



Division School Council Meeting **MINUTES**

January 13, 2025

6:30 pm

Education Centre Board Room / Microsoft TEAMS

PARENT LEARNING SESSION AT 6:30 PM – Annual Education Results Report –

Superintendent, Mike Nightingale

Power point [presentation](#)

2023-2024 Annual Education Results Report <https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/download/475433>

1. **Land Acknowledgement** – Mike Nightingale
2. **Welcome and Introductions** – Shelley Roest

Attendance: Shelley Roest (DSC Chair), Nathaniel Kinisky (DSC Vice Chair. Lethbridge Christian School), Carrie Boschman (DSC Recording Secretary. Immanuel Secondary and Elementary Schools), Tyler Waldron (Nicholas Sheran School), Sarah Heringer (LCI), Tisha Elford (Nicholas Sheran and Chinook), Michelle Bore (Senator Buchanan), Cynthia Young (Winston Churchill High School) , Ryan Walker (École Agnes Davidson), Tasha Olsen (Senator Buchanan and Wilson Middle School), Meg Fester (Senator Joyce Fairbairn), Danica Forsyth (Mike Mountainhorse), Cynthia Figueroa (GS Lakie), Nicole Williams, Genny Steed (Trustee), Mike Nightingale (Superintendent), Tina Carnegie (Admin assistant), Aaron Fitchett (Principal, Nicholas Sheran Admin), Andy Tyslau (Principal Dr Plaxton), ONLINE: Allison Purcell (Trustee), Skye Curtis (Coalbanks Elementary) April Gedlaman (Dr Probe).

3. **Additions to the Agenda** - none
4. **Approval of the Agenda** - Tisha Elford, Tasha Olsen
5. **Errors and Omissions from the October 7th minutes** - none
6. **Approval of October 7 [Minutes](#), carried from December 2 meeting** - Cynthia Young, Michelle Bore
7. **Errors and Omissions from the December 2, 2024 meeting**
– Attendance: add Tina Carnegie
Approval of the Minutes of December 2, 2024 (with addition of Tina's name to attendance) - Nathaniel Kinisky. Danica Forsyth.

8. **Business Arising from the minutes** (Mike Nightingale)

- ASCA funds – motions were passed by the Board regarding use of ASCA funds
 - Board approved that each school council can choose whether or not they would like an ASCA membership each year
- can these funds be used for something else? YES.
- What can it be used for? Used for learning (follow-up is still coming)
- Board approved a system to develop a pooling of funds for people wanting to attend the AGM. Operations is creating a framework to determine what this looks like

9. **Trustee Report** – December 17, 2024, Board [Highlights](#)

- Board is beginning to talk about Budget, strategic planning
 - Budget priorities and constraints
 - If school councils are wanting to share input, concerns etc, it is valuable to share with the board as they are wanting to identify priorities
 - Town Hall is also a great place to share this – February 4, 2025
 - Conversation around Facilities Committee (maintenance and efforts to revitalize, improve accessibility and also for funding for new schools)
 - Updates on sites for new schools for the city

PARENT QUESTION – Where is the board at in submitting for the capital plan and what is the timeline to hear back from the government?

- ANSWER: Capital plan is approved in the spring and the due to the Alberta Government in September (changes can be made up until this point)
- Continue to advocate even after this point.
- The accelerated program came out last fall and the Board asked for more information about the needs in our schools. Because Alberta Government finance offices close in October, the Board continued to send emails to advocate.
- There has been an ongoing assessment about the westside growth and this was used to continue to advocate for new schools in Lethbridge
- Modernization funding approval – announcements to come in the spring from the Government.

PARENT QUESTION – Where can I access what was submitted and understand the changes to the Capital Plan?

ANSWER: Senator Buchanan – modernization ask and accessibility ask. Board is advocating in BOTH places. Accessibility is getting more action. Modernization is seeing some hope. Find the information in the Capital Plan on the website. (Oct 9, 2024 Board meeting)(Dec 17 Meeting). Also speak with the Facilities Committee. Christine Lee. Please come talk to the Board.

