1. **Welcome and Introductions**

2. **Antonia Ormston - ASCA conference overview**
   Antonia gave an overview of the conference, touching on the various sessions, and elections. Joy Morris touched on the motions that were passed at the meeting.

3. **Hollie Tarasewich - ASCA conference presentation/sharing**
   Hollie talked about the workshops she attended at the ASCA conference, all of which fell into the general theme of welcoming, safe, and caring learning environments. She brought handouts that she had picked up at the conference. She thanked the Board for their support of our delegates.

4. **Additions to the Agenda:**
   4.1. Minister’s statement on the Education Act (under Superintendent’s Report)

5. **Approval of Agenda:**
   Moved by Hollie Tarasewich, seconded Antonia Ormston - approved.

6. **Approval of the Minutes:**
   Moved by Hollie Tarasewich, seconded Nancy Mitchell - approved.

7. **Antonia Ormston, Duane Pike, Hollie Tarasewich, