



# **GOLDEN HILLS**

## **SCHOOL DIVISION**

# *AGENDA*

**TYPE:** Regular Board Meeting

**DATE:** 12/10/2024      **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 November 26, 2024 Action

**8.0 REPORTS**

**A) Chair's Report**

**B) Board Committees**

**C) Board Representatives to External Organizations**

**D) Administration Reports**

**E) Round Table Discussion**

**9.0 NEW BUSINESS**

**A) Action Items**

9.1 Calendar 2026/2027 (J. Grimsdale) Action

**B) Information Items**

9.2 Enrolment Monitoring Report (November 2024) (T. Sabir) Info

9.3 Technology Services Report (J. Grimsdale) Info

9.4 International Services Report (J. Grimsdale) Info

**10.0 In Camera**

**11.0 Round Table Discussion**

## **12.0 ADJOURNMENT**

12.1 Adjournment

Action



# MINUTES

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## 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 26, 2024 (9:30 AM)**

#### 1.0 Attendance

##### Present

- a) Chair
  - Laurie Huntley (via Zoom)
- b) Vice Chair
  - Jim Northcott
- c) Trustees
  - Barry Kletke
  - Justin Bolin (Zoom)
  - Rob Pirie (via Zoom, excused himself at noon)
- d) Superintendent
  - Jeff Grimsdale
- e) Secretary Treasurer
  - Tahra Sabir
- f) Recording Secretary
  - Kristy Polet

##### Absent

- c) Trustee
  - Jen Mertz
- e) Deputy Superintendent
  - Wes Miskiman

#### 2.0 Call to Order

Chair Huntley called the meeting to order at 9:30 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 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#20241126.1001**

**MOVED by Trustee Northcott** that the Board of Trustees go In Camera at 9:30AM.

Carried

### 4.2 Out of In Camera

**Recommendation: BD#20241126.1002**

**MOVED by Trustee Kletke** that the Board of Trustees rise from In Camera at 10:09 AM.

Carried

Recessed at 10:09 AM

Reconvened at 10:21AM

## 5.0 Approval of Agenda

### 5.1 Approval of Agenda

**Recommendation: BD#20241126.1003**

**MOVED by Trustee Bolin** 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 October 29, 2024

**Recommendation: BD#20241126.1004**

**MOVED by Trustee Pirie** that the Board of Trustees approve the Regular Minutes of October 29, 2024, as presented.

Carried

## 8.0 REPORTS

### A) Chair's Report

Chair Huntley presented information on the following topics:

- Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) FGM was held in Edmonton, November 17-19, 2024, at the Westin Downtown. Dr. Vivian Aboud has sent pictures of the event to Chair Huntley.
- Discussed Collegiate Schools partnerships with post secondary schools.
- ASBA Professional Learning Sessions - Chair Huntley has forwarded them on to Trustees.
- December 2, 2024, Virtual Session on Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (Bill 20), discussed requiring criminal record checks.
- December 9, 2024, Speakers Corner: The Role of Trustees in fostering safe and healthy work and learning environments with Kathleen Lane.
- Discussed Curriculum Engagement process - Chair Huntley forwarded the information on to Trustees.
- November 1, 2024, Chairs Meeting regarding school divisions concerns with Jordans' Principles.

Chair Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary Treasurer Initials \_\_\_\_\_

## **B) Board Committees**

No information to report on at this time.

## **C) Board Representatives to External Organizations**

Chair Huntley and Vice Chair Northcott presented information on the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) FGM and ASBA Zone 5 meeting that was held November 1, 2024.

- ASBA FGM was held November 17-19, 2024, in Edmonton, AB.
  - Honourable Danielle Smith was one of many guest speakers and also David Allison (Human Values Expert), Paul Dubal (Certified Life Coach), Katrina Ingram (Founder and CEO of Ethically Aligned AI) and Shawna Randolph (Communications Specialist).
  - Knowledgeable Conference, voting/election portion ran smoothly.
- ASBA Zone 5 meeting was held at the Rocky View School Division, Airdrie, AB on Friday, November 1, 2024.
  - President, Marilyn Dennis reported on ASBA municipal elections meetings, met with advocacy partners, Bill 27, National School Food Program being addressed, discussed upcoming Rural Caucus meeting.
  - CEO, Jan Olson discussed Government advocacy tracker, meeting with Minister's Administration, Rural Caucus regarding Weighted Moving Average (WMA), mentioned Superintendents have access to Bill 20 information on ASBA website.
  - Professional Learning Committee, Melyssa Bowen reminded everyone, Backpack Full of Cash screening will be December 6, 2023 at Rocky View School Division.
  - Trustee Northcott will be on the Edwin Parr Committee.

Trustee Kletke presented information from the Public School Boards Association of Alberta (PSBAA) meeting held November 15-17, 2024, in Edmonton, AB.

- Professional Development Sessions were excellent:
  - Collaborative Partnership Supports Student Engagement in Career Learning:
    - Guest speakers were Sean Lougheed, Director of Education Services, Curriculum and Instruction from Wolf Creek Public Schools,
    - Holly Bilton, Provincial Manager of School Engagement Careers the Next Generation,
    - Vaping in Schools and other programs AHS provides, Brent Friesen PH.D., Medical Officer of Health Alberta Health Services.
    - Reception Guest speaker was Janet Brown, Political Analyst, Janet Brown Opinion Research.
- PSBAA fiscal year end the same.
- Hybrid meetings will no longer be available, all in person.

