



GOLDEN HILLS SCHOOL DIVISION

AGENDA

TYPE: Regular Board Meeting

DATE: 5/30/2025 **TIME:** 9:30 AM

LOCATION: Boardroom of the Golden Hills School Division

DETAILS:

"Powering Hope and Possibilities" Vision: Inspiring confident, connected, caring citizens of the world

Mission: Intentionally maximizing learning for all

1.0 Attendance

2.0 Call to Order

3.0 Acknowledgment

4.0 In Camera

4.1 In Camera Action

4.2 Out of In Camera Action

5.0 Approval of Agenda

5.1 Approval of Agenda Action

6.0 Welcome Public, Vision and Mission Statements

7.0 Presentation of Minutes

7.1 Regular Minutes of April 29, 2025 Action

8.0 REPORTS

A) Chair's Report

B) Board Committees

C) Board Representatives to External Organizations

D) Administration Reports

9.0 NEW BUSINESS

A) Action Items

9.1 Bylaw 04/2025 - Voting Hours (T. Sabir) Action

9.2 Bylaw 05/2025 - Establish Voting Stations (T. Sabir) Action

9.3 Locally Developed/Acquired Courses (J. Grimsdale) Action

9.4 Education Plan and Budget (J. Grimsdale) Action

9.5 Budget Submission 2025/2026 (T. Sabir) Action

9.6 Field Trip Studies/Student Excursion - Colombia - Prairie Christian Academy (J. Grimsdale) Action

9.7 Joint Elections Agreement - Returning Officer Appointment (T. Sabir) Action

9.8 Board Evaluation Action

9.9 Superintendent Evaluation Action

9.10 CUPE Collective Agreement

Action

B) Information Items

9.11 Monthly Enrolment Monitoring Report - April 2025 (T. Sabir)

Info

10.0 Round Table Discussion

11.0 School Monitoring Report Visit

11.1 Golden Hills Learning Academy

Info

11.2 Colony Schools

Info

12.0 Guest

12.1 Troy Tait, Executive Director and CEO PSBAA
Dennis MacNeil, President

Info

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

13.1 Adjournment

Action



MINUTES

Golden Hills School Division

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Location: Acme Community Centre

Acme, AB

Tuesday, April 29, 2025 (9:30 AM)

1.0 Attendance

Present:

- a) Chair
 - Laurie Huntley
- b) Vice Chair
 - Rob Pirie
- c) Trustees
 - Justin Bolin
 - Jim Northcott
 - Barry Kletke
- d) Superintendent
 - Jeff Grimsdale
- f) Secretary Treasurer
 - Tahra Sabir
- g) Recording Secretary
 - Kristy Polet

Absent:

- c) Trustee
 - Jen Mertz (due to prior engagement)
- e) Deputy Superintendent
 - Wes Miskiman (due to prior engagement)

2.0 Call to Order

Chair Huntley called the meeting to order at 9:39 AM

Carried

3.0 Acknowledgment

In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge that we live, work and play on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, Piikani), the Tsuut'ina, the Stoney Nakoda Nations, the Métis Nation (District 3 and 4), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.

Chair Initials _____ Secretary Treasurer Initials _____

4.0 In Camera

4.1 In Camera

Recommendation: BD#20250429.1001

MOVED by Trustee Kletke that the Board of Trustees go In Camera at 9:40 AM.

Carried

4.2 Out of In Camera

Recommendation: BD#20250429.1002

MOVED by Trustee Northcott that the Board of Trustees rise from In Camera at 11:27 PM.

Carried

5.0 Approval of Agenda

5.1 Approval of Agenda

Recommendation: BD#20250429.1003

MOVED by Trustee Kletke that the Board of Trustees approve the agenda as presented.

Carried

6.0 Welcome Public, Vision and Mission Statements

7.0 Presentation of Minutes

7.1 Regular Minutes of March 25, 2025

Recommendation: BD#20250429.1004

MOVED by Trustee Pirie that the Board of Trustees approve the Regular minutes of March 25, 2025, as presented.

Carried

8.0 REPORTS

A) Chair's Report

Chair Huntley presented information on the following topics:

Meetings and correspondence:

- April 4, 2025 - Alberta school Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 5 Meeting, viewed Budget presentation.
- April 7, 2025 – The new Charter school is not part of Golden Hills School Division. It was approved by Alberta Education and operates independently, receiving its funding directly from Alberta Education.
- April 9, 2025 - Teachers Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA) Category B Trustees Engagement Session - Mediator's Recommendation.
- April 17, 2025 - Professional Development - Funding of Teacher labour settlements, email from EDC Deputy Minister.
- April 23, 2025 - Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) meeting with superintendents regarding Jordan's Principle.
- April 23, 2025 - Discussion with MLA, Chantelle de Jonge regarding Westmount Project.
- April 23, 2025 - Professional Development Session - Protection of Privacy Act and access to Information Act.
- April 25, 2025 - PSBAA Polling Survey Briefing.

Chair Initials _____ Secretary Treasurer Initials _____

- Discussion on PSBAA partnership with The Personal Insurance Group, Desjardins.
- Chair Huntley will draft a letter to the ASBA Advocacy Chair regarding the risk of charter, private and independent schools to public schools (Public, Separate and Francophone).

B) Board Committees

No information to report on at this time.

C) Board Representatives to External Organizations

Trustee Kletke had no new information to present regarding the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA).

