



LCSD Board Highlights

November 16, 2022

Christ Our Model. Children Our Focus.

Board to advocate for better bandwidth

A letter from the board will be sent to the Minister of Education advocating prompt consideration be given to establish more broadband in rural areas, including local First Nation and Métis communities.

Trustee Vicky Lefebvre noted it's important these areas also be taken into consideration, especially if classes move to online learning.

Previously, when online learning was utilized and families did not have access to proper bandwidth, they were driving into town.

"I think it's a good advocacy letter. It shows we are challenged when children in these remote areas can't come to school and have to access online learning," Lefebvre said.

Division receives a positive audit report

Lakeland Catholic received a positive audited financial statement for the year ending August 31, 2022. Secretary Treasurer Tessa Hetu presented the report and noted it was "very close to what was budgeted for in terms of surplus for the year."

The approved audited statement will be posted on the division's website.

Another Successful Division Long Service Awards

Staff, Board Trustees, and honoured guests came together to celebrate long service awardees, ATA inductees, and LCSD retirees on November 1 during the Division Long Service Awards.

The awards ceremony was hosted over the lunch hour of the division's Collaboration Day, where staff take part in various professional development opportunities.

Attendees to the Long Service Awards commended the division for the event, appreciating the opportunity for everyone to come together to celebrate those being honoured.



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Lakeland Catholic's goals in-line with provincial expectations

A letter shared during the board meeting from Premier Danielle Smith to Minister of Education Adriana LaGrange outlined the province's expectations regarding education.

This includes working with mental health and addictions to expand and provide additional support to school divisions and families to address gaps in services.

Superintendent Pamela Guilbault noted this was already a priority for Lakeland Catholic, and the creation of the LCSD Mental Health Matters Campaign and the increased role of Family Outreach Workers and Indigenous Outreach Workers in schools is making strides towards this goal.

The province also wants to explore short and long term strategies to address the need for additional student assistants in school divisions. This is in an effort to address learning loss and complexity of increasing learning needs.

Some of the work the division is doing in this area includes hiring more student assistants. This year, the division has added 21 student assistants positions, which are partially funded by the board and through Jordan's Principle applications.

"We have positions that remain vacant at this time - we are contending with the employment shortage most industries are currently facing," Guilbault explained.

In addition to these steps, the division continues to provide targeted intervention and programming for students in Kindergarten through Grade 4.

"Pull-out intervention is being offered in English and French Immersion to all students who require it," said Guilbault.

Another item noted in the letter from the Premier was their plan to have Alberta Education work with Alberta Infrastructure to significantly increase the number of schools in growing communities.

Lakeland Catholic has been advocating for new buildings for Holy Family in Waskatenau and Light of Christ Catholic School in Lac La Biche.

Premier Smith also indicates that she will address transportation concerns. The LCSD Board is interested to see these outcomes due to the ongoing challenges and bus driver shortage being experienced across the province.