



GOLDEN HILLS SCHOOL DIVISION

AGENDA

TYPE: Regular Board Meeting

DATE: 12/12/2023 **TIME:** 9:30 AM

LOCATION: Boardroom of the Golden Hills School Division

"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 November 28, 2023 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) Information Items
 - 9.1 Monthly Enrolment Monitoring Report (November 2023) (T. Sabir) Info
 - 9.2 Technology Services Report (J. Grimsdale) Info
 - 9.3 International Program Report (J. Grimsdale) Info

10.0 Guest

- 10.1 Chantelle DeJong, UCP MLA for Chestermere-Strathmore and Assistant, Bill Jarvis Info

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

- 11.1 Adjournment Action



MINUTES

Golden Hills School Division

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Location: Boardroom of the Golden Hills School Division

Start Time: 9:30 AM

Tuesday, November 28, 2023 (9:30 AM)

1.0 Attendance

Present:

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

Absent:

- e) Deputy Superintendent
 - Wes Miskiman

2.0 Call to Order

Chair Huntley called the meeting to order at 9:42 AM.

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 Îyâxe Nakoda Nations, the Métis Nation (Region 3), 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#20231128.1001

MOVED by Trustee Northcott that the Board of Trustees go In Camera at 9:43 AM.

4.2 Out of In Camera

Recommendation: BD#20231128.1002

MOVED by Trustee Mertz that the Board of Trustees rise from In Camera at 10:46 AM.

Recessed at 10:46 AM.

Reconvened at 11:00 AM.

5.0 Approval of Agenda

5.1 Approval of Agenda

Recommendation: BD#20231128.1003

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

6.0 Welcome Public, Vision and Mission Statements

7.0 Presentation of Minutes

7.1 Regular Minutes of October 24, 2023

Recommendation: BD#20231128.1004

MOVED by Trustee Kletke that the Board of Trustees approve the Regular Minutes of October 24, 2023, as presented.

8.0 REPORTS

A) Chair's Report

Chair Huntley presented information on the following topics:

- The Board of Trustees attended school Remembrance Day Ceremonies. The ceremonies were very meaningful and impactful.
- The Board of Trustees attended the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Fall General Meeting held in Edmonton, November 19-21, 2023.
 - AI technology presentations were intriguing.
 - Congratulations forwarded to Marilyn Dennis, President and Shali Baziuk, Vice President on their re-election.
- Rural Caucus meeting was held in Edmonton on November 9, 2023. Congratulations to Trustee Northcott for becoming a director.

B) Board Committees

No information at this time.

C) Board Representatives to External Organizations

Trustee Northcott and Trustee Pirie presented information on the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 5 meeting that was held November 3, 2023.

- Congratulations to Trustee Northcott for joining the Edwin Parr Awards Committee.
- Next ASBA Zone 5 meeting will take place on December 1, 2023, at the Golden Hills School Division Office.

Chair Initials _____ Secretary Treasurer Initials _____

- Congratulations to Trustee Pirie for getting re-elected as Director for two-year term with ASBA.
- Discussed ASBA FGM Conference, suggested to connect with your districts Chamber of Commerce.

D) Administration Reports

Secretary Treasurer Sabir presented information on the following topics:

- Facilities Update:
 - Wheatland Crossing Fitness Center - plumbing and electrical are complete, looking into refurbished equipment and applying for grants.
 - Wheatland Crossing Modulars - are complete and in use.
 - Trinity Christian Academy Parking Lot - landscaping is 90% complete.
 - Trinity Christian Academy Addition - is in various stages.
 - Strathmore Maintenance roof top unit has been delivered, installation to begin.
 - Acme Design meetings take place every two weeks.
 - Division Office Roof - 99 % complete, final finishes to be completed.
 - Dr. Elliott School - boilers have been installed and are waiting on inspection.
 - Caretaking Staff – experiencing shortages.
 - NorthStar Academy – in the process of moving into new location in Red Deer, furniture has been ordered, technology and maintenance are in the process of getting them set up.
- Transportation Update:
 - All routes are covered by regular drivers.
 - Field Trips have increased, recovering from COVID-19.