- Next Meeting: June 3-5, 2025, in Calgary, AB

Trustee Northcott presented information on the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 5 meeting held April 4, 2025.

- Discussion and presentation of reports were as follows:
 - Received communications from Alberta Education around the School Nutrition Data Request, Additional Literacy and Numeracy Support Funding, the 2025/26 Funding Manual for School Authorities and Real Property Governance Act.
 - Discussed ASBA's Proposed 2025/26 Budget along with a video presentation, proposed 4-year framework to be reviewed annually.
 - Discussed Advocacy, Jordan's Principle and Position Statements.
 - Edwin Parr Event will be on May 30 at the D'Arcy Ranch Golf Club in Okotoks.

Trustees, Bolin and Northcott, presented information on the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) meeting held on April 9-11, 2025.

- Guest speakers included:
 - Angela Baron, Prairie Rose Public Schools "What is Sharenting and why should it matter to school divisions?"
 - Melanie Reed-Zukowski, Linda Morey and Schott Brandt, Grasslands Public Schools "Governing a Unique Rur-ban School District"
 - Julie Hrdlicka, Calgary School Board "Recentering Democracy: Shifting From Compromise and Winning to Conversation and Possibility"
 - Brian Bittorf and Darlene Reimer presented "Don't Meth with Us" Rural School Board Caucus (RSBC) will host a meeting on June 1, 2025 at 2:00 PM in the Westin Downton Calgary. This meeting will coincide during the ASBA SGM.

Recessed at 12:11 PM

- 1:00 PM the Board of Trustees toured the Acme School site

Reconvened at 2:00 PM

D) Administration Reports

Secretary Treasurer Sabir presented information on the following topics:

Transportation Update:

- Two of our bus drivers have successfully completed and passed their driver's examinations.
- We are currently evaluating Thomas buses as part of our fleet review process.
- With the recent decrease in fuel prices and the removal of the Carbon Tax, fuel costs have become more economical. Golden Hills is also realizing additional savings by purchasing fuel directly through UFA.

Chair Initials _____ Secretary Treasurer Initials _____

- Maintenance costs have decreased as a result of ongoing investments in newer buses over the past several years.

Facilities Update:

- Strathmore High School Modular addition will be installed mid May to June.
- Strathmore Maintenance Shop will need structural repairs.

Superintendent Grimsdale presented information on the following topics:

- April 1, 2025 - Golden Hills hosted a grade 4-6 Math professional development day.
- April 3, 2025 - Golden Hills hosted an Indigenous Lead Teacher professional development day.
- April 3, 2025 - "let's GO Rural" event held in Kneehill County offered an invaluable hand-on experience for 40 students. This collaborative initiative brought together key stakeholders dedicated to rural healthcare, including the Rural healthcare professionals Action Plan, Primary Care Network, Alberta Health Services, Alberta Precision Labs, Prairie College/Red Deer Polytechnic, STARS, Kneehill County, and Golden Hills School Division. A special thank you goes to Cathy Price and Kurt Ratzlaff for their contributions to the event's success.
- April 4, 2025 - Three Hills School hosted our 4th Collaborative Day of the year.
- April 14, 2025 - Two Students from Golden Hills received the Honouring the Spirit Award in Edmonton, as well as five other students received honourable mention, Trustee Pirie was in attendance.
- April 15, 2025 - Golden Hills hosted Administrators Meeting.
- April 16, 2025 - Acme successfully hosted a Hiring Fair and Career Expo that drew students from across our Northern Schools. This valuable event featured the participation of numerous business and post-secondary institutions, offering students insights into potential career paths and further organization and management of the event, as well as to Trustee Northcott for his assistance.
- April 28, 2025 - Superintendent Grimsdale and Director of Learning, Corinna Hampson attended an insightful AI Professional Development event hosted by Connect Charter School. The session featured a keynote presentation by Dr. Thomas Chu, a distinguished Professor from the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at The Chinese University of Hong Kong.
- Plans are in the works for a 3-day leadership series on Harnessing AI Powerful Learning for 2026.
- Administrative Procedure Committee is finalizing the Responsible Use of Technology AP. This will most likely be brought to the next Board Meeting.

Human Resource Update:

- Trinity Christian Academy - Principal, Mike Walsh will be leaving Golden Hills School Division, moving to the Parkland School Division.
- May 29, 2025 - Long Service Awards will be hosted at the Travelodge.
- The Drumheller Valley Secondary School (DVSS) Football Team, Titans, has a new sign located beside their field.

9.0 NEW BUSINESS

A) Action Items

9.1 Substitute Returning Officer - Elections 2025 (T. Sabir)

Recommendation: BD#20250429.1005

MOVED by Trustee Kletke that the Board of Trustees approve to appoint Kristy Polet as the Substitute Returning Officer for the purpose of conducting the School Board of Trustee Elections for the 2025 Election Year.

Carried

Chair Initials _____ Secretary Treasurer Initials _____

9.2 Joint Elections - Trustee Elections 2025 (T. Sabir)

Recommendation: BD#20250429.1006

MOVED by Trustee Northcott that the Board of Trustees approves Golden Hills School Division to enter into Joint Elections Agreements with towns and municipalities that are in our jurisdiction, if a Board of Trustees Election is warranted.

Carried

9.3 Field Trip Studies/Student Excursion - Emerald Isles - Wheatland Crossing (J. Grimsdale)

Recommendation: BD#20250429.1007

MOVED by Trustee Huntley that the Board of Trustees approves the proposed high school field studies/excursion for Wheatland Crossing School to the Emerald Isles from April 2-11, 2026, subject to advisory notices from Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada website: http://www.voyage.gc.ca/countries_pays/updates_mise-a-jour-eng.asp such that if a travel warning is issued prior to the trip and not rescinded before the departure date, the trip will be cancelled and parents must be advised that this will be the case. Carried

B) Information Items

9.4 Monthly Enrolment Monitoring Report - March 2025 (T. Sabir)

Secretary Treasure Sabir presented information on the monthly Enrolment Monitoring Report for March 2025 to the Board of Trustees as information and for the record.

9.5 Board of Trustees Elections - Update (T. Sabir)

Secretary Treasurer Sabir presented information on the upcoming 2025 Trustee Elections regarding resolutions and bylaws that need to be completed by June 30, 2025.

9.6 Second Quarterly Financial Report (T. Sabir)

Secretary Treasurer Sabir presented the Second Quarter Financial Report for the months of September 2024 to February 2025.

9.7 Budget Reporting (T. Sabir)

Secretary Treasurer Sabir presented updated information on Budget 2025-2026. The finalized Budget will be presented at the May 27, 2025, Board Meeting.

9.8 Education Plan and Budget - DRAFT (J. Grimsdale)

Superintendent Grimsdale reviewed the DRAFT Education Plan 2025/2028 and Annual Budget 2025/2026 for submission to Alberta Education on by May 30, 2025.

9.9 Advocacy Planning (J. Grimsdale)

Superintendent Grimsdale reviewed potential updates of the Advocacy Plan for the 2024/2025 school year.

9.10 Administrative Procedures - 260, 360, 430 and 551 (J. Grimsdale)

Superintendent Grimsdale presented information around the development of the following Administrative Procedures:

- AP 260 Field Trips

Chair Initials _____ Secretary Treasurer Initials _____

- AP 260- 1.1 Community Field Trips
- AP 260-2 International Travel
- AP 360 Student Assessment and Evaluation
- AP 430 Organizational Structure
- AP 551 Transportation of Students in Private Vehicles

10.0 Round Table Discussion

11.0 School Monitoring Report Visit

11.1 Acme School Tour

Superintendent Grimsdale, Chair Huntley, Trustees, Secretary Treasurer Sabir along with Principal Oberle and Vice Principal Walker-Aoki had a guided tour of the new Acme School site lead by Bevan Daverne of Daverne Consulting.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

12.1 Adjournment

Recommendation: BD#20250429.1008

The Board of trustees adjourned at 3:35 PM.

Carried

Chair

Secretary Treasurer

Chair Initials _____ Secretary Treasurer Initials _____



**BYLAW 04/2025:
A Bylaw to Establish Voting Hours**

"Inspiring confident, connected, caring citizens of the world"

May 27, 2025

Background:

As per the *Local Authorities Election Act Section 46(1)* every voting station shall be kept open continuously on election day from 10:00 am until 8:00 pm and (2) an elected authority may pass a bylaw prior to June 30 of a year in which an election is to be held providing that the voting station is to be open before 10:00 a.m.

Bylaw 04/2021, *A Bylaw to Establish Voting Hours* (attached) was passed at the June 22, 2021, Board of Trustees Meeting. The bylaw authorizes that voting stations for Golden Hills School Division Board of Trustees elections may be opened prior to 10:00 a.m. and provides for flexibility in voting hours in order that Golden Hills School Division match the voting hours established by the municipalities that we partner with.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Trustees give **first reading** of Bylaw 04/2025, A Bylaw to Establish Voting Hours.

That the Board of Trustees give **second reading** of Bylaw 04/2025, A Bylaw to Establish Voting Hours.

That the Board of Trustees **give consent** for **third and final reading** of Bylaw 04/2025 – Bylaw to Establish Voting Hours. (unanimous consent required)

If so,

That the Board of Trustees **approve** the current Bylaw 04/2025 – Bylaw to Establish Voting Hours.

That the Board of Trustees **rescind** Bylaw 04/2021 and adopt Bylaw 04/2025 – Bylaw to Establish Voting Hours.

Jeff Grimsdale
Superintendent

Tahra Sabir
Secretary-Treasurer

BYLAW NO. 04/2025
A BYLAW OF THE GOLDEN HILLS SCHOOL DIVISION
A BYLAW TO ESTABLISH VOTING HOURS

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 46(1) and (2) of the *Local Authorities Election Act*, an elected authority may, by a bylaw passed prior to June 30 of a year in which an election is to be held, provide that the voting station(s) is(are) to be opened before 10:00 a.m.

WHEREAS provisions on the *Local Authorities Election Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, s.46(1)* and amendments thereto, authorize that the hours of operation at a voting station shall be kept open continuously from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

AND WHEREAS provisions in the *Local Authorities Election Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, s.46(2.1)* and amendments thereto, allows for earlier opening times for the voting stations.

AND WHEREAS it is the desire of the Golden Hills School Division to align voting station hours with partnered municipalities.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 27th day of May 2025.

Chair, Golden Hills Schools Division

Secretary Treasurer

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 27th day of May 2025.