– Community Conversations: January 21. YMCA with donuts – multi purpose room 1. (1-3pm)

PARENT QUESTION: What is the difference between Community Conversations and Town Hall –

ANSWER: Community Conversations is informal, typically had tried to host monthly (last year), moving them around the city and alternating time of day (daytime and evening) and making Board members accessible to talk with.

Town Hall – Division staff, Board members, teachers, students, parents are all gathered at Town Hall. It is scheduled once a year. It is far more structured. Much time is used to target questions to generate conversation and gain desired information. Information from Town Hall is documented and any feedback is collated and shared with the Board members. The Board reviews all of this feedback, pulls out themes seen and then uses it to develop strategic plans.

10. Alberta School Council Association

- a) Annual General Meeting - <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/annual-general-meeting/meeting-documents-2025>
 - Will only be virtual (ONLINE) this year: April 27, 2025
 - Registration deadline is not yet released
- b) Resolutions - <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/the-parent-voice>
 - These will be released in March 2025
 - Shelley passed around the resolutions from last year to show as an example of what the resolutions may look like

11. ATA Report – Aaron Fitchett

- Jason Schilling , ATA President, addressed the House of Commons Standing Committee regarding hate motivated violence towards the LGBTQ students and staff. Can see the clip on the ATA website.
- AB ED assessments – ATA is firmly against government mandated assessments. They believe the tests are overly time-consuming and redundant. More info can be found on the ATA website.
- SWATCA (Southwestern Alberta Teachers Convention Association) – Teachers Convention is scheduled for Feb 20-21. 1000s of Teachers gather at the University of Lethbridge for 2 days of professional learning opportunities that are planned and facilitated by teacher volunteers. These are funded by a portion of the annual ATA member dues.

QUESTION – Parents are concerned about strike action coming in February.

ANSWER – Any information will be coming from ATA directly.

- Two CUPE groups started strike action in Edmonton. Mediation has begun.

QUESTION – I thought assessments were screening tools, and understood it can be helpful for teachers to understand student needs.

ANSWER – all assessments are tools used to assess. Screening means separating those who can and those who can't. Teachers and parents have no control over these assessments. Teachers already had tools and these simply create more work. Teachers were not asked for input or feedback.

QUESTION – Who uses the information?

ANSWER – It is used to inform teachers where students are at according to that document and to drive conversation. But, teachers are able to do all of this without a government tool.

MIKE – sat with a teacher doing one of these assessments. He heard mixed feedback from teachers. In terms of how the assessment was administered, things happen that will skew these results. Grade 1 assessments early in the year aren't super informative (kindergarten isn't mandatory and gov funded daycare impacted this).

Our Challenge – To be able to answer how does this information inform our teaching practice? Information needs to be sent to the government to be collated before actually

getting to allow it to affect change. How do we find value in it and how can we work to support instruction?

PARENT COMMENT – any standardized testing disadvantages students with learning exceptionalities.

PARENT QUESTION – Who pays for a sub for teachers doing this testing?

MIKE – Divisions will cover a sub for this. Money is set aside for Fountas and Pinnell Testing. Money was shifted from this to allow for substitute teachers pay.

PARENT QUESTION – Does this have to be administered by the classroom teacher or can others administer?

MIKE – Some schools have done it in a variety of ways. Teachers did appreciate working one on one with testing. Sometimes the Learning Support Teacher (LST) can do all the testing.

12. Admin Committee Report – Andy Tyslau. Welcome! Happy New Year! No report.

13. Superintendent's Report

- a. Town Hall - <https://lethsdcommunityengagement.schoolsites.ca/2024-2025-community-engagement-projects/170213>

- Tuesday, February 4 at Victoria Park High School (6:30-8:30)

- On the Sign-up sheet you will include your name and sessions to go to

- Information sent out via email. Link to sign up and choose sessions.

- ACTION: Share and encourage at your school councils!

- Include Questions to share directly on school council agendas

- link can be shared with community members as well!

- b. Inclusion Stakeholder Committee

- Prompted by a presentation that was made to the Board before Christmas, by a member of the public. This was on the radar of the Board prior to this as well.

