

Lethbridge School Division

Community Engagement Committee

NOTES



Date: Monday, December 16, 2024

Meeting started at 7 p.m.

1. Town Hall

Supt. Mike Nightingale provided an update on the event, planned for Feb. 4, 2025. The evening will include a welcome and will include information on how the Division uses the feedback generated from Town Hall. Details on the Assurance Survey process will also be covered. Two sessions of roundtable discussions will be held over about 25-30 minutes. Two questions will be asked in the first session - What aspects of your school learning experienced are you most satisfied with? What aspects of your school learning experience are you least satisfied with?

The second session will include more specific topics, as participants and broken into two groups - one with students and one with parents/guardians/caregivers staff and community members. There will be a survey at the end of the evening for an opportunity to provide more feedback. More information will be available soon on the Division website, which will include sign-up details. It was noted that even if people do not sign up ahead of time, they are encouraged to stop by the evening of the event.

2. One Division, One Book

Supt. Mike Nightingale gave a recap of the feedback received from the 24 schools in the Division, regarding whether or not they would like to move ahead with the concept. Elementary schools were split with seven who favoured the development of another One Division, One Book project and seven who were not. At middle school, one school was in favour and five were not. One high school was in favour and three were not.

Board Chair and Community Engagement committee member Christine Light added she was hesitant to push the idea forward, from a Board committee perspective, but added if there were people on the Division's administrators committee that wanted to move forward with it, the Community Engagement committee would support them.

Other ideas, in place of One Division, One Book, included the possibility of some sort of literacy challenge, driven by school staff, which could include prizes.

The committee agreed to keep the One Division, One Book concept in the committee's Terms of Reference, in case the idea could be brought back in the future.

3. ICE Awards Scholarships

Communications Officer Garrett Simmons presented the scholarship application form for 2025, along with the judging rubric and the application package.

It was decided the application period would open on Jan. 20, 2025, and applications would close on April 30, 2025.

A judging committee and a selection committee will need to be formed to both shortlist the applications and then judge the finalists.

Scholarship winners will be recognized at the June, 2025 Board of Trustees meeting.



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4. Scholarship Showcase

Christine Lee gave the committee a few more details on the March 27 event, which will be hosted by Winston Churchill High School.

Student displays of innovation will be set up around the side of the WCHS gymnasium, while chairs will be set up in the centre.

A powerpoint/video presentation will play on the video board in the gym.

So far, \$6,500 has been pledged this year for the scholarships, and the Division has secured a \$2,500 laptop as one of the door prizes.

In January, schools will be contacted to begin the process of attracting student tables for the displays of innovation.

Discussion was held around how the showcase could help support Division clubs, particularly at the elementary level, as a way to infuse these clubs with a little extra financial support.

The showcase event will also include speeches from past winners, which committee members noted was a highlight of the 2024 event at Chinook High School.

5. Community Engagement

The committee discussed the concept of having the Board engage through community groups in Lethbridge, as a way to meeting with community members that do not often have an opportunity to interact with the Board. The idea stemmed from a conversation at a previous Community Engagement meeting, from committee member Gurpreet Singh.

The concept included leveraging the connections community associations have, to attract members of the public to a meeting with the Board. These informal meetings would be open to members of that particular association, along with the general public, and could be hosted at an association's regular meeting place.

The committee added it would contact Singh to try and set up something for January.

If a January meeting through a community association could not be booked, a January Community Conversations event would be held in its place, to give members of the public an opportunity to meet with the Board.

6. Other Items

A question was asked regarding the possibility of another budget survey in 2025. The committee discussed the 2023 version of the survey, which allowed participants to assign percentages to budget areas. The committee heard that version of the survey did not provide the Division with much in the terms of valuable data. A survey will be developed this year with the goal of collecting stakeholder engagement and having stakeholders better understand the budget process.

Next meeting: February 10, 2025