Chair, Golden Hills Schools Division

Secretary Treasurer

A Board motion to give Bylaw 04/2025 Third and Final reading on 27th day of May 2025 was approved unanimously.

READ A THIRD TIME WITH THE UNANIMOUS CONSENT THIS 27th day of May 2025.

Chair, Golden Hills Schools Division

Secretary Treasurer



**BYLAW 05/2025:
A Bylaw to Establish Voting Stations**

“Inspiring confident, connected, caring citizens of the world”

May 27, 2025

Background:

As per the *Local Authorities Election Act Section 37 (1)* the returning officer shall designate the location of one voting station only for each voting subdivision and the location may be outside the area and (3) the elected authority may pass a bylaw by June 30 of a year in which a general election is to be held allowing the returning officer of the elected authority to designate (a) more than one voting station for each subdivision and (b) the location of those voting stations.

Bylaw 05/2025, *A Bylaw to Establish Voting Stations* (attached), must be passed prior to June 30, 2025.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Trustees give **first reading** of Bylaw 05/2025, A Bylaw to Establish Voting Stations.

That the Board of Trustees give **second reading** of Bylaw 05/2025, A Bylaw to Establish Voting Stations.

That the Board of Trustees **give consent** for **third and final reading** of Bylaw 05/2025 – Bylaw to Establish Voting Stations. (unanimous consent required)

If so,

That the Board of Trustees **approve** the current Bylaw 05/2025 – Bylaw to Establish Voting Stations.

That the Board of Trustees **rescind** Bylaw 05/2021 and adopt Bylaw 05/2025 – Bylaw to Establish Voting Stations.

Jeff Grimsdale
Superintendent

Tahra Sabir
Secretary Treasurer

BYLAW NO. 05/2025
A BYLAW OF THE GOLDEN HILLS SCHOOL DIVISION
A BYLAW TO ESTABLISH VOTING STATIONS

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 37 (1) the returning officer shall designate the location of one voting station only for each voting subdivision and the location may be outside the area and (3) the elected authority may pass a bylaw by June 30 of a year in which a general election is to be held allowing the returning officer of the elected authority to designate (a) more than one voting station for each subdivision and (b) the location of those voting stations for that election.

WHEREAS provisions in the *Local Authorities Election Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, s.37(1)* and amendments thereto, designates more than one voting station for each subdivision (Ward) and the location of those voting stations for that election.

NOWHEREFORE the Board of Trustees of the Golden Hills School Division enacts the addition of voting stations as follows:

WARD ONE	WARD TWO	WARD THREE	WARD FOUR	WARD FIVE
Polling Stations				
Huxley	Acme	Drumheller	Strathmore	Carseland
Three Hills	Carbon			Cheadle
Torrington	Linden and area			Cluny
Trochu				Gleichen
				Hussar
				Lyalta
				Rockyford
				Rosebud
				Standard
				Wheatland County

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 27th day of May 2025.

 Chair, Golden Hills Schools Division

 Secretary Treasurer

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 27th day of May 2025.

 Chair, Golden Hills Schools Division

 Secretary Treasurer

A Board motion to give Bylaw 05/2025 Third and Final reading on 27th day of May 2025 was approved unanimously.

READ A THIRD TIME WITH THE UNANIMOUS CONSENT THIS 27th day of May 2025.

 Chair, Golden Hills Schools Division

 Secretary Treasurer



LOCALLY DEVELOPED/ACQUIRED COURSES

“Inspiring confident, caring citizens of the world”

May 27, 2025

Background:

Alberta Education supports the local development and authorization of senior high school complementary courses which do not duplicate provincially authorized courses. The opportunity to authorize complementary courses allows boards to respond to the unique interests and abilities of its students and to foster educational improvement and excellence through innovation at the local level. Authorization for locally developed/acquired courses “shall be by board motion and shall be for a maximum of four years” (Alberta Education Policy 1.2.1, Locally Developed/Acquired and Authorized Junior and Senior High School Complementary Courses).

The following locally developed courses are being submitted for the Board’s consideration and approval.

Film & Media Art 15/25/35 (3 & 5 credits)	September 1, 2025, until August 31, 2029	Acme School Prairie Christian Academy Strathmore High School
Film and Media Art is the exploration of film and media art as an artistic form of expression. This course provides an open and active structure for the learning and invites students, with the support of a collaborative community, to engage with ideas, colleagues and audiences through film and media art. Personalized learning occurs through a studio environment in which students engage in deep disciplinary ways of knowing and doing in order to better understand themselves as artists and refine their practice.		

Instrumental Jazz 15/25/35 (3 & 5 credits)	September 1, 2025, until August 31, 2029	Strathmore High School Trochu Valley School Prairie Christian Academy
Instrumental Jazz 15-25-35 is the study of a uniquely North American art form and offers students the opportunity to study the jazz idiom both as a subject in its own right, and as an integral part of the Fine Arts program. By working collaboratively in an ensemble setting, students learn to communicate effectively to build understanding, advance learning goals and foster an increased individual contribution within a musical community.		

