

WMES School Council meeting minutes - March 3, 2025

Attendance: Shea Mellow (principal), Heather Macdonald (assistant principal), Rachel Green, Shauna Fankhauser, Danielle Johnson, Amelia Hatch, Trustee Carla Gimber, Gwynne Orsten.

Meeting called to order 8:03 pm

Approval of agenda- motion Shauna Fankhauser second Danielle Johnson

Approval of January meeting minutes- motion Shauna Fankhauser, second Danielle Johnson

Business from last meeting- Library reference sheet (Rachel Green), we are writing up a mandate to finalize the committee. Hope to be able to present next meeting.

Community agreement (Shea Mellow) – A draft has been written and sent out to teachers for their feedback. The agreement is to be used as a reference tool to help guide students in making good decisions about their behaviour. The agreement consists of what is appropriate behavior for students and what it should look like if students aren't adhering to the agreement, where the expectations are for students regarding a safe, caring and welcoming community. This agreement is meant to be a supplement to the code of conduct. The community agreement is in a language that works better for students.

Principal report (Shea Mellow)- Two schools one book was a huge success, the wrap up assembly was tons of fun and the kids really enjoyed the drone performance, thank you to Trevor McDavid.

West Meadow has been chosen to take part in a sponsored two-day residency of the elev8 classroom lacrosse program. It normally costs \$595 a day and we have the opportunity to do it for free. Thank you to our sponsors, the High River Lacrosse program.

Government testing is all done.

The AMA safety patrol team grades 4,5, and 6 got to skate with the Hurricanes and it was a lot of fun.

Goals and priorities- student behaviour and building a positive school climate has been a big one, as well as our WIGs and how we support that in the classroom and how to make sure they are working well for all grade levels.

The Wow wall is a great success, students are proud to be on the wall. It's creating lots of positive communication between the school and parents.

The literacy pilot has started for grades 1, 2 and 3. That will continue until the middle of June. It was proposed that maybe Dr. Cara could do a workshop for parent volunteers to be able to use her methods with their kids and the kids they read to at school. We have the

parent engagement grant that could be used, Carla Gimber suggested we reach out to other schools so they may join if we can do a workshop. This is also an opportunity to extend an invite to the community as well, so other parents can benefit from the work Dr. Cara is doing.

Staffing update- Alayna Ball the kindergarten teacher will be on leave for about 6 weeks starting March 13th. Jenny Mckee and Linda McGratten will cover for her.

Field Trips- Kindergarten is going to Granary Road, Grade 1's are going to the Calgary zoo, Grade 2/3's TBD they have a lot of students and are unable to provide enough buses for what they wanted to do. Grade 4/5's are going to the Kootney brown pioneer village and Grade 6's are also going to the Calgary Zoo.

May 15th the grade 5/6's are participating in the Willow Creek Outdoor Adventure day. We are trying to find an outdoor activity for the grade 4's to do that day.

Grade 6 farewell is June 19th at 2pm. Keep your eye out for them, they'll be fundraising at school assemblies. They have reached out to the community and have had some donations already.

There have been some changes to the Amendment Act, Shea will send out a link in the next newsletter.

Teacher Report (Gwynne Olsen)- teacher conference went well and there were lots of presentations.

Trustee Report (Carla Gimber)- Two meetings have passed, see attached for key messages from the last two meetings. January 28th 2025 meeting there was a presentation from Chad Cusak the associate superintendent of programs and innovations. He did a nutrition and health update. Each division has a health champion, the champions are a team who develops and shares an understanding of what it means to be healthy or a healthy school community.

A transportation shop building was purchased using designated capital reserves. The shop will be in Fort Macleod and be used for LRSD transportation and maintenance.

February meeting- the LRSD Board of Trustees voted unanimously to defeat the motion for the four day school week for all division schools and Hutterite colony schools. Additionally, we will no longer have the November break starting in the 2025/2026 school year.

Next meeting in April TBA

9:10 pm meeting adjourned.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES KEY MESSAGES

Following are the Key Messages from the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, January 28, 2025. Each month the Board Key Messages are shared at School Council Meetings. See your school's website for information about upcoming meetings and agendas.

1) **Presentations** – all presentations can be viewed on the [Board of Trustees January 28, 2025 Regular Board Meeting YouTube video](#). (Presentations begin at 5:43)

- a. **Nutrition and Health Update** – Chad Kuzyk, Associate Superintendent, Programs and Innovation, provided an update on the wellness supports throughout the division. Each school in our division has a health champion. These champions are a collaborative team who help develop and share an understanding of what it means to be a healthy school community. They increase awareness and knowledge of health and wellness within their school community. The school environments are observed and information is gathered to ensure that the school is welcoming, caring, respectful and is a safe learning environment. The four aspects that are observed are physical appearance, social climate, success in learning and home-school-community relations.

Place-Based Learning – Jason Clifton, Placed-Based Learning Supervisor and Griffin Contini, PEAKS Campus Facilitator presented to the Board of Trustees regarding the Livingstone Range School Division core value of Place-Based Education. The mission: To become a leader in developing and delivering, relevant, place-based, experiential programming that connects students with their communities, the natural environment and themselves inspiring an appreciation of place while fostering engaged and empowered citizens.

Our PEAKS (Place-based Experiences, Adventures and Knowledge for Students) Campus has had approximately 1340 student visits so far this year and they are on track to exceed the approximately 2500 students visits they saw last school year. This number does not include the July and August FACES participation. They have had several bookings for programming at alternative sites, provided navigation programs, hosted colony students, held avalanche safety programs, as well as several place-based learning Professional Development sessions for

Every student, every day.

teachers and expanded beyond our LRSD/ACTUA Land-Based Camps to include two additional days of programming for the Blackfoot Culture Series. PEAKS was the host facility for the Southern Alberta Interschool Leadership group with approximately 80 student leaders from LRSD, Horizon, Palliser and Lethbridge 51 high schools. PEAKS has begun working with our industry partners to co-create programming and student practicums.

- 2) **4-Day School Week** – Following months of stakeholder engagement, extensive research and scenario development, and cost savings analysis by Senior Administration and division staff, the Board of Trustees received a comprehensive 4-day school week report from Karly Bond, Coordinator of Communications, Culture, & Engagement. The report included feedback from parents, students, staff, union executive indigenous education partners, Hutterite colonies, and childcare providers, along with budget projections from LRSD's financial department, and professional insights from Senior Administration. For the next month, Trustees will review the report and its included data. At the Board Meeting on February 25, 2025 the Board will debate the 4-day school week proposal and make a decision on whether or not to implement a 4-day school week. For more information please watch the 4-day school week presentation on the [Board of Trustees January 28, 2025 Regular Board Meeting YouTube video](#). (Presentations begin at 3:35:45) or our LRSD 4-Day School Week webpage at <https://www.lrsd.ca/our-division/4-day-school-week>
- 3) **Transportation Shop/Building Purchase** – Jeff Perry, Associate Superintendent, Business Services provided information on the recent purchase of a Transportation Shop/Building using designated capital reserves. The building is located in Fort Macleod. The building will be utilized for our LRSD transportation and maintenance departments. Capital reserves are resources that LRSD holds outside of operational dollars and can only be used for items that can be capitalized such as facilities, vehicles or larger equipment.
- 4) **Facilities Updates (PEAKS/Nanton Schools)** – Jeff Perry, Associate Superintendent, Business Services, provided a facilities update.
 - a. **Nanton Schools Projects:**
 - i. On Jan 14, 2025 Alberta Infrastructure approved the project for tender. The project will allow LRSD to build a new elementary school and modernize the ABDaley elementary into a new high school.

Every student, every day.

- ii. On Jan 20, 2025 the Architect submitted the issued tender package to Alberta Infrastructure.
- iii. Alberta Infrastructure is going to place the tender on the Alberta Purchasing Connection (APC) website, where all opportunities are posted for tender.
- iv. A decanting plan will be communicated by end of next week (February 7, 2025).

b. PEAKS Facility:

- i. 60% design development drawings/renderings should be complete by end of next week (February 7, 2025).
- ii. This will keep us on track for ground breaking by the middle of August 2025.
- iii. Funding for this project is not coming from any divisional resources. All funds are being funded with the collegiate application grant that we receive from provincial government.

Every student, every day.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES KEY MESSAGES

Following are the Key Messages from the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025. Each month the Board Key Messages are shared at School Council Meetings. See your school's website for information about upcoming meetings and agendas.

- 1) **4 Day School Week** – The Livingstone Range School Division Board of Trustees voted unanimously to defeat a motion proposing a 4-day school week for all Division schools including Hutterite Colony schools. The debate and vote came after nearly a year of stakeholder engagement, scenario development, budget forecasting, research, and reporting of a potential 4-day school week. Read the [media release](#) and visit www.lrsd.ca/4dayweek to watch the recording of today's discussion and vote.
- 2) **Projected Enrolment 2025-2026** - The projected enrollment for the Livingstone Range School Division has decreased slightly in some of our school communities. Projected numbers indicate that there will be 3588 students enrolled in the Division resulting in an decrease of approximately 6 students from 2024-2025.
- 3) **2025-2026 School Calendar** – The Board of Trustees approved the 2025-2026 school year calendar as presented without the November break. To see the approved school calendars, visit the [LRSD Division Calendar Page](#) and select “Download Annual Calendar”.
- 4) **Comprehensive Budget Report** – The Board of Trustees voted unanimously that Administration prepares a comprehensive report comparing our organizational budget and what is spent on each department and staffing area including central office and school board trustees, where possible, with those of similar-sized school divisions, taking into account student enrollment numbers and geographic considerations. The report should be completed and presented to the Board prior to the upcoming budget approval to facilitate informed decision-making.

Every student, every day.