Recessed at 11:38 AM

Reconvened at 11:45 AM

## **D) Administration Reports**

Secretary Treasurer Sabir presented information on the following topics:

- Insurance Update:
  - Marketing efforts this year reinforced ARMIC's growing reputation with insurers expressing confidence in our progress over the past five years and commitment to a stable, long-term partnership.

Chair Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary Treasurer Initials \_\_\_\_\_

- Premium Allocation - member's premium is based on their statement of values, individual loss experience over the preceding 5 years, with a 20% cap on increase or decrease in premiums year.
- Grande Yellowhead (Jasper) Wildfire, fortunate to have not suffered any physical damage, working through the process.
- Transportation:
  - New technology system provided by Cal/Amp, piloting it on ten buses (eight in Three Hills and two in Carbon)
  - Driver update - currently have four routes that are being driven by relief drivers (two in Strathmore, one in Acme and one in Drumheller).
  - Two trainees taking their road test on Wednesday, December 4, 2024.
  - New Training class began Monday, November 25, 2024, with five trainees attending. These trainees will complete our route driver pool and start to rebuild our relief driver pool.
  - Transportation will be purchasing 14 new buses; prices continue to rise dramatically.
  - Field Trips have increased over the year, trips using GHSD buses (210), trips using school owned vehicles or outside buses (172).
- Facilities Update:
  - Learning Academy, office furniture has been relocated and installed 17 workstations at the new location, additional electrical work, floor replacement and technology work has been completed.
  - Trinity Christian Academy, roofers have completed 80% of the work, painting is expected to be completed by the end of November and occupancy tentatively the second week of December.
  - Strathmore High School Modular, development permit has been approved, working with consultants on drawings and giving feedback, hoping to start construction in June 2025.
  - Strathmore Maintenance Shop, exterior and roof, requesting price to repair.

Superintendent Grimsdale presented information on the following topics:

- November 6, 2024, met with our Alberta Education Field Services Consultant to review our Education Plan.
- November 6-8, 2024, attended the CASS Fall Conference.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI), in the process of creating a Strategic AI Plan.
- GHSD hosted the Junior High Teacher Professional Development Day on Learning Strategies, the day was well received, 100% of the teachers would like a second day.
- November 26, 2024, hosting new draft Social Curriculum Day, submitted names for new curriculum working groups for math, social, calm and Physical Education and Wellness (PEW) 7-10.
- Discussed Dual Credit Grants, received Enhancement Grant \$98,603.00, this will be for new equipment for Strathmore High School kitchen and partnership with SAIT for the Intro to cooking course.
- Received Start up Grant \$50,000.00 for our E-Sports business Course in partnership with Bow Valley College.
- Administrative Procedures meeting was held on October 24, 2024.
- October 30, 2024, New Administrator Orientation, topics covers were Leading and Learning, Structure of Support, Student Services, Supervision and Evaluation and Budgeting. Second Administrators Orientation will take place in February 2025.
- November 12, 2024, Administrator Meeting, reviewed Cell Phone Administrative Procedure, reviewed Bill 29 and 27, discussed Education Plans and school visits in December.
- Remembrance Day Ceremonies went very well.

Chair Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary Treasurer Initials \_\_\_\_\_

- Acme School Update - busy construction site, making progress, heating and hoarding now while continuing to build gym walls, steel structure is going up, working on mechanical, electrical and plumbing rough ins.
- Human Resources Update:
  - Deputy Superintendent Miskiman attended six Career Fairs; fewer teachers are wanting to relocate.
  - Ambrose University practicum students (30), introduced to our systems and schools, they have our Powerful Learning guide.

Recessed at 12:03 PM

Reconvened at 12:44 PM

## 9.0 NEW BUSINESS

### A) Action Items

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

**Recommendation: BD#20241126.1005**

**MOVED by Trustee Kletke** that the Board of Trustees approves the proposed high school field studies/excursion for Prairie Christian Academy to Bogota, Colombia from February 12-23, 2025 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](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

#### 9.2 Field Trip Studies/Student Excursion - Ireland/Scotland/England - Prairie Christian Academy (J. Grimsdale)

**Recommendation: BD#20241126.1006**

**MOVED by Trustee Kletke** that the Board of Trustees approves the proposed high school field studies/excursion for Prairie Christian Academy to Ireland, Scotland and England from April 2-12, 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](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

#### 9.3 New Colony School - Naming (J. Grimsdale)

**Recommendation: BD20241126.1007**

**MOVED by Trustee Northcott** that the Board of Trustees approve the name suggested by the Kneehill Colony to be Kneehill Colony School.

Carried

#### **9.4 Locally Developed/Acquired Courses (J. Grimsdale)**

**Recommendation: BD#20241126.1008**

**MOVED by Trustee Kletke** that the Board of Trustee authorize the use of the acquired locally developed courses and any learning resources detailed in the course outline for use in Golden Hills School Division.

Carried

- Student-Centered Learning 15 (3 credits only), January 1, 2025, until August 31, 2027, Golden Hills Learning Academy Strathmore Storefront

#### **9.5 Annual Education Results Report (AERR) 2023/2024 (J. Grimsdale)**

**Recommendation: BD#20241126.1009**

**MOVED by Trustee Northcott** that the Board of Trustees approve the Annual Education Results Report 2023/2024 for submission to Alberta Education November 30, 2024.

Carried

#### **9.6 Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ending August 31, 2024 (T. Sabir)**

**Recommendation: BD#20241126.1010**

**MOVED by Trustee Bolin** that the Board of Trustees approve the 2023/2024 amounts on the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending August 31, 2024, to be transferred from unrestricted as follows:

- Transfer from Unrestricted Surplus to the Internally Restricted Operating Reserves in the amount of \$198,000.

Carried

#### **9.7 Audited Financial Statements for the year ending August 31, 2024 (T. Sabir)**

**Recommendation: BD#20241126.1011**

**MOVED by Trustee Northcott** that the Board of Trustees approve the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending August 31, 2024, subject to the Board being advised of any minor adjustment which may be necessary before submission to Alberta Education by November 30, 2024.

Carried

### **B) Information Items**

#### **9.8 Monthly Enrolment Monitoring Report - October 2024 (T. Sabir)**

Secretary treasurer Sabir presented information on Enrolment for the month of October 2024.

#### **9.9 Provincial Exam Results (Annual and five-year trends) (J. Grimsdale)**

Superintendent Grimsdale and Director of Learning, Cori Hampson, reviewed the 2023/2024 Provincial Testing results for the June Diploma Exams and for the Grade six (6) and nine (9) Provincial Achievement Tests that were released on November 8, 2024, to school divisions.



### **9.10 Administrative Procedures (145, 401, 412, 490) (J. Grimsdale)**

Superintendent Grimsdale reviewed the information around the development of the following Administrative Procedures.

- Administrative Procedure 145 Personal Mobile Devices
  - AP 145, Appendix 145-A, Frequently Asked Questions
  - AP 145 Form, 145-1, Medical Exemptions
- Administrative Procedure 401, Personnel Records
- Administrative Procedure 412, Pensions
- Administrative Procedure 490, Volunteers

Recessed at 2:33 PM

Reconvened at 2:39 PM

### **10.0 Round Table Discussion**

#### **11.0 Guest**

##### **11.1 Chandra Deaust - Avail LLP Chartered Professional Accountants**

On Monday, November 25, 2024, the Audit Committee convened, as per the requirements of the Education Act to review the financial statements. On Tuesday, November 26, 2024, 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, 2024, and answered Trustee questions' regarding the audit process and Audited Financial Statements.

#### **12.0 School Monitoring Report Visit**

##### **12.1 Greentree School (S. Friesen, Principal and P. Ehrman, Vice Principal)**

Superintendent Grimsdale welcomed Principal, S. Friesen and Vice Principal, P. Ehrman, who presented their schools current education plan, new programs and school involvement with the community. Their presentation was interactive, Trustees took part in the "12 Days of Mathamas" game that is played through out all grades. Superintendent Grimsdale and Chair Huntley thanked them for their informative presentation.

##### **12.2 Crowther Memorial Junior High (L. Tucker, Principal, R. Hunter, Vice Principal and E. Friesen, Vice Principal)**

Superintendent Grimsdale welcomed Principal, L. Tucker, Vice Principal, R. Hunter and Vice Principal, E. Friesen, who presented their schools current education plan, new programs and school involvement with the community. They are the school that has something for everyone! Passion and dedication to their adolescent learners is shown throughout the school. Superintendent Grimsdale and Chair Huntley thanked them for their informative presentation.

**12.3 Ecole Brentwood (D. Seabrook, Principal and K. Coulter, Vice Principal)**

Superintendent Grimsdale welcomed Principal, D. Seabrook and Vice Principal, K. Coulter, who presented their schools current education plan, new programs and school involvement with the community. They are creating an atmosphere of "belonging", a school of fine arts, collaborative support plans and committed to unlock students' successes. Superintendent Grimsdale and Chair Huntley thanked them for their informative presentation.

**13.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**13.1 Adjournment**

**Recommendation: BD#20241126.1012**

Adjourned at 3:11 PM. Carried

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary Treasurer

Chair Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary Treasurer Initials \_\_\_\_\_



## CALENDAR 2026/2027

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

**December 10, 2024**

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### **Background:**

In accordance with Administrative Procedure 130, *School Year and School Day*, the Board shall approve all school year calendars. The criteria for the development of this calendar is established through this same Administrative Procedure.

Over the past number of years parents have suggested changes to the school year calendar. As a district we have also experienced increased pressure to provide more collaborative time for staff in order to facilitate work towards our Educational Plan goals. After a series of consultations with school administration, staff and school councils, a pilot calendar for the 2026/2027 school year has been developed for the Board's consideration.

### **Context for parents for this proposed change:**

- We have had parent feedback over the past few years about specific concerns on our current calendar:
  - Parents are uncomfortable with an August school start for their children
  - Parents do not like having to come back to school for two days during Family Day week
  - We get mixed feedback in regard to an Easter holiday vs Spring Break

### **Context for teachers for this proposed change:**

- We have some challenges with our existing calendar for teachers:
  - Teachers do not work the same way as they did 20 years ago. Then, they planned alone, taught alone and their classroom was separate from every other classroom. Today, they plan together, they develop common assessments and share best practices between classrooms – they need to be much more connected to be effective.
  - We need more collaborative time for teachers to be able to accomplish this. The option of substitute teachers for release time is not the preferred solution from the perspectives of the school, the teachers or the parents.
  - Our C2 committee survey results indicated in addition to instructional coach support, teachers would appreciate more time to collaborate on district and school initiatives with their peers.

