



# Highlights from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

## Meeting highlights from Dec. 17 - Next regular meeting Jan. 28 -

### 1. Committee Reports

Reports were delivered for Division School Council, the Spirit of 51 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 along with Morag Asquith, Associate Superintendent of Instructional Services, delivered their reports. To read the reports, see Page 16 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 30 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 in December, 2024.

- Victoria Park High School has received from members of the community, donations for their Christmas Hamper Program, \$ 9,128.90
  - Galbraith Elementary School will be receiving a free Turkey Feast for all staff and students, on December 19 from Sky & Table (LA Chef's)
  - The Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta donated \$10,000 to West Coulee Station Elementary School to go towards the development of the playground for the new school.
  - The Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta donated \$5,000 to General Elementary School to go towards the creation of a dedicated sensory room in the school, and for sensory supports in classrooms. The goal is to enable all students, particularly those with sensory processing challenges, to thrive in more inclusive and supportive learning environments.
  - Lakeview Elementary School received \$750.00 from the Southern Alberta Bikers
  - Lakeview Elementary School received \$443.25 from School Council Chair, Jen Morton
- The Board received the report as information.

## **5. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase**

### **Immanuel Christian Elementary School:**

The ICES Deep Hope of Equipping Learners, Nurturing Faith and Flourishing in Community is the theme for our 2024-25 school year. This Deep Hope framework is based on the Head, Heart, Hands model. The head represents learning, the heart pertains to growing, and the hands depict serving. Our Deep Hope serves as our guiding purpose: Equipping Learners (Head), Nurturing Faith (Heart), Flourishing in Community (Hands).

As an extension of our Deep Hope, ICES continues to serve our local and global communities through various Formative Learning Experiences (FLEX) projects which align curriculum, learning, and service projects. These partnerships with various local and global community agencies support their ongoing work.

Here is an overview of this year's partnerships:

October – Food Drive for the Interfaith Food Bank – Grade 1

November – Shop of Wonders (My City Care) – Grade 4

December – Compassion Canada – Grade 2

February – Personal Hygiene (My City Care) – Grade 5

March – Food Drive for Interfaith Food Bank - Kindergarten

April/May – Edu Deo Ministries – Grade 3

Grade 4 and 5 students have opportunity for leadership initiatives through various service clubs: Lunch Leaders, Milk Delivery, Intramurals, Recess Equipment, Learning Commons, Lost and Found, and Music. Grade 5 students also serve as leaders in our multi-grade chapel groups which meet monthly. Opportunities for leadership extend to all students as they are involved in the chapel designated for their grade level. As an extension of Remembrance Day, Grade 3 – 5 students participate in the Legion's Remembrance Day contest with writing and art submissions. Our Grade 4 and 5 hand chime ensembles had the honour of playing at the CASSIX banquet on November 28.

Connections to the various churches represented at ICES included our Pastors Appreciation Pancake Breakfast in September. Further community building included a joint Thanksgiving chapel with ICSS in October. We look forward to another one of these combined chapels in May during Christian Education Week.

December is a busy time at ICES! In addition to our weekly Advent chapels and our Christmas chapel, on December 5, we will be hosting our first Christmas Heritage Celebration for our school community. We look forward to having families and guests attend and participate in unique grade-level collaborative initiatives as well as synchronous large group activities scheduled through the evening.

### **Senator Joyce Fairbairn Middle School:**

Why FLY When You Can SOAR?

Shared vision statements play a significant role in fostering the culture within a school and has the capacity to permeate outward into the school community. By referencing a clear set of shared values, school stakeholders are provided with a compass that they can follow for direction or guidance. Last year our administration team determined that we required a value statement that could breathe life and meaning into the halls of Fairbairn school. When dissecting school culture, we focused on all-encompassing attitudes, behaviors, and values that impact students and school operations. Our school staff then began the collaborative process of determining what our shared vision was. This process involved reflecting on our purpose as educators and looking ahead at what type of citizens we wanted to send out into society. A well formulated vision statement has the potential to become a symbolic artifact, one held in high regard and becomes intertwined with the fabric of a school's identity and culture.

Our staff agreed that our vision statement needed:

- Practical relevance to all grade levels.
- Clear and simple verbiage
- Connection to behavior and provide teachable moments for our students and families.
- Opportunities to transcend school and positively impact families and the community.
- Garner universal ownership from staff, as they are the ones modeling it.

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## **5. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase**

### **Senator Joyce Fairbairn Middle School:**

After many months and meeting as an entire staff and then creating a more targeted committee, the following school philosophy was developed:

S- Show empathy

O- Own your actions

A- Accept differences

R- be Responsible for your learning

The new SOAR Philosophy was officially introduced to our school community this year. Our staff recognize that to breathe life into this statement, we had to take measures to always reference it, model it, and provide opportunities for students to demonstrate it. Our admin team has even embedded a SOAR class into our schedule on Fridays. During this class, students learn more about the SOAR pillars and how it relates to them as students, brothers, sisters, and community members. We have grade level activities and school-wide assemblies. Our school now has large visuals up in our halls with our SOAR statement. We have SOAR apparel available as well for staff, students, and families. This holiday season our students are engaging with our community by decorating coffee sleeves, making cards, and creating holiday ornaments. We have partnered with Urban Grocer and will be deliver coffee and the sleeves to our first responders.

The cards and ornaments will be delivered to the elderly.

We recognize we have a lot of work to do but so far, our school community has responded positively to this initiative and truly embraced SOAR. As a school staff, we are constantly looking for ways to entrench the core values associated with SOAR into our daily operations.

Exciting times ahead at SJF!