Band 15/25/35 (3 & 5 credits)	September 1, 2025, until August 31, 2029	Prairie Christian Academy
Students develop personal and collaborative goals as they participate in, and refine, personal and group practice routines, rehearsals, and performances. Furthermore, students experience, analyze and appreciate performances of diverse repertoire as musicians, part of an ensemble, and as audience members. These courses are excellent preparation for students who are planning to transition and pursue in musical ensembles from high school to post-secondary education		

<i>Design Thinking for Innovation 15/25/35 (3 & 5 credits)</i>	September 1, 2025, until August 31, 2029	Trochu Valley School
<p>This course provides an opportunity for students to engage in longer term, increasingly complex, personally relevant, design, innovation and invention projects that require a significant investment in time to design, prototype, iterate, and refine. Design Thinking for Innovation requires students to take up complex challenges requiring solutions that are iterative and time consuming. The process-driven and interdisciplinary nature of this course will encourage students to connect and integrate learning from other subject areas.</p>		

<i>Choir 15/25/35 (3 & 5 credits)</i>	September 1, 2025, until August 31, 2029	NorthStar Academy
<p>Choir is process-driven and gives students the opportunity to develop skills necessary to understand and communicate musically, culminating with ensemble performance opportunities. Students develop personal and collaborative goals as they participate in and refine personal and group practice routines, rehearsal, and performance. Students experience, analyze and appreciate how choirs are a vehicle for communicating the emotional and intellectual intent of diverse repertoire, while provoking the same in both performer and audience.</p>		

<i>Content Literacy (3 & 5 credits)</i>	September 1, 2025, until August 31, 2029	Strathmore High School
<p>Content Literacy Level 1 -15 and Content Literacy Level 2 - 15 focuses on teaching strategies for comprehending text outside the parameters of the language arts. This course is designed for students of all academic levels and for all core subject areas and is not intended for those students who require intense remedial reading intervention. The course sequence for Content Literacy Level 1 - 15 will align with relevant curricular outcomes from grade 10 level courses. Content Literacy Level 2 - 15 will build upon Content Literacy Level 1 - 15.</p>		

<i>Forensic Studies 25 (3 credits only) & Forensic Studies 35 (3 & 5 credits)</i>	September 1, 2025, until August 31, 2029	NorthStar Academy Strathmore High School Prairie Christian Academy Three Hills School Acme School
<p>In Forensic Studies 25, students use real-world case studies and scenarios to explore how techniques and processes are used to examine forensic evidence at crime scenes and how forensic evidence can be analyzed. Students examine the historical contributions of pioneers in the field of forensic science, the roles and responsibilities of a variety of forensic experts in a criminal investigation, and how forensic evidence may be used in legal proceedings. Throughout Forensic Studies 25, emphasis is placed on considering the ethical issues which exist in the field of forensics.</p> <p>In Forensic Studies 35 (3 Credits), students engage in a critical examination of how forensic techniques and processes are used at crime scenes and how analytical techniques are applied to forensic evidence. Students examine the ongoing evolution of the field of forensic science, the impact that effective collaboration between forensic experts has on a criminal investigation, and how forensic evidence can be used to determine outcomes in legal cases. Throughout Forensic Studies 35 (3 Credits), students analyze ethical considerations in the collection, interpretation and use of forensic evidence. Students also examine various perspectives on the ethics of using biometrics and other profiling techniques.</p>		

In Forensic Studies 35 (5 Credits), students will investigate and evaluate the processes involved in the collection and preservation of crime scene evidence. This course allows students to study scientific concepts, technologies, and methods relating to the investigation of crimes leading to solving active cases and cold cases and overturning wrongful convictions. As students delve into forensic studies, they will investigate and analyze the strengths and limitations of forensic evidence analysis. This course encourages an engaging and interdisciplinary approach to learning.

<p><i>Understanding Video Games 15</i> <i>(5 credits only)</i></p>	<p>September 1, 2025, until August 31, 2029</p>	<p>Acme School</p>
<p>Video games are a globally entrenched entertainment medium that entertains, informs, educates, and challenges us. These games are influenced and defined by our modern culture. In this course students will begin to develop an understanding about the mechanics of video games, multiple theories of game development, and the social and cultural aspects of games. Students will learn how to study video games in order to engage in informed discussions about them.</p>		

<p><i>Surviving Financially as an Adult 25 & 35</i> <i>(5 credits only)</i></p>	<p>September 1, 2025, until August 31, 2029</p>	<p>Golden Hills Learning Academy Strathmore High School (25 only)</p>
<p>Through explicit instruction, guided practice, collaboration and feedback, students will be not only be able to develop an understanding of the financial world around them; but also personalize the course to their specific needs and individual interests. This will equip students to make financially sound choices to ensure success for themselves as they start and continue on their life journey after high school.</p>		

<p><i>Cybersecurity 15</i> <i>(5 credits only)</i></p>	<p>September 1, 2025, until August 31, 2029</p>	<p>Golden Hills Learning Academy</p>
<p>This course will explore the fundamentals of cybersecurity and also explore the vulnerabilities in the design of computers, networks, and the internet. Global Online Academy, which is a delivery option for this course, provides experiences in which students can work collaboratively and share their perspectives within a globally networked society.</p>		

<p><i>European History 35</i> <i>(3 & 5 credits)</i></p>	<p>September 1, 2025, until August 31, 2029</p>	<p>Golden Hills Learning Academy</p>
<p>The study of European history from 1450 to the present introduces students to cultural, economic, political, and social developments that played a fundamental role in shaping the world in which they live. This knowledge creates the context for understanding the development of contemporary institutions, the role of conflict and continuity in present-day society and politics, and the evolution of current forms of artistic expression and intellectual discourse.</p>		