We have considered a calendar that would work for us in this new educational reality and also be appreciated by parents and responsive to feedback we have received from all stakeholders.

### **Proposed criteria for developing these pilot calendars:**

- This is a continued pilot calendar for the 2026/2027 school year
- No reduction in annual instructional hours for students
- Students do not start school before September 1

- Same Christmas vacation
- Family Day week is now a week off for students
- Easter holiday is still scheduled but may be under consideration to look at a Spring Break in future years based on additional feedback
- Continue a maximum of 177 instructional days and have four collaborative days (all still workdays for staff)
- We will continue to add about 8-10 minutes on to the instructional day.

**Provincial context**

- Over the last few years, more than half of school districts in the province have made calendar adjustments in order to accommodate collaborative days to support staff capacity building and the success of district goals.
- To date, districts that have made this adjustment have reported positive feedback.

**Additional considerations**

- The attached proposed pilot calendar is exceptional in regard to our existing calendar criteria.
  - Our current AP 130 indicates that a calendar shall be submitted for Board approval at least six months in advance
  - Our current AP 130 indicates that a calendar shall include 181 instructional days
- There has been significant school administration and staff consultation as well as sharing and feedback from parents. More significant staff feedback regarding the Collaborative Days is available.

**Recommendation:**

That the Board of Trustees approves the proposed 2026/2027 School Year Calendar as a pilot for the school year.



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Jeff Grimsdale  
Superintendent of Schools

**Golden Hills School Division DRAFT  
2026 – 2027 SCHOOL YEAR - DIVISION OFFICE USE ONLY**

**AUGUST 2026**

**SEPTEMBER 2026**

**OCTOBER 2026**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1			1→	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25+	26	18	19	20	21	22	23♥	24
23/ 30	24/ 31▲	25	26	27▲	28♥	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29T	30T	31

**NOVEMBER 2026**

**DECEMBER 2026**

**JANUARY 2027**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2T	3T	4T	5T	6T	7			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15T	16
22	23	24	25	26	27)	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18T	19	20T	21T	22T	23
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24/ 31	25T	26T	27T	28	29+	30

**FEBRUARY 2027**

**MARCH 2027**

**APRIL 2027**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1→	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12)	13	4	5	6T	7T	8T	9T	10
14	15	16	17♥	18♦	19♦	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12T	13T	14T	15	16♥	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28							28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	

**MAY 2027**

**JUNE 2027**

**JULY 2027**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7+	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14T	15T	16	17T	18T	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22T	23T	24T	25T	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23/ 30	24/ 31	25	26	27	28	29	27	28T	29	30▲				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**Student Instructional Days**

Aug.	0	Feb.	15
Sept.	19	March	18
Oct.	19	April	19
Nov.	18	May	18
Dec.	13	June	19
Jan.	19		
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>

**School Instructional Time:**

Elementary – Minimum - 960 hours  
(Provincial Requirement – 950 hours)  
Junior High – Minimum – 1010 hours  
(Provincial Requirement – 950 hours)  
Senior High – Minimum – 1010 hours  
(Provincial Requirement – 1000 hours)

Day in lieu of Parent/Teacher Interview

Organizational Professional  
Teachers’ Convention  
Professional Development  
School Closure  
Collaborative day

Diploma Exam Days  
First Day of Semester

)	2
▲	3
◆	2
+	3
■	8
♥	4
T	
→	

**Instructional Days 177**

Christmas Break – 2 weeks Family Break – 1 week Easter Break – 1 week  
The Regular Board of Trustees meetings are normally held on the fourth Tuesday of each month except for July and August.

**\*\*Recommended Parent/Teacher Interview Day – Alternate day may be designated**

**Student Start Date September 1, 2026**

Students start classes  
Semester break

**Draft exam dates –S/B updated by Ab Ed in Nov 2024**



## ENROLMENT BACKGROUNDER

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

**December 10, 2024**

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### **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.

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Jeff Grimsdale  
Superintendent

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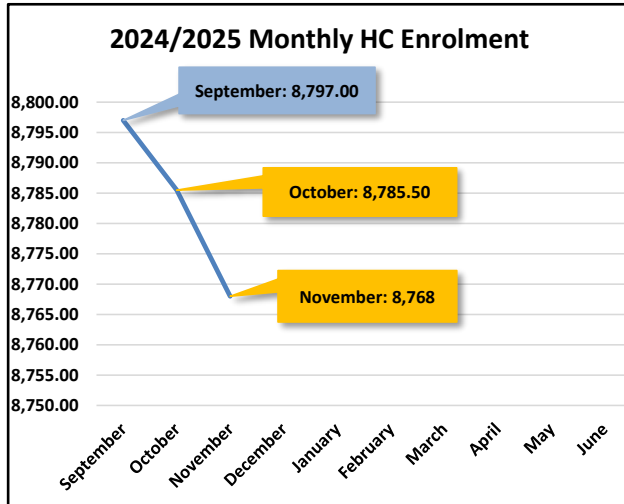
Tahra Sabir  
Secretary Treasurer

# Golden Hills School Division Enrolment

## Schools - Month to Month Comparison Sept 30 to Oct 31, 2024

\*Please note  
kindergarten adjusted to  
1.0

\* Enrolment information has been adjusted for the  
New Funding Model



Configuration	School	September 30, 2024*	November 30, 2024	October 31, 2024	Difference
K-6, 10-12	Acme School	225.00	218.00	222.00	-4.00
K-9	Carbon School	60.00	60.00	60.00	0.00
K-6	Carseland School	77.00	77.00	78.00	-1.00
7-9	Crowther Memorial Jr. High School	466.00	466.00	466.00	0.00
K-9	Dr. Elliott Community School	191.00	192.00	190.00	2.00
7-12	Drumheller Valley Secondary School	364.00	364.00	363.00	1.00
K-6	École Brentwood Elementary School	186.00	185.00	186.00	-1.00
K-12	George Freeman	476.00	470.00	471.00	-1.00
K-6	Greentree School	361.00	366.00	367.00	-1.00
K-12	Prairie Christian Academy School	316.00	314.00	316.00	-2.00
10-12	Strathmore High School	694.00	699.00	699.00	0.00
K-12	Three Hills School	449.00	449.00	450.00	-1.00
K-9	Trinity Christian Academy	247.00	247.00	248.00	-1.00
K-12	Trochu Valley School	270.00	271.00	270.00	1.00
K-6	Westmount School	372.00	369.00	371.00	-2.00
K-12	Wheatland Crossing	326.00	328.00	328.00	0.00
K-6	Wheatland Elementary School	310.00	313.00	314.00	-1.00
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>5,390.00</b>	<b>5,388.00</b>	<b>5,399.00</b>	<b>-11.00</b>
7-9	Colonies	405.00	403.00	404.00	-1.00
7-12	Drumheller Outreach	12.00	13.00	12.00	1.00
1-12	Golden Hills Learning Academy	926.00	911.00	911.00	0.00
1-12	NorthStar Academy	394.00	394.00	394.00	0.00
7-12	Strathmore StoreFront	144.00	143.00	143.00	0.00
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>1,881.00</b>	<b>1,864.00</b>	<b>1,864.00</b>	<b>-</b>
	Homeschool	882.00	882.00	881.00	1.00
	Shared Responsibility	199.00	196.00	196.00	0.00
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>1,081.00</b>	<b>1,078.00</b>	<b>1,077.00</b>	<b>1.00</b>
	<b>Provincial Total</b>	<b>8,352.00</b>	<b>8,330.00</b>	<b>8,340.00</b>	<b>-10.00</b>
	Siksika	148.00	148.00	148.00	0.00
	International (Incl. Online)	297.00	290.00	297.50	-7.50
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>445.00</b>	<b>438.00</b>	<b>445.50</b>	<b>-7.50</b>
	<b>Total HEADCOUNT</b>	<b>8,797.00</b>	<b>8,768.00</b>	<b>8,785.50</b>	<b>-17.50</b>



## Technology Services

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

**December 10, 2024**

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### **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 written 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 10, 2024

## REPORTING PERIOD: 2023-2024

### OVERVIEW:

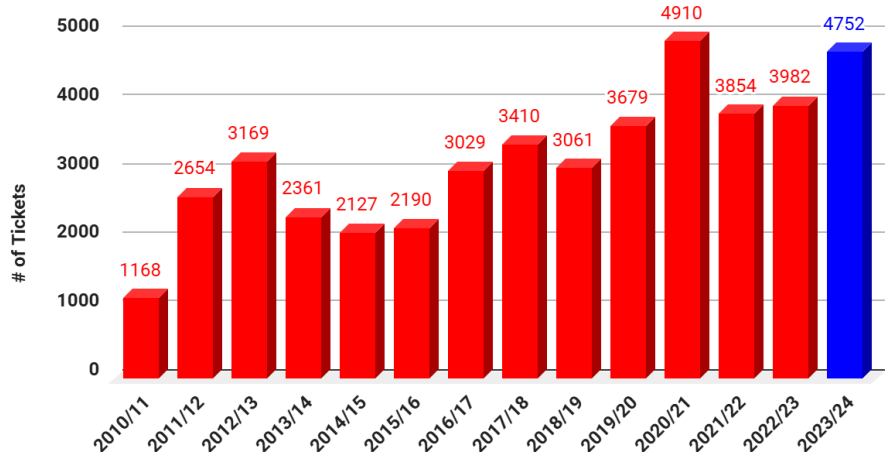
The Technology Services team supports computers and online materials used by teachers, staff, and students throughout GHSD, so they can engage in Powerful Learning through ensuring Chromebooks, ViewBoards, Internet, wireless networks and printing devices are all effective and functioning. If the device connects to the network at all, then IT's involved in keeping it running.

### Support Requests

Tickets for 2023/2024 have increased by 20% over the previous year. This is due to:

- Tickets replacing some phone calls and E-Mails
- Failing ActivBoards and projectors (replaced)
- Security Camera access requests
- Printers - there was a software glitch last Spring that wreaked havoc with printing

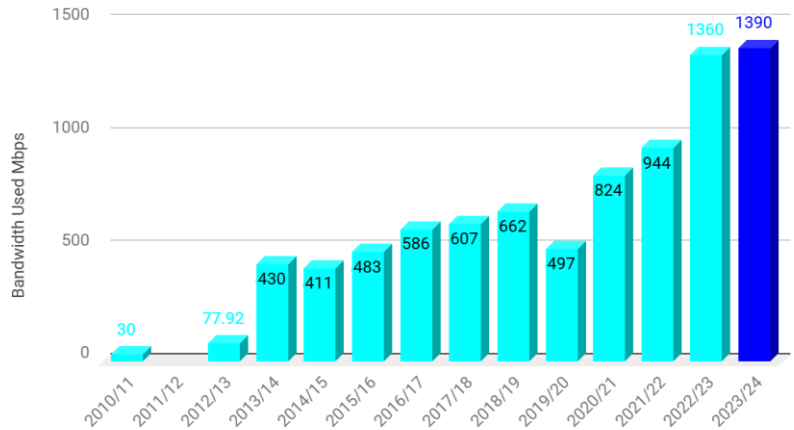
Technical Support Tickets



## Bandwidth Charts

Internet use has been an interesting story this past school year. Starting in February 2024, we began seeing increased pressure on our Internet connection. Throughout the Spring our bandwidth usage actually spiked up to about 2,000 Mbps - a 47% increase! We have put plans in place to upgrade our maximum capacity to 3,000, with room to expand to 10,000 Mbps.

Bandwidth Usage



However, with the new device and social media restrictions that came into effect September 1, 2024, our bandwidth usage has seen a dramatic reduction. So much so that as of the end of November 2024, we are seeing average use around 1,390 Mbps, only a marginal increase from last year’s 1360 Mbps.

We continue to monitor school Supernet connections, and we are in the process of a major firewall and Internet upgrade that should be complete by the end of January 2025 - which will provide a solid platform for the future.

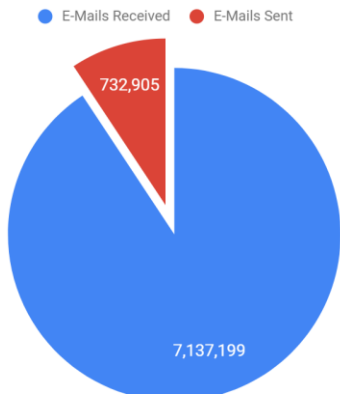
## E-Mail Communications

E-Mail is the most used communication method within GHSD. Over 7 million E-Mails were received, and 732,905 messages sent this school year.

SPAM E-Mails account for 1,334,381 total messages - which is almost 19% of all E-Mail. One in five received E-Mails are spam,

Just over four E-Mails are received every second.

Total E-Mail



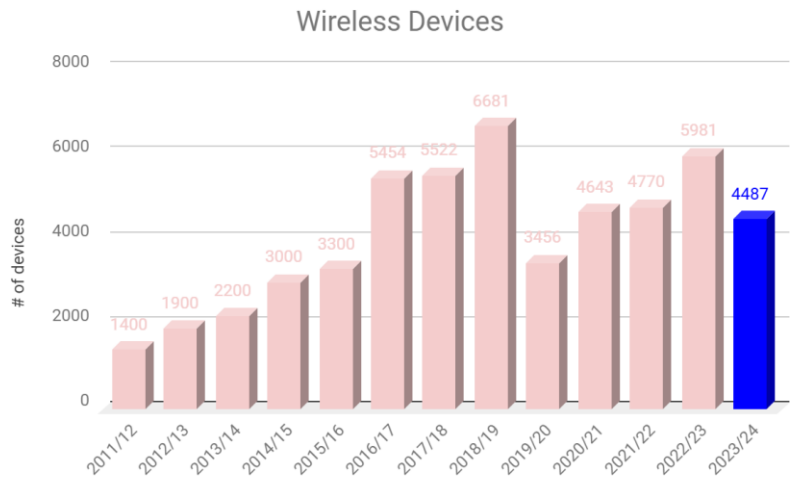
## Wireless Network

We support an enterprise-class Wi-Fi network across all of our sites. Wi-Fi is always on, and our staff and students have become accustomed to a high level of availability and reliability.

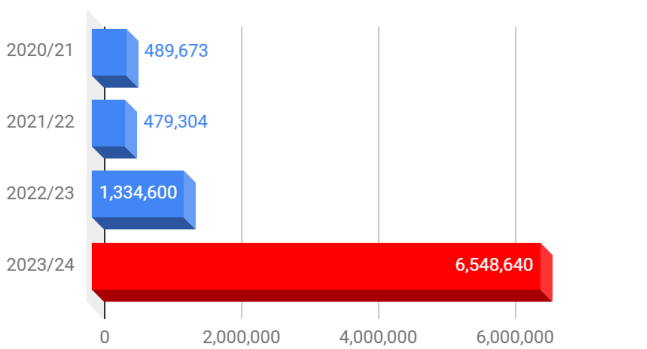
Similar to the decreases noted in Internet bandwidth, since the September 1, 2024, personal device and social media restrictions, we're seeing a substantial reduction in the number of devices on our Wi-Fi network.

In 2022/23 and most of the 2023/24 school years we saw an average of close to 6,000 devices on our wireless network. Since September 2024, this number has dropped to just under 4,500 devices - a decrease of about 33%.

Wireless is used by more than just staff or student devices. Digital signage solutions, ViewBoards, and even thermostats connect to our Wi-Fi network.



Web Filter Blocks (year)



## Web Filter

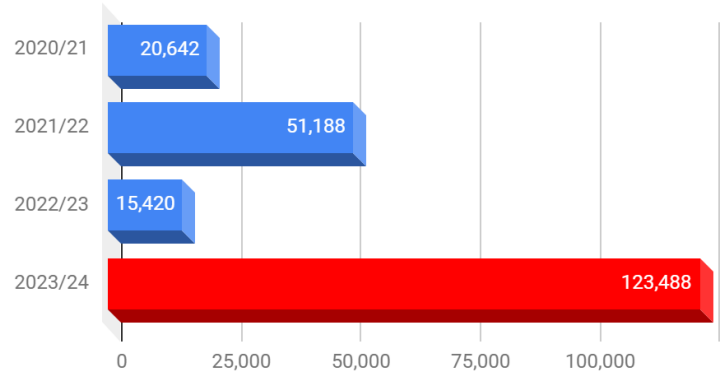
We use a number of services to filter Internet traffic for staff and students. This would include things like adult content, violence, illegal software and hacking. We have almost five times as many blocks since last year!

## Malware and Phishing Attacks

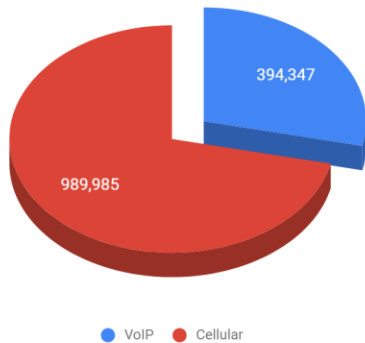
Two additional attacks that cause disruption to learning are Malware and Phishing. Malware is software used to attempt to infiltrate our systems and wreak havoc. This could include erasing data, locking out computers, or capturing data for ransom or to sell on the dark web. Phishing attacks are attempts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

Malware and Phishing attacks have also seen a massive increase since last year, reaching an average of 338 every day.

Malware and Phishing Attacks (year)



Total Calls incoming/outgoing Nov 2023 - Oct 2024



## Telephone Communications

We maintain a Voice over IP telephone system in all of our schools. There is a VoIP phone in every classroom, and virtually every room in every building. This is well over 500 telephone devices on our network that are in use every day. In addition, there are about 100 GHSD-owned cell phones.

Total minutes of all calls was 1,513,388.

## ActivBoard Replacement

With the support of the caretaking and facilities crew, all of the ActivBoards in our community schools were replaced with 86" ViewSonic ViewBoards. There are a handful of ActivBoards remaining in some of our colony schools. This was a large project that impacted every classroom in every school. The ViewBoards are much more feature rich, and combined with the dual monitors on every teacher desk has made them an incredibly valuable tool for Powerful Learning. And this has dramatically reduced the time and cost to manage, monitor, repair and keep our Interactive Whiteboard technology running.

## Account Automation

2023/2024 was the first full year of staff account automation - and it has been an overwhelming success. As new staff are hired and their information is entered into GHSD HR systems, their accounts - login ID's, passwords, locations - are all automatically created. This project has reduced errors and improved efficiency across all departments and buildings.

## **Hyper Converged Infrastructure**

This past Spring we replaced our data centre infrastructure with upgraded clusters. These three clusters are home to all of our virtual servers that run operations across all of our buildings. We also have a similar setup in our backup data centre located in another building. These clusters talk to each other in real time and backup data from one place to another. We expect this system to be in place for the next four years, at which time we plan to migrate all of our services into the Cloud.

## **Wired Infrastructure**

Our wired networks, which are managed by switches in all of our buildings, reached the ripe old age of 13 this past year, and we started to plan their evergreen replacement. After a detailed analysis and public RFP, we selected a switch manufacturer and began replacing our hardware this past Spring. The new switches have much more capacity, more connection points, better management and even improved uplinks to the rest of the building. We have taken advantage of this project to also improve our wiring closets, labelling, and cabling.

## **Notable:**

### *Upcoming Projects*

During the 2024/2025 school year there are a number of large scale technology projects. These include:

- Chromebook Evergreen refresh (1300-1500)
- Firewall and Internet upgrade
- PowerSchool Services and OS upgrades
- Business Continuity Plan refresh
- Cybersecurity investments / improvements - the volume of E-Mail, Web Filter blocks and Malware and Phishing attacks puts pressure on our systems.

## **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 technologies 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 10, 2024**

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### **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.

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Jeff Grimsdale  
Superintendent of Schools



## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM REPORT

Presented to the Board of Trustees by Jeff Grimsdale  
Superintendent of Schools  
Resource Persons: Carmen Spitzer, Michael Bradford

**December 10, 2024**

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**REPORTING PERIOD: 2023-2024**

### 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, 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 Hills International program is a unique and integral part of Golden Hills School Division. Since its inception in 2004, the Golden Hills International program has accommodated more than 5,120 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
2022-2023	230	246	10.5
2023-2024	255	297	6
2024-2025	271	307	3

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

Our numbers continue to increase as we participate in several in-person as well as virtual Fairs throughout the year. Agent and family tours were plentiful in August/September as we shared our excellent schools and programs with people from Japan, Korea 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 continual utility and transportation expenses, building upgrades and other factors.
- Homestay shortage in our Three Hills community.

The support our students receive from the schools and their communities is second to none. Each location welcomes the diverse student needs and appreciates the international connection.

## **GLOBAL COMPETENCY**

The development of global competencies through our International 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.

## **ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL)**

Golden Hills International Program highlighted the need for strong EAL intervention that raised the standards of programming provided to both resident and international students. The Golden Hills English Language Learning team is a collaborative group consisting of Instructional Coaches, an EAL Learning Academy teacher, and an Academic Advisor. Lead EAL teachers provide support within each school on an ongoing basis. These team members participate in Professional Development sessions including the Calgary Regional Consortium's Rural ESL Collaborative Team with other surrounding rural school divisions. The Golden Hills English Language Learning team also provides professional development and have contributed to course work available on the Powering Possibilities website, including virtual Think Tanks, and live sessions. The goals and priorities of this team includes ensuring the following supports for students for whom English is not their primary language:

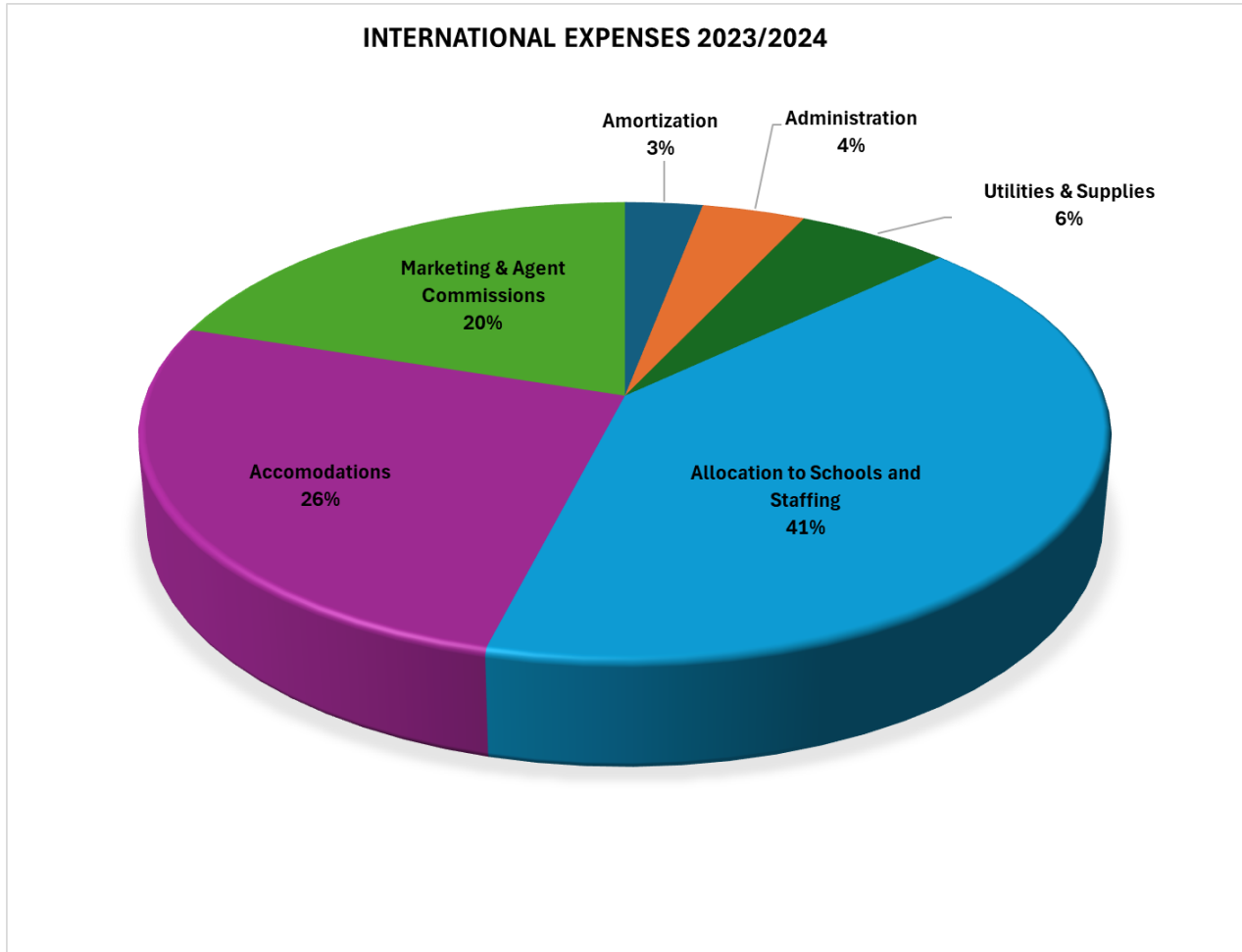
- Consistent ELL testing in the schools using formal and informal assessments.
- Enhanced tracking and reporting of ELL acquisition.
- Mental health support from a Cross-Cultural perspective to ELL's through evidence-based workshops, targeted presentations and individual and group counselling.
- Authentic assessment based on Alberta Education Benchmarks to determine each student's English Language Proficiency.
- Support for the ELL Proficiency Report Card, which is issued twice per 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 support was provided to each school to ensure alignment with the new Benchmarking requirements from Alberta Education.

## **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 Golden Hills 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.