### **Engagement of Learners:**

At SJF student engagement thrives through diverse opportunities that encourage participation, exploration, and connection. Academically, students are motivated through interactive and hands-on learning experiences that make core subjects meaningful and relevant. Engagement extends into option classes, where students can pursue specialized interests such as technology, languages, fine arts, or practical skills, allowing them to explore their passions and broaden their horizons. Extracurricular sports, including rep, development, and general clubs, provide inclusive opportunities for students to participate, improve, and compete. Lunch and after-school clubs further enhance engagement by offering spaces for students to connect and develop new interests. The Fine Arts program adds another dimension with concerts, musicals, drama productions, and art showcases, giving students creative outlets to express their talents.

This well-rounded approach fosters a supportive and inclusive environment where students are empowered to succeed academically, socially, and personally. Senator Joyce Fairbairn Middle School has officially launched its entry for this year's CBC Classroom Music Challenge, now available online. This submission is a follow up to the successful entry in the 2023 contest which eventually won the contest.

The submission features the performance of "A Little Bit Happy" by the school's Grade 6-8 Concert Band and the Falcons Samba Squad. This vibrant and innovative presentation showcases the students' creative abilities, highlighting a collaborative effort among Band 6, 7, and 8 members alongside the Brazilian drumming ensemble, the Falcon Samba Squad, complemented by live electronic beat-making executed by the students themselves.

Under the guidance of band director Kyle Harmon, the students skillfully blended traditional rhythms with contemporary electronic sounds, resulting in a distinctive interpretation of a song by a Canadian artist.

This project highlights the diversity and creativity inherent in the music program and celebrates the significance of collaboration and cultural appreciation. The performance reflects the dynamic spirit of Fairbairn's music program and the commitment of its young musicians. We are very proud of Mr. Harmon and our staff who supported the project, as well as all of the students who shared their talents with us to be able to put together this piece. Please check out this year's submission at: <http://cbcmusic.ca/musicclass>.

## **5. Acknowledgements of Excellence/School Showcase**

### **Senator Joyce Fairbairn School:**

Our next fine arts initiative called “Soaring into the Arts” is next up on our schedule. This exciting event is happening on December 18th, 2024, with doors swinging open at 5:30 PM and the festivities kicking off at 6:00 PM sharp. You’ll be treated to a fantastic display of talent, showcasing the creativity and dedication of our fine arts students. Tickets are just \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids and are available on School Cash Online.

Don’t forget to bring a little extra cash for some delicious festive cookies at only \$1 each – the perfect sweet treat to enhance the holiday spirit! So, save the date and come out to support our amazing students and the arts. Let’s celebrate creativity and community together this holiday season!!

## **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. It was noted everyone was welcome at Town Hall.

The Board received this as information.

## **7. 2025/2026 School Calendar**

A verbal update was given by Superintendent Mike Nightingale, who mentioned a draft version of the calendar should be ready for the Board at the January meeting.

The Board received this as information.

## **8. Assurance/Strategic Planning March, 2025**

The Board and Executive Council will hold the annual assurance/strategic planning retreat on March 6 and 7, 2025.

## **9. LCI Clippers Gold Medalist**

The Lethbridge Collegiate Institute ASAA 4A Volleyball Championships 2024 team members were invited to attend the meeting to be recognized by the Trustees.

Players and coaches who received certificates included: Addison Piekema Jordyn Penner, Alyssa Piekema, Katelyn Lowry, Charlee Tanner, Kianna Setoguchi, Danica Harris, Madison Kutch, Hayden Hagel, Mishynn Miller, Jessica Hudson, Anna Hodgkinson, Jillian Roest, Lucy Low and Shayla Thomas.

## **10. Policy Advisory Committee - Student Code of Conduct**

The Policy Advisory Committee met on Dec. 11, 2024.

The committee reviewed the Appendix A 502.1 Student Code of Conduct and presented amendments.

The Board approved the amended Student Code of Conduct for the Policy Advisory Committee.

Discussion begins at the 2:02:45 mark of the [LIVESTREAM](#).

## **11. 100 Years of Women Elected to Office in Lethbridge**

On Dec. 9, 1924, Susie Bawden and Mary McClenaghan were elected as Trustees to the Lethbridge Public School Board, becoming the first two women elected to office in Lethbridge.

On Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024, Lethbridge City Council held recognition of the 100 Year anniversary of this historical event.

Mary McClenaghan served on the Board for a few years and was the first woman to be elected chair of the Lethbridge School Board. Susie Bawden served on the Board for 18 years. Susie Bawden School opened in 1951. After a major expansion in 1969 which merged three schools into one, the school was renamed to Fleetwood-Bawden School.

**11. 100 Years of Women Elected to Office in Lethbridge**

Councillor Belinda Crowson presented Lethbridge School Division of a framed print of the 1925 Lethbridge Public School Board Trustees. Elected officials present: Rachel Thomas MP, Councillor Jenn Schmitt-Rempel, Trustees of Lethbridge School Division Christine Light, Andrea Andreachuk, Allison Purcell, and Kristina Larkin, and Trustees of Holy Spirit Catholic School Division Tricia Doherty and Linda Ellefson.

Gratitude was extended to Councilor Belinda Crowson and Trustee Allison Purcell for their work in highlighting this event in Lethbridge history, allowing for recognition of the ongoing impact it has held within our community.

The Board receive the report as information.

**12. Facilities Committee Report**

The Board discussed the Lethbridge Collegiate Institute Accessibility Audit, and learned the preliminary phase one report has been received and reviewed. The report was submitted to Alberta Education in support of the school's modernization.

The Board also reviewed the Capital Planning Assessment forms that scored schools based on building conditions, enrolment pressure, functionality, safety, accessibility and more.

**Regular Meeting video: [LIVESTREAM](#)**



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of the Board of Trustees for December.  
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