan Neudorf, Minister of Affordability and Utilities (Mike Nightingale)

Hon. Searle Turton, Minister of Children and Family Services (Christine Light)

Hon. Muhammed Yaseen, Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism (Mike Nightingale)

Hon. Demetrios Nicolaides, Minister of Education (Christine Light)

Hon. Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Health (Mike Nightingale)

Hon. Rick Wilson, Minister of Indigenous Relations (Christine Light)

Meet & Greets with both Government MLs, Ministers, and Department Officials, as well as Official Opposition and Independent Members, were also attended.

Highlights of the Team Lethbridge Mission were shared.

The Board received this report as information.

13. 2023/2024 Audited Financial Statements

School Divisions are required to submit an audited financial report to Alberta Education. Will ZoBell, Audit Partner and Kylee Hogg, Audit Senior from BDO Canada LLP attended the meeting to speak to the audited financial statements.

The Board approved the Audited Financial Statements for the 2023/2024 fiscal year as presented.

The report can be found, starting on Page 195 of the [AGENDA](#).

14. Appointment of Returning Officer 2024 Election

The Board of Trustees passed By-Law 2024-01 on Sept. 24, 2024, to authorize entering into an agreement to hold a joint election in conjunction with the City of Lethbridge.

The Board of Trustees is required to appoint a Returning Officer for the 2025 Board of Trustee elections. The City of Lethbridge's returning officer is Bonnie Hilford.

The Board unanimously passed the following recommendation:

That Bonnie Hilford, Returning Officer for the City of Lethbridge, be appointed as the Returning Officer for the purposes of the 2025 School Board Trustee Election.

15. Policy Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

The Policy Advisory Committee met on Oct. 9 and Nov. 13, 2024.

The committee reviewed the terms of reference and presents the following amendments.

The Board approved the revised terms of reference for the Policy Advisory Committee.

16. PSBAA November Meeting Report

There were four professional development sessions at the November PSBAA meeting.

The first was by Edmonton Public School Board. It was about their success in poor socioeconomic schools and in creating a program that would help students to achieve better. They used data and a pyramid of intervention to help develop a program that would improve students' results. They found success in raising the stanine levels in most students. Their presentation can be seen on the member portal of PSBAA.

The second presentation was done by Careers Alberta and Wolf Creek School Board. It was about partners in progress in the area of student internship, dual credits, apprenticeship and other areas of alternative learning opportunities for students in junior senior high. They also showed the importance of having a School Engagement Coordinator. Their job is to help students with paperwork, looking for opportunities for employment, etc. In Wolf Creek they have seen exponential growth in this program. Again, you see the presentation in the members portal of PSBAA.

16. PSBAA November Meeting Report

Again, you see the presentation in the members portal of PSBAA.

The third presentation was on Vaping. A good resource to use is the behind the haze.ca. They talked about the problem between federal regulations and provincial regulations. The presentation can be seen in the members portal of PSBAA.

The last presentation was on Generative AI. How, when used properly can reduce the workload of administrators and give them more time for students and staff. There are many types of AI. You just need to find one that works for you. It helps students narrow their focus and improve citizenship through the proper use of AI. It can help boards when looking at data and finding the relevant answers. Again, you can find the presentation on the members portal of PSBAA.

17. Correspondence Sent

A letter was sent to the City of Lethbridge to advocate for the continued existence of the Joint Committee of the City of Lethbridge and the Lethbridge School Boards.

The letter can be found on Page 227 of the [AGENDA](#).

Regular Meeting video: [LIVESTREAM](#)

Please note, due to issues with the official livestream, there is no audio from trustees who joined the meeting online via Teams. Full audio is available through the Teams recording, found here: [TEAMS](#).



**Highlights from the Regular Meeting
of the Board of Trustees for November.
The next Regular Meeting
is set for Dec. 17.**