<i>Medicine Wheel 15 (3 credits only)</i>	September 1, 2025, until August 31, 2029	Golden Hills Learning Academy Strathmore High School
<p>The Medicine Wheel 15 builds on the teachings of beading (balanced design as symbolic of finding balance in life), the Tipi Teachings (a tipi must be symmetrical to be “true” and also symbolizes the harmony of human life with the cosmos) and the Grandfather Teachings (a holistic set of values toward good conduct). Knowledge gained from the Medicine Wheel is both conceptual and procedural. It is an abstract concept – a teaching tool, and a practical path to find balance in one’s life.</p>		

<i>Seven Teachings 15 (3 credits only)</i>	September 1, 2025, until August 31, 2029	Golden Hills Learning Academy Strathmore High School
<p>The Seven Teachings are a holistic, time-tested way to live in harmony with people and our planet. They are a method of finding balance and wholeness in one’s life. Together, the Teachings provide a road map to living the good life: love, respect, courage, honesty, wisdom, humility, and truth. The Seven Teachings offer a system of self-discipline that precludes reliance on discipline from others.</p>		

<i>Academic Achievement through English Language Acquisition Beginner 15 (3 & 5 credits)</i>	September 1, 2025, until August 31, 2029	Golden Hills Learning Academy
<p>This course supports students who are progressing through the expanding and bridging stages of English language development, working towards greater independence and confidence in academic and social English. These students are capable of engaging in most classroom activities with encouragement and support, and they are developing proficiency across all aspects of English literacy, including listening, speaking, reading, and writing.</p>		

<i>Academic Achievement through English Language Acquisition Intermediate 15 (3 & 5 credits)</i>	September 1, 2025, until August 31, 2029	Golden Hills Learning Academy
<p>This student demonstrates proficiency in English and may benefit from additional time and support for tasks that involve complex academic language. The student listens effectively and comprehends a wide range of speakers in diverse social and academic contexts. Speaks fluently, adjusting language to suit different contexts, audiences, and purposes. The student reads across genres, with additional time often helpful for understanding unfamiliar vocabulary and bridging any cultural or background knowledge gaps and writes a variety of extended texts on both familiar and unfamiliar topics with limited support.</p>		

<p>Academic Achievement through English Language Development 35 (3 & 5 credits)</p>	<p>September 1, 2025, until August 31, 2026</p>	<p>Golden Hills Learning Academy</p>
<p>This course provides English Language Learners (ELLs) with the opportunity to build and extend academic language proficiency and overall communicative competence within all aspects of literacy (listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing, representing) and across multiple subject areas. Academic language proficiency and communicative competence are fundamental to student success in school, the community, and the world at large.</p>		

Recommendation:

That the Board of Trustees authorizes the use of the above acquired locally developed course and any learning resources detailed in the course outline for use in Golden Hills School Division.



Jeff Grimsdale
Superintendent



EDUCATION PLAN AND BUDGET

“Inspiring confident, connected, caring citizens of the world”

May 27, 2025

The Government Accountability Act, Education Act and Ministerial Regulations (see: *Policy and Requirements for School Board Planning and Results Reporting*, require that jurisdictions prepare annual education plans (revised annually in a rolling-forward process) and annual education results reports. Alberta Education receives, reviews, and monitors compliance with the planning and reporting requirements.

Planning for continuous improvement and reporting on results achieved are parts of the overall *Performance Management Cycle*, illustrated below, to improve the quality and effectiveness of education programs and to improve student learning and achievement.



In response to budget dialogues between Alberta Education and the various school authorities, the planning and reporting requirements were streamlined. While boards must have an updated Education Plan and budget in place before the start of the school year, the Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report (AERR) may be combined into a single document which is due annually on November 30. Changes between the preliminary and final document consider the fall report on the previous year’s provincial achievement test and diploma examination results as well as any budget updates.

As per the Funding Manual for School Authorities, the Education Plan and annual budget must be prepared for review by the Board of Trustees and posted on the website by May 31, 2025. School authorities must notify the Field Services Branch Director of the posting, including a permalink to the document.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Trustees receives and reviews the final Education Plan 2025-2028 and annual budget 2025-2026 (subject to the Board being advised of any minor adjustments, which may be necessary before the budget is submitted to Alberta Education) for submission to Alberta Education on May 31, 2025.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Grimsdale", written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Grimsdale
Superintendent of Schools



BUDGET SUBMISSION 2025/2026

“Inspiring confident, connected, caring citizens of the world”

May 27, 2025

Background:

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Auditor General and in accordance with Education Act S. 139(2) (b) the Board of Trustees is required to submit an annual budget to the Minister on or before May 31, for the fiscal year beginning on the following September 1.

Minister of Education recently granted an extension until June 20, 2025.

Golden Hills operates 41 schools, which includes 20 colony schools. Included in these 41 schools are seven (7) regular high schools, three (3) outreach programs and two (2) online schools.

Golden Hills’ projections for regular school enrollment is anticipated to increase by 2% (132 students). There are 486 students graduating June 2025, with 340 students entering Kindergarten in September 2025.

These numbers are Provincial enrollment only. We also anticipate an additional 145 to 155 Siksika students and approximately 200 International students. The total headcount for regular students will be approximately 8,000+ students and if you include the non-primary, it is over 10,000 students.

Budget Process

Budgets are approved by the Board prior to the end of May.