Superintendent Grimsdale presented information on the following topics:

- Hosted the First leadership Day - well attended, approximately 130 people.
- Curriculum Development for Math will take place on November 7, 8 and 9, 2023 at the Division Office.
- Teacher Liaison Committee - November 8, 2023, agreement with ATA, this role will be support for Teachers.
- ATA Retirement Sessions will take place February and March.
- Bill 85 - requires school authorities to conduct criminal record checks and vulnerable sector checks when hiring a new teacher and again every five years throughout their employment, this process is 90% complete for Golden Hills.
- Teacher recruitment - shortage, Deputy Superintendent Miskiman has been attending Career Fairs, next ones are being hosted at the University of Lethbridge and Mount Royal University.
- The Board of Trustees will be hosting a Christmas Lunch for Division staff on December 12, 2023.

9.0 NEW BUSINESS

A) Action Items

9.1 Field Trip Studies/Student Excursion - NorthStar Academy - Netherlands, Belgium, France (J. Grimsdale)

Recommendation: **BD#20231128.1005**

MOVED by Trustee Northcott that the Board of Trustees approve the proposed high school field studies/excursion for NorthStar Academy to the Netherlands, Belgium and France from march 29 to April 7, 2024 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

Chair Initials _____ Secretary Treasurer Initials _____

warning in 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.

9.2 Field Trip Studies/Student Excursion - Strathmore High School - Venice, Croatia (J. Grimsdale)

Recommendation: BD#20231128.1006

MOVED by Trustee Pirie that the Board of Trustees approve the proposed high school field studies/excursion for Strathmore High School to Venice and Croatia from March 26 to April 6, 2024 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 in 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.

Recessed at 12:12 PM

Reconvened at 12:47 PM

Trustee Bolin excused himself due to a prior engagement at 12:24 PM.

9.3 Annual Education Results Report (AERR) 2022/2023 (J. Grimsdale)

Recommendation: BD#20231128.1007

MOVED by Trustee Mertz that the Board of Trustees approve the Annual Education Results Report 2022/2023 for submission to Alberta Education November 30, 2023.

9.4 Audited Financial Statements for the the year ending August 31, 2023 (T. Sabir)

Recommendation: BD#20231128.1008

MOVED by Trustee Northcott that the Board of Trustees approves the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending August 31, 2023, for submission to Alberta Education by November 30, 2023, subject to the Board being advised of any minor adjustments which may be necessary before the budget is submitted to Alberta Education November 30, 2023.

B) Information Items

9.5 Monthly Enrolment Monitoring Report (October 2023) (T. Sabir)

Secretary Treasurer Sabir presented information on Enrolment for the month of October 2023.

9.6 Provincial Exam Results (Annual and Five-Year Trends) (J. Grimsdale)

Superintendent Grimsdale reviewed the 2022/2023 Provincial Testing Results for January and June Diploma Exams and Provincial Achievement Tests that were released on October 24, 2023, to school divisions.

10.0 School Monitoring Reports

10.1 Prairie Christian Academy - Tour

The Board of Trustees and Superintendent Grimsdale met with Principal Darryl Hern and Associate Principal Barry Sommer. The Trustees were informed of different initiatives and goals.

11.0 Guest

11.1 Avail LLP Chartered Professional Accountants (via Zoom)

On Monday, November 27, 2023, the Audit Committee convened, as per the requirements of the Education Act to review the financial statements. On Tuesday, November 28, 2023, Chandra Deaust, CPA, CA (Avail CPA - Chartered Accountant) was in attendance via Zoom at 11:00 AM to present the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending August 31, 2023, and answered Trustee questions' regarding the audit process and Audited Financial Statements.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

12.1 Adjournment

Recommendation: BD#20231128.1009

The Board of Trustees adjourned at 1:14 PM.

Chair

Secretary Treasurer

Chair Initials _____ Secretary Treasurer Initials _____



ENROLMENT BACKGROUNDER

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

December 12, 2023

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 29, 2023, 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

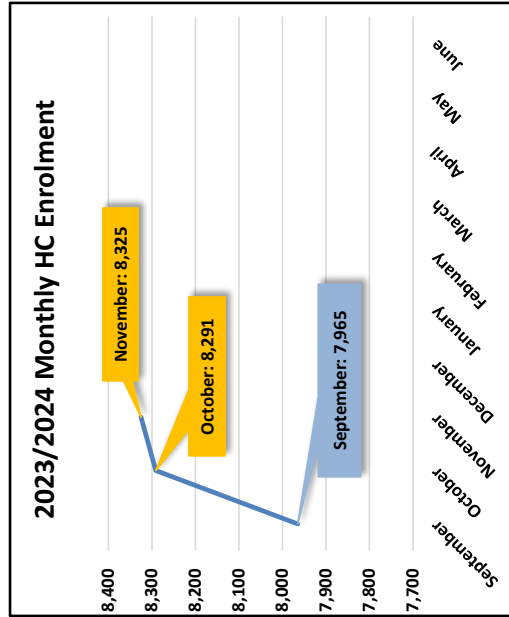
Golden Hills School Division Enrolment

Schools - Month to Month Comparison

Sept 30 to Nov 30, 2023

*Please note kindergarten adjusted to 1.0

* Enrolment information has been adjusted for the New Funding Model



Configuration	School	September 30, 2023*	November 30, 2023	October 31, 2023	Difference
K-6, 10-12	Acme School	211.00	211.00	211.00	0.00
K-9	Carbon School	51.00	52.00	52.00	0.00
K-6	Carseland School	86.00	80.00	84.00	-4.00
7-9	Crowther Memorial Jr. High School	470.00	461.00	464.00	-3.00
K-9	Dr. Elliott Community School	198.00	199.00	197.00	2.00
7-12	Drumheller Valley Secondary School	368.00	361.00	366.00	-5.00
K-6	École Brentwood Elementary School	210.00	210.00	210.00	0.00
K-12	George Freeman	496.00	491.00	495.00	-4.00
K-6	Greentree School	359.00	355.00	356.00	-1.00
K-12	Prairie Christian Academy School	289.00	290.00	288.00	2.00
10-12	Strathmore High School	691.00	689.00	689.00	0.00
K-12	Three Hills School	449.00	460.00	456.00	4.00
K-9	Trinity Christian Academy	222.00	224.00	225.00	-1.00
K-12	Trochu Valley School	263.00	266.00	263.00	3.00
K-6	Westmount School	365.00	371.00	370.00	1.00
K-12	Wheatland Crossing	339.00	340.00	340.00	0.00
K-6	Wheatland Elementary School	305.00	308.00	306.00	2.00
	Sub Total	5,372.00	5,368.00	5,372.00	-4.00
7-9	Colonies	392.00	392.00	392.00	0.00
7-12	Drumheller Outreach	9.00	11.00	10.00	1.00
1-12	Golden Hills Learning Academy	467.00	521.00	516.00	5.00
1-12	NorthStar Academy	394.00	397.00	405.00	-8.00
7-12	Strathmore StoreFront	103.00	112.00	110.00	2.00
	Sub Total	1,365.00	1,433.00	1,433.00	-
	Homeschool	854.00	875.00	852.00	23.00
	Shared Responsibility	196.00	193.00	200.00	-7.00
	Sub Total	1,050.00	1,068.00	1,052.00	16.00
	Provincial Total	7,787.00	7,869.00	7,857.00	12.00
	Siksika	155.00	155.00	155.00	0.00
	International (Incl. Online)	279.00	301.00	279.00	22.00
	Sub Total	434.00	456.00	434.00	22.00
	Total HEADCOUNT	8,221.00	8,325.00	8,291.00	34.00



TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

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

December 12, 2023

Background:

Utilizing technology as a learning tool has been a GHSD priority for a number of years and as a result Golden Hills' students have access to many technology enhanced learning opportunities. Teachers and students are provided with the necessary infrastructure to meet Information Communication Technology outcomes and engage students in rich real-world learning experiences. In addition, noteworthy efficiencies have been achieved in terms of system administration.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Trustees receives the Technology Services Report for information and for the record.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Grimsdale", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jeff Grimsdale
Superintendent of Schools



TECHNOLOGY SERVICES REPORT

Presented to the Board of Trustees by Jeff Grimsdale
Superintendent of Schools

Resource Persons: Todd Kennedy, Manager Technology Services

December 12, 2023

REPORTING PERIOD: 2022-2023

OVERVIEW:

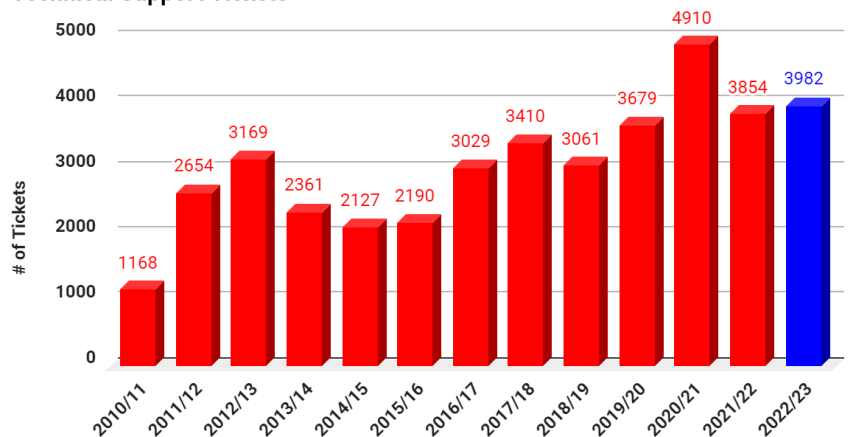
The primary role of Technology Services is to support the technologies used by teachers, staff, and students throughout GHSD, so they can engage in Powerful Learning through ensuring ActivBoards/ViewBoards, Internet, wireless networks and printing devices are all effective and functioning. If the device connects to the network at all, then this department is involved in its maintenance and upkeep.

Support Requests

Technical support requests are measured using an online WebHelpDesk ticketing system. Staff are assisted via telephone, e-mail, or in-person from the technology team. All requests are tracked by location, type of technology, type of support needed, and time spent to resolve the problem.

There was a small uptick of about 3% in tickets during this school year.

Technical Support Tickets

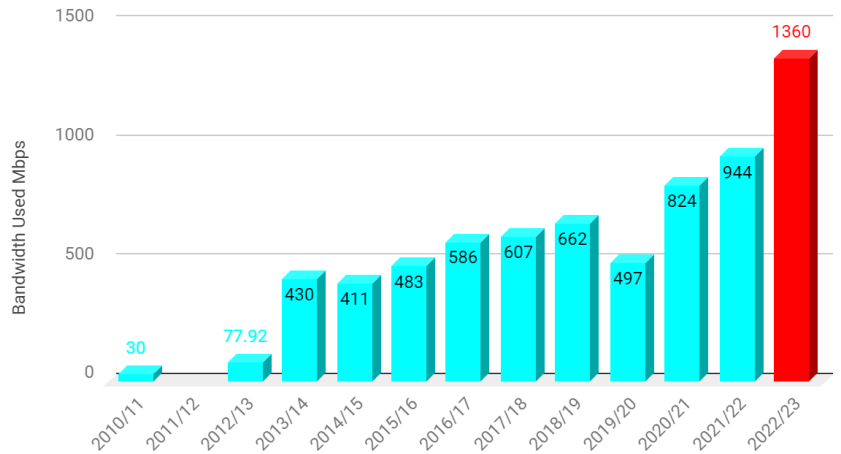


Bandwidth Charts

Internet is a basic service that is expected in all of our schools with the exception of most Colony schools and is also available on all of our school buses (bus data is not presented in this chart).

This year we recognized a significant bandwidth increase. We replaced our aging firewall with a new virtual firewall and upgraded our Internet bandwidth to 2 Gbps as well as upgraded many of our school Supernet connections.

Bandwidth Usage



The data demonstrates that there was a bit of pent up demand for more bandwidth. As soon as the various connections were upgraded, the floodgates opened, and we are seeing a 44% increase in Internet use.

Unfortunately, bandwidth upgrades come with increased recurring costs. Alberta Education pays for most of the cost of a 100 Mbps Supernet connection to each school. However, most of our schools have had to upgrade their Supernet connections, some to 500 Mbps, and this cost is supported by Golden Hills. The additional annual costs for using Supernet are close to \$40,000.

In July 2023 we initiated installation of Star Link satellite network connections in all of our Colony schools. This provides access to PowerSchool by teachers, a VoIP telephone, and an online copier. All of these are now managed centrally as part of our overall enterprise strategy.

*Note: Internet service is NOT provided by default to students or colony members, this connection is intended as a corporate network connection to facilitate the work of the teachers and staff.

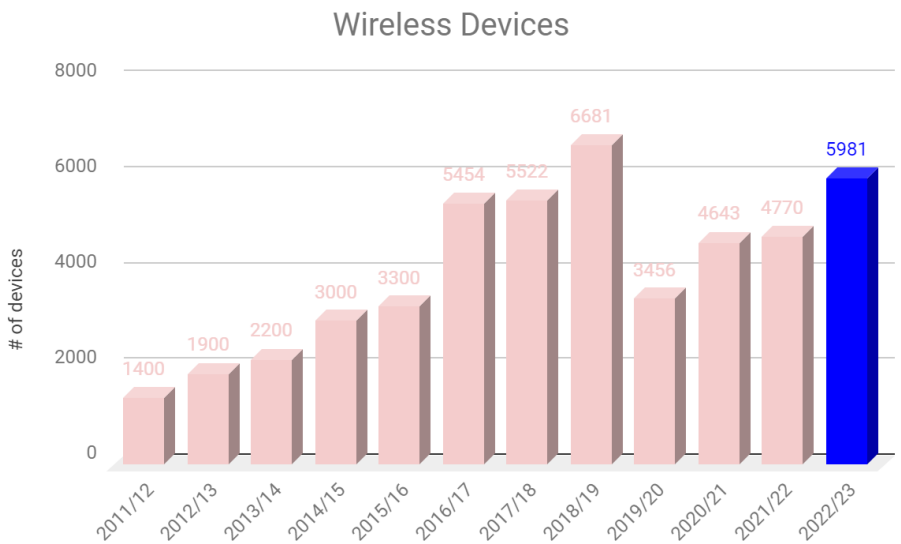
Wireless Network

Technology Services provides and maintains a Wi-Fi network across all traditional and online schools, as well as international student dormitories. Access is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

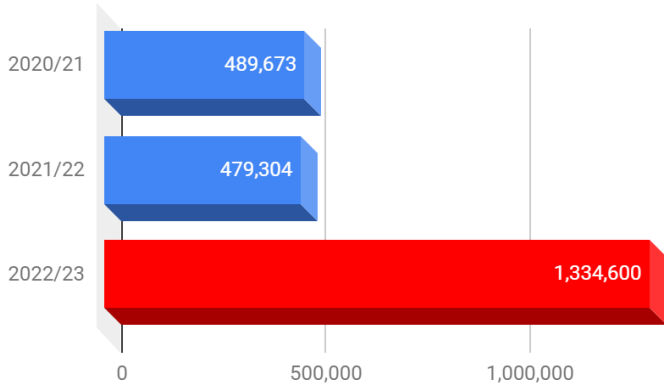
Wi-Fi use continues to grow. There was an increase of about 25% more wireless devices on average compared to previous year.

Wireless is used by more than just staff or student devices. Now we are seeing digital signage solutions, ViewBoards, and even thermostats using our Wi-Fi network.

Golden Hills has a great track record in hosting sporting events, including zone and provincial championships. These events bring many more parents, grandparents, and members of our community together, and they tend to bring their wireless devices.



Web Filter Blocks (month)



Web Filter

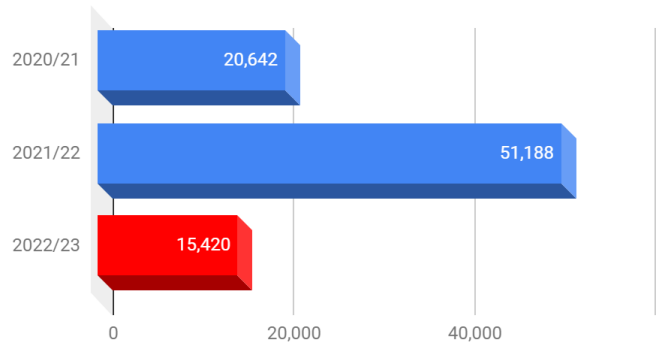
We use a number of services to filter Internet traffic for staff and students. This would include things like adult content, violence, illegal software and hacking. This is only the second year of tracking/reporting this data. Our monthly average has almost tripled.

Malware and Phishing Attacks

Two methods that cause disruption to learning are Malware and Phishing. Malware is software used to attempt to infiltrate our systems and wreak havoc. This could include erasing data, locking out computers, or capturing data for ransom or to sell on the dark web. Phishing attacks are attempts to get our staff and students to do something, so the attacker can gain access to our systems.

*Note these metrics come from a mixture of services, and some of them have modified how they are reported.

Malware and Phishing Attacks (month)



ViewBoard Replacement

With the support of the caretaking and facilities crew, all of the ActivBoards were replaced with 86" ViewSonic ViewBoards at Trochu Valley School. Our team was able to replace the computers and displays as part of the Evergreen process at the same time. All of the work was completed within about a four day period. Prairie Christian Academy, Wheatland Crossing, and George Freeman School are the only schools that are still using the old ActivBoards. This leaves only about 63 ActivBoards to replace in 2024/25.

Copier Replacement

In the very early Spring 2023 we went out to market to replace our copier fleet. We were in the sixth year of operation, and many were starting to show their age. A committee of staff from our schools reviewed submissions, attended training sessions, and listened to proposals. When it was complete, the committee selected Konica Minolta. Most copiers were replaced between May and August. Colony copiers were done just this past Fall as we had to wait for the Star Link installation to be completed. Schools did choose to keep some of their smaller copiers, as they still have a lot of life in them.

Student Information Systems

June 2023 was the last time we used StudentsAchieve for K-6 report cards. While the software was fantastic for teachers to use, the vendor had discontinued it, and was no longer supporting it. Our Instructional Coaches along with our team put a lot of time and energy into creating new assessment and reporting tools inside of PowerSchool. As of September 1, 2023, all schools, teachers, and grade levels are using PowerSchool for student information. This gives parents a single place to look at their child(ren)'s progress, no matter which grade or school they attend. It was a huge project and our teachers demonstrated yet again how amazing they are in working through this transition.

In recent years we have also moved to online student registration and digital demographic updates.

Online registration allows parents/guardians to register their child(ren) in school right from their computer. All data can be quickly entered and even pictures of pertinent student information uploaded.

Since September 2023, 1,306 students have been registered completely online, and this number is expected to continue to grow.

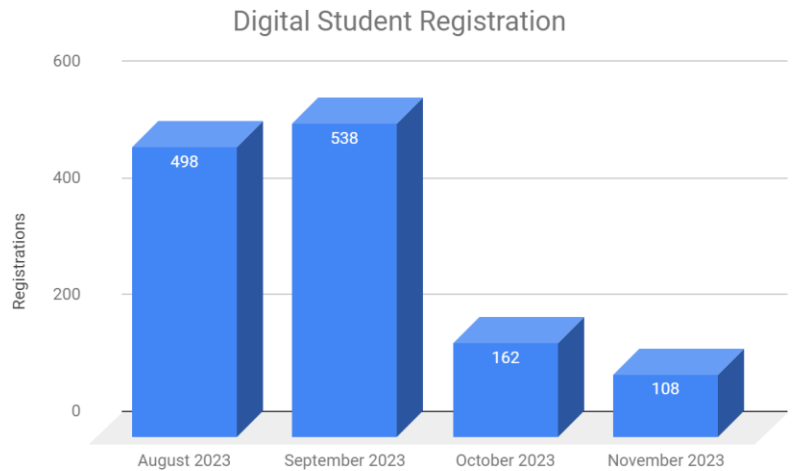
When parents submit registration via paper forms, it routinely takes school office staff about 20 minutes PER student to process the data, enter it into various systems, and upload to

Alberta Education through PASI. When the registration is received digitally, the time is cut down to about five minutes.

Considering 1,306 registrations were received online, this is an overall time savings of over 326 hours!

Our schools have also begun doing their annual student demographic updates digitally. This is a process where parents are asked to update information, like address, contact information, even allergies. Again, this paper process can take 20 minutes or longer PER student, whereas the digital update is less than five minutes.

Beyond the time savings, data entered online is cleaner and spelling errors are limited. There are also fewer challenges reading some writing, as well as the ability to select things from a list (like a town name), instead of typing or writing it in.



Teacher / Staff Computer Evergreen

All teacher computers and most staff computers were replaced. This represents approximately 700 computers and 1400 displays. 1400 displays alone is approximately three and a half semi-truck trailer loads. Beyond this, most lab computers were upgraded with the former teacher computers, approximately 1100 computers were replaced. The new computers are substantially more powerful, and yet take up 75% less space than their predecessors. The display replacement provided dual displays on virtually every desk, which has been very well received, as teachers are now able to mirror one of their displays with their ViewBoard/ActivBoard, and the second one for other work. This has fundamentally changed how staff are able to interact with the technology, facilitating much greater efficiency.

Account Automation

For many years we have automated student account creation. That is, the login credentials and e-mail addresses that students require to access learning materials online and using computers and Chromebooks within our schools. When their registration is entered into PowerSchool, automated systems transform that data into accounts, groups, permissions, and privileges. All without any human intervention. This removes any delays or errors or communication challenges.

In 2022/2023 our team automated staff account creation. Until this year it was a manual process that used up valuable time, and errors were common. Now, when the staffing information is entered into the Human Resources systems, staffing accounts are automatically provisioned. Even when they move schools, change their name, or when they retire. This is a highly complicated system and process, and it has been a year of trial and testing. We continue to find minor bugs and updates are required, but it works, and has allowed our teams to focus on other complex tasks.

Notable:

Upcoming Projects

During the 2023/2024 school year there are a number of large scale technology projects. These include:

- Replacement/upgrade wired network infrastructure
- Upgrade wireless infrastructure
- Replacement of our primary data centre technology and disaster recovery systems
- Replacement of last 63 ActivBoards

SUMMARY & IMPLICATIONS:

Technology infrastructure is a key piece to supporting Powerful Learning whether in school or at home. Students and teachers received support from Technology Services to access the tools and other supports they needed and did so with a high degree of satisfaction and efficiency.

RECOMMENDATION:

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



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

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

December 12, 2023

Background:

Golden Hills International Program provides an opportunity for our resident students to experience global competencies by interacting with students from around the world. Our international students have the opportunity to learn English and benefit from quality academic programming.

Recommendation:

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

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

Jeff Grimsdale
Superintendent of Schools



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM REPORT

Presented to the Board of Trustees by Jeff Grimdsdale
Superintendent of Schools
Resource Persons: Carmen Spitzer, Christina Hoover

December 12, 2023

REPORTING PERIOD: 2022-2023

OVERVIEW

Various initiatives including the Golden Hills International program help to build global competencies with students and staff. Most of the developed world sees the importance of preparing students who can interact and collaborate with people from diverse backgrounds, analyze complex global challenges, and take responsible and forward-thinking action in our rapidly changing interconnected world. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) recognizes global competency as crucial for economic development and now assesses it on the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) examinations. Through its International Program, Powerful Learning framework, the implementation of the Global Connections Certificate (GCC), international learning collaborations, and professional development, Golden Hills continues to do its part to develop cross cultural understandings and global competencies among Golden Hills students.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

Golden Hill's International program is a unique and integral part of Golden Hills School Division. Since its inception in 2004, GHI has accommodated more than 4,820 students from 57 different countries. Due to continued positive partnerships with our agents, families, schools and communities our numbers continue to increase.

School Year	FTE	Head Count	Learning Academy
2021-2022	165	184	15
2022-2023	230	246	10.5
2023-2024	255	297	6

Currently our Homestay Program is nearly at full capacity for both semesters. Our Dormitories in both Strathmore and Drumheller are full for the second semester.

All Fairs have opened back up and our increasing numbers can attest to everyone appreciating the face to face connections. We also take part in some virtual fairs with agents and families from Germany and Mexico. As well, in the last few months we have welcomed several agent and family tours from Japan, Germany, Korea, Dubai and Thailand.

Our department is still experiencing the following challenges:

- Visa application processing remains slow in some countries.
- The cost of doing business has increased due to rising utility and transportation expenses, and other factors.
- Homestay shortage in our Three Hills community.

We appreciate the support and opportunities provided to our students by the schools and communities. The schools accommodate the diverse student needs and the communities welcome the international connection.

GLOBAL COMPETENCY

The development of global competency in students and staff was encouraged in a variety of ways during the past school term including those which follow:

- Golden Hills International Program: The program brings diversity and multicultural connections to Golden Hills and has been a catalyst for other global competence initiatives and the development of a strong English Language Learning program.
- Global Connections Certificate (GCC): Students in Golden Hills have had a pathway to developing global competence set out for them. Those that choose to follow it are recognized by a Global Connections Certificate. GHSD has created a new partnership with Ambrose University for Dual Credit options.

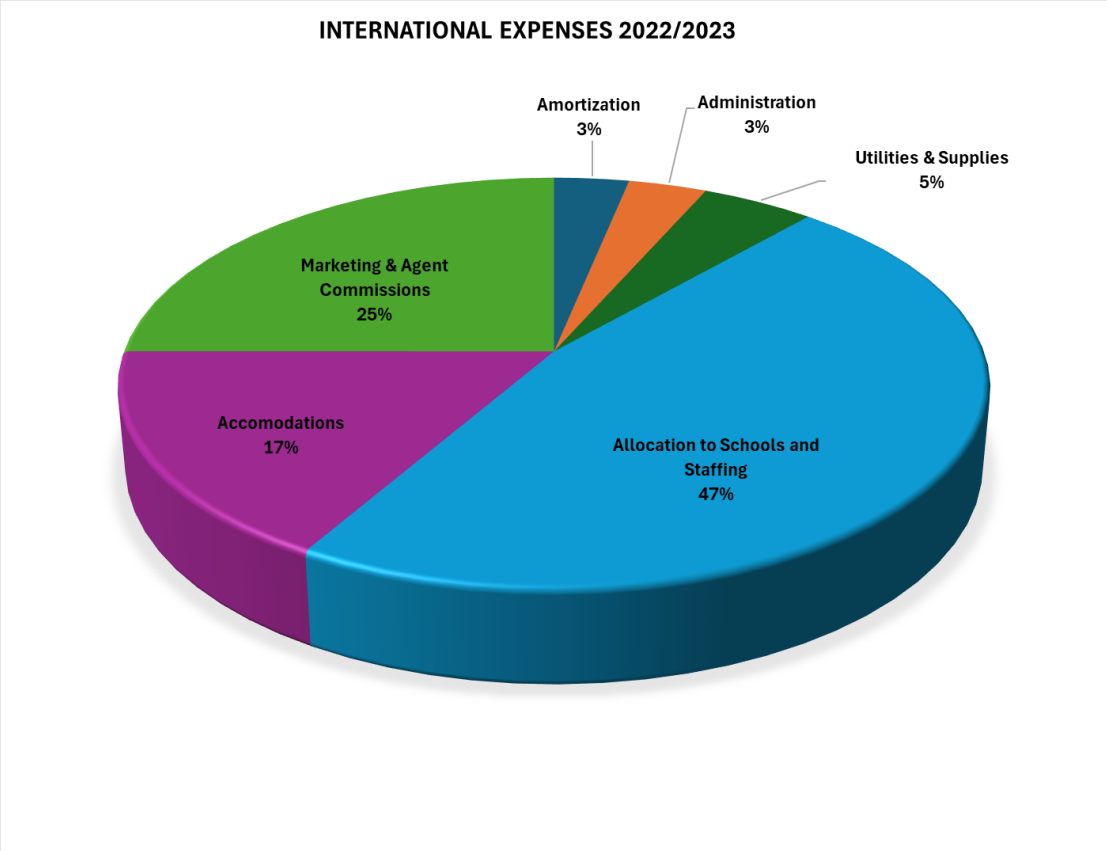
ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

Golden Hills' International Program highlighted the need for strong EAL intervention and that raised the standards of programming provided to both resident and international students. The Golden Hills English Language Learning team is a collaborative group. The goals and priorities of the team include ensuring the following for students for whom English is not their primary language:

- Consistent ELL testing in the schools using formal and informal assessments.
- Enhanced tracking and reporting of ELL acquisition.
- Mental health support from a Cross-Cultural perspective to ELL's through evidence-based workshops, targeted presentations and individual and group counselling.
- Authentic assessment based on Alberta Education Benchmarks in order to determine each student's English Language Proficiency.
- Support for the ELL Proficiency Report Card which is issued twice/year.
- Support for the successful integration of refugee students entering Golden Hills. These supports can include: resources, strategies, benchmarking and cultural awareness.
- Support for Colony teachers with implementing the Benchmarks and using the results to further support their students with their English Language development.
- Support for school Lead ELL teachers to build consistent and effective ESL programs.
- Additional supports provided to each school to ensure alignment with the new Benchmarking requirements from Alberta Education.
- Professional Development opportunities for all teachers as well as informal zoom Think Tank meetings.

BUDGET FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Golden Hills Schools are site-based and as a result, the majority of the tuition received is allocated directly to the schools. The majority of total fees collected are spent on accommodations for the students, recruiting and allocations to schools. International dollars support increased numbers of teaching staff and program options for all GHSD students.



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE:

The International Team is a dedicated high energy team that will continue to develop and ensure relationships with community partners, international agents and students. Our top priority in the current year is to gain more homestays. Through working with instructional coaches, teachers, and external parties, the development of global competencies and intercultural opportunities for Golden Hills students will continue.

Recommendations:

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