- Jackie Fletcher Director of Inclusive Education met with another school division that has already implemented an inclusion stakeholder committee

- a framework and application form has been created and application for being part of this committee should open in February sometime. Terms of reference to still be created by this committee. Focus on complexities and exceptionalities. Looking to include a multi-stakeholder group.

- QUESTION – were parents part of the process in creating the terms of reference? ANSWER NO. Plan to bring the committee together first.

- QUESTION - What does the word INCLUSION mean for this committee? Does it include diversity and equity as well?

ANSWER: We are focusing on education and supporting students in the classroom.

- QUESTION: Is this specifically in response to the parent presentation?

ANSWER (Genny): This presentation was important and valuable but the Board was already talking about this and an area of concern that they were looking at ways to address.

- QUESTION: Seeing decline in perceptions of citizenship, and how Jason Schilling spoke about LGBTQ, and knowing that student with exceptionalities simply need more money to better support them, should we not be talking about inclusion beyond just students with educational exceptionalities?

- ANSWER (MIKE): Based on the DIPT last year, there is a need for greater communication, and around ISPs as well. This could be part of the work of this committee, similar to work around the report card work done in our division. Wanting to create an effective communication tool between Teachers, parents and students. We do need a focus and not be too broad in order to do valuable work.

- ANSWER (Allison): This is not about seeking more money but is about using what we have to better support students in our division, the process of how it is done and how we use the money we have. We need to ensure students who require supports are receiving those supports and how we can do that together in partnership with the families who are advocating for those supports.

14. Committee Reports

- a) Policy Advisory Committee- Carrie Boschman (Report from December 11, 2024)

- We had an update regarding the policy consultant and the goal is to have this process of consolidating/revising the FRAMEWORK of the policies in the division completed by the end of the year! Policies will continue to need to be worked on.

- Reviewed/discussed feedback that was submitted for the Student Code of Conduct Appendix 502.1. Used to make more revisions on this appendix.

- Began discussion of Policy 607.4 Responsible Use of Technology.

- Next meeting is on Wednesday, January 15

- Due to changes in my own schedule and commitments, I am no longer able to act as the Middle School rep. As such, I have submitted my resignation and there is a vacant spot for a parent volunteer beginning in February until the end of the year.

- Tasha Olsen is the alternate but is also not available due to changes in her work schedule
 - Meg Fester (Senator Joyce Fairburn Middle School) willing
 - Cynthia Figueroa will be an alternate
- New reps at the Middle School level are Meg Fester and Cynthia Figueroa as the alternate.

b) Poverty Intervention – Kristina Gilmore (January 20, 2025) – no meeting to report on

c) Division Wellness – Ryan Walker (January 13, 2025)

- Digital Wellness Team: funding is finished in June 2025.
- Mindful munchies program: government funding reallocated. Short on funds but hoping to continue to the end of this school year.
- Nutrition Grant presentation by Jenny at Wilson middle school – hard to balance it being a universal support vs a targeted support. She is seeing increased food insecurity in the community. Many families aren't aware of the helps available through the school.
- Ainsley, Principal at General Stewart – easier to ensure students are getting help because they are a smaller school
- Discussion around curriculum... Enriched Academy – Government purchased but issues with accessibility. Second Step Program: a licensed product
- A lot of health and wellness resources are available. Perhaps a need for professional learning on how to better access these.

QUESTION – Is this a populational issue wanting fewer students to access the program? Buchanan is wanting all students to access this to reduce stigma.

Wilson students in need may not all get what is needed if arriving late to school because others are using it.

d) **Community Engagement** – Shelley Roest (December 16, 2024)

a. <https://lethsdcommunityengagement.schoolsites.ca/download/477585>

- One Division, one book – exploration of this initiative was done and it as decided not to pursue. Will be kept in Terms of Reference for future visitation.
- ICE scholarships (Grades 9-12). March 27th showcase. Winston Churchill High School.
- Community Engagement / Community Conversations
- Discussions around a pre-budget survey
- REMINDER: OPEN TO ANYONE WHO WANTS TO COME! Feb 10 at 7pm

15. New Business

a) Expression of Interest – Presentation by CST Heather Bangle from Internet Child Exploitation Unit (Requested by Nicole Williams, parent of ICSS Student)

- CST Heather Bangle is willing to come to Lethbridge to share a presentation.

Looking for interest for any schools to share costs to have her present

- Idea for presentation location: Lethbridge Public Library - Theater Gallery

- Library is available - Feb 10, March 10, March 17, March 31.

- \$160 + rental (6-9pm)

- CST Bangle would speak for 60-90 minutes. Open for Q+A (no questions vetted, an open mic).

NO CHARGE for CST Bangle's presentation

CONVERSATION:

- IDEA: could also look at booking at CASA as it is easier to navigate and more accessible
- Does Heather give tips for Parents to be better at recognizing online child exploitation?
- Will there be a session for students or will they be included in this presentation?
- Without a DSC meeting in February, do you want DSC reps to email regarding what we are hoping for?
- Nicole will talk with Heather to find out availability... and then send an email to Shelley to share with DSC reps and have people respond.
- Please send an email to the Digital Wellness Team to find out what events that they are planning as well – so parents aren't choosing one event over the other.

- Suggestion: get your own school council to host it... IDEA: have it hosted by Division School Council? Shelley – we can look into this for insurance
- If we are looking for money from school council supported/hosted event – Plaxton Elementary is willing to host (far south). Gym is open so you don't have to pay a rental fee but city transportation in the area is limited.
- ACTION: ask school councils to host (check school schedule with Admin). Can also ask if schools would like student presentations at Middle and High School (may not have room in the calendar).
- Requesting for parent presentation to happen before students receive a presentation.
- Individual schools can also make a request for Heather to come speak to their student bodies.
- If doing a presentation for students, school councils would need to request this of the school administrator if parents wanted to be during the daytime. Could also offer an evening event for both parents and also student presentations.
- June seems to be a more open time for hosting for a STUDENT presentation... could be a good time with summer around the corner and students having more freedoms.

ACTION FOR SCHOOL COUNCILS...

- Are you interested in being part of this?
- Location preferred? Is your school willing to host?
- Does your school council want to invite Heather to speak to your student population?
- Watch for more information. Nicole will confirm a date and time that CST Heather Bangle is available. Information will be shared with School Council Chairs and DSC reps.

16. Upcoming Events

January	13	Division Wellness Committee 1:15 p.m. Education Centre Board Room
	13	Division School Council 6:30pm, Education Centre Board Room/TEAM
	15	Policy Advisory Committee Meeting Victoria Park high School 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
	20	Poverty Intervention 1:00 p.m. Education Centre Conference Room
	28	Board Meeting Education Centre Board Room 2:30 p.m.

February	4	Town Hall Meeting Victoria Park High School Gym
	10	Community Engagement Meeting
	12	Policy Advisory Committee Meeting Education Centre Board Room 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
	17-21	No School – Family Week
	25	Board Meeting Education Centre Board Room 2:30 p.m.

17. Adjournment – Next DSC meeting is March 3, 2025 at 6:30pm

ADJOURNED at 9:05pm

Division School Council 2024-2025 Meeting Dates:

- February 4 Town Hall, No Division School Council
- March 3
- April 7
- May 5
- June 9

2024-25 Division School Council Representatives

Chair	Shelley Roest
Vice Chair	Nathaniel Kinisky
Recording Secretary	Carrie Boschman
Policy Advisory Committee	HIGH SCHOOL - Shelley Roest, Alternate, Amber Murray/ MIDDLE SCHOOL - Carrie Boschman, Alternate, Tasha Olsen ELEMENTARY SCHOOL -Skye Curtis, Alternate, Danica Forsyth
Poverty Intervention Committee	Kristina Gilmore/Alternate, Danica Forsyth
Division Wellness Committee	Ryan Walker/Alternate, Skye Curtis
Community Engagement Committee	Gurpreet Singh/Ryan Walker
School Calendar Committee	Skye Curtis (Middle/HS rep), Tasha Olsen (Elementary rep), Danica Forsyth, Alternate