Golden Hills’ annual budget process begins in early January, guided by direction and foundational principles established by the Board. As a **site-based school division**, we believe that local decisions are best suited to meet local needs. From February through May, the process focuses on information gathering and analysis, including enrolment projections, staffing estimates, and preliminary expense forecasting—providing schools with the flexibility to plan according to their unique contexts.

As each budget has an Administrator/Manager, planning, reviewing, and monitoring the budget, the process involves many stakeholders. School Administrators have consultations with their school councils and budget information is shared. As budgets are site-based, they are developed in conjunction with both the school council and staff.

Despite the various challenges and pressure points, Golden Hills continues to strive to be the Preferred Choice.

Budget Challenges and Financial Pressures

- **No Change in Per-Student Funding:** There has been no increase in funding allocated per student, impacting our ability to respond to rising costs.
- **Funding Model Changes:** The funding model has shifted from a three-year weighted average to a two-year adjusted model, with 30% of funding based on current enrolment and 70% based on projected enrolment. This change aims to better align funding with anticipated student needs but introduces new risks and planning challenges.
- **Enrolment Volatility:** We are experiencing enrolment fluctuations both provincially and within our international student program, contributing to funding unpredictability.
- **Teacher Collective Agreement:** The collective agreement for teachers remains unresolved for the 2024/25 school year and beyond, posing challenges—especially in a site-based budgeting environment with many unknowns.
- **Inflationary Pressures:** Rising costs due to inflation are not being offset by increased funding, further straining resources.
- **Support Staff Compensation:** Recent wage increases for support staff have not been matched by additional funding, placing additional pressure on budgets.
- **Capital Reserves** – Historically, Golden Hills has been able to allocate additional funds to capital reserves to support future needs associated with building and infrastructure projects. However, in the current fiscal year, it is anticipated that approximately **\$3.4 million** will need to be drawn from these reserves, reducing the balance to **\$5 million**. This reserve position will require **close monitoring**, given the number of ongoing and upcoming capital projects across the Division.

Further challenges include recent changes to grant structures and several outstanding uncertainties—such as funding implications related to Jordan’s Principle, supports for increasing classroom complexity, and other emerging needs that have yet to be clearly defined or funded

A comprehensive budget presentation will be delivered at the upcoming Board meeting.

Recommendations:

That the Board of Trustees approves the 2025/2026 budget for submission to Alberta Education, subject to the Board being advised of any minor adjustments, which may be necessary before the budget is submitted to Alberta Education.



Jeff Grimsdale
Superintendent



Tahra Sabir
Secretary Treasurer



FIELD TRIP STUDIES/STUDENT EXCURSION Prairie Christian Academy

"Inspiring confident, connected, caring citizens of the world"

May 27, 2025

Background:

Prairie Christian Academy requests permission, in accordance with Administrative Procedure 260 and Board Policy 2, for an international mission trip to Colombia from February 12, 2026, to February 22, 2026.

Field Excursion Summary:

- The purpose of the 2026 Colombia trip is to educate students to think and act Christianly, constructively, and critically, in order to know Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, and to pursue Godly character and lifelong service.
- Students: 10
- The trip will be 11 days
- Two instructional days of instructional time will be missed
- Supervision to student ratio 1:2 (2 chaperones/staff)
- Trip Itinerary attached

The administration will complete a risk assessment as required by Administration Procedure 260- *Field Studies/ Student Excursions*. The risk assessment process will ensure that all the requirements of Procedure 260 are fully completed before departure.

Please find attached, for your reference, the Itinerary for the Field Trip/Student Excursion.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Trustees approves the proposed high school field studies/excursion for Prairie Christian Academy to Colombia from February 12, 2026 to February 22, 2026, subject to advisory notices from Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada website http://www.voyage.gc.ca/countries_pays/updates_mise-a-jour-eng.asp such that if a travel warning is issued prior to the trip and not rescinded before the departure date, the trip will be cancelled and parents must be advised that this will be the case.

Jeff Grimsdale
Superintendent of School

Trip Details:

This is a planned 11 day – Mission Trip to Bogota Colombia, leaving Thursday, February 12 and returning Sunday, February 22, 2026.

Itinerary: (full details to be finalized fall 2025)

Day 1- Fly to Bogota Colombia

- Visiting Schools in Bogota
- Visiting Orphanages, before and after school programs and a teen mom's home as well as other ministries
- Attending National church services
- Briefly visiting common tourist areas such as Mount Montserrat (via cable car), Old Bogota, and a salt cathedral

- Please note the group will not be travelling outside of the city of Bogota

Day 11- Depart for home



JOINT ELECTIONS AGREEMENT - TOWN OF STRATHMORE Trustee Elections 2025 – Retuning Officer

“Inspiring confident, connected, caring citizens of the world”

May 27, 2025

Background:

Nomination Day is Monday, September 22, 2025, for Golden Hills School Division Board of Trustee Elections. As per Local Authorities Election Act 3(1) An elected authority may, by resolution enter into an agreement for the conduct of an election with one or more elected authorities of local jurisdiction that do not have contiguous boundaries but do have areas in common.

The Board of Trustees passed a motion at the April 29, 2025, Board Meeting, as follows:

Recommendation: BD#20250429.1006

MOVED by Trustee Northcott that the Board of Trustees approves Golden Hills School Division to enter into Joint Elections Agreements with towns and municipalities that are in our jurisdiction, if a Board of Trustees Election is warranted.

Carried

Golden Hills School Division is entering into a partnership with the Town of Strathmore for the Board of Trustees Election which would share in the financial aspects.

As per the agreement between The Town of Strathmore, Golden Hills School Division and Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools, see below for proposed revision to clause 2:

Proposed revision to clause 2

2. GHSD and CTRCS shall by resolution, appoint the Town’s Returning Officer as the Returning Officer solely for the purpose of conducting school trustee elections within the municipal boundaries of the Town of Strathmore, specifically for GHSD Ward No. 4 and the CTRCS Strathmore area.

This appointment shall not extend to any electoral processes or activities outside the Town of Strathmore, and the Town shall have no responsibilities or authority to act as Returning Officer for any other areas within the jurisdiction of GHSD or CTRCS.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Trustees approves Golden Hills School Division to appoint the Town of Strathmore’s Returning Officer as the Returning Officer, in the boundaries of Strathmore, for the purpose of the school trustee election.

Jeff Grimsdale
Superintendent

Tahra Sabir
Secretary Treasurer



ENROLMENT BACKGROUNDER

"Inspiring confident, connected, caring citizens of the world"

May 27, 2025

Background:

The Board of Trustees regularly monitors enrolment and notes trends over time. Funding is primarily enrolment-driven, and monitoring and projecting enrolment trends informs the board's budgeting processes.

As per the attached monitoring report, information is provided on the September 30, 2024, enrolment of provincially funded students, Siksika funded students and International funded students.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Trustees receives the Enrolment Monitoring Report for information and for the record.

Jeff Grimsdale
Superintendent

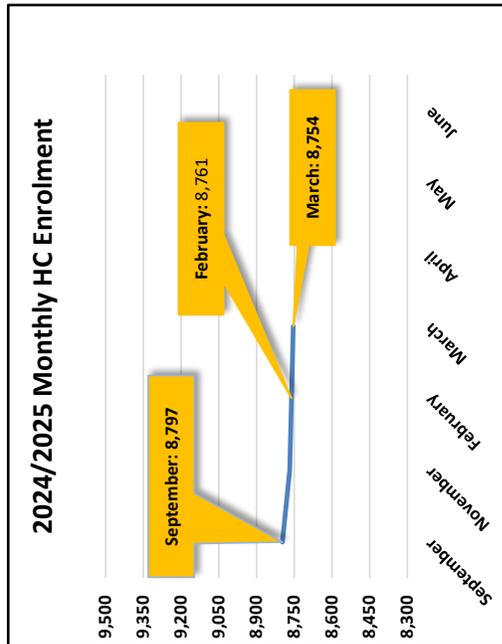
Tahra Sabir
Secretary Treasurer

Golden Hills School Division Enrolment

Schools - Month to Month Comparison Feb 28 to Mar 31, 2025

* Please note kindergarten adjusted to 1.0

* Enrolment information has been adjusted for the New Funding Model



Configuration	School	September 30, 2024*	April 30, 2025	March 31, 2025	Difference
K-6, 10-12	Acme School	225.00	223.00	223.00	0.00
K-9	Carbon School	60.00	56.00	58.00	-2.00
K-6	Carsland School	77.00	76.00	76.00	0.00
7-9	Crowther Memorial Jr. High School	466.00	472.00	470.00	2.00
K-9	Dr. Elliott Community School	191.00	192.00	192.00	0.00
7-12	Drumheller Valley Secondary School	364.00	360.00	361.00	-1.00
K-6	École Brentwood Elementary School	186.00	186.00	188.00	-2.00
K-9	George Freeman	476.00	471.00	474.00	-3.00
K-6	Greentree School	361.00	372.00	370.00	2.00
K-12	Prairie Christian Academy School	316.00	316.00	316.00	0.00
10-12	Strathmore High School	694.00	697.00	696.00	1.00
K-12	Three Hills School	449.00	450.00	448.00	2.00
K-9	Trinity Christian Academy	247.00	243.00	240.00	3.00
K-12	Trochu Valley School	270.00	264.00	264.00	0.00
K-6	Westmount School	372.00	373.00	371.00	2.00
K-12	Wheatland Crossing	326.00	329.00	329.00	0.00
K-6	Wheatland Elementary School	310.00	317.00	317.00	0.00
	Sub Total	5,390.00	5,397.00	5,393.00	4.00
7-9	Colonies	405.00	389.00	392.00	-3.00
7-12	Drumheller Outreach	12.00	22.00	22.00	0.00
1-12	Golden Hills Learning Academy	926.00	915.00	920.00	-5.00
1-12	NorthStar Academy	394.00	394.00	394.00	0.00
7-12	Strathmore StoreFront	144.00	139.00	140.00	-1.00
	Sub Total	1,881.00	1,859.00	1,868.00	(9.00)
	Homeschool	882.00	875.00	875.00	0.00
	Shared Responsibility	199.00	193.00	193.00	0.00
	Sub Total	1,081.00	1,068.00	1,068.00	0.00
	Provincial Total	8,352.00	8,324.00	8,329.00	-5.00
	Siksika	148.00	148.00	148.00	0.00
	International (Incl. Online)	297.00	271.00	277.00	-6.00
	Sub Total	445.00	419.00	425.00	-6.00
	Total HEADCOUNT	8,797.00	8,743.00	8,754.00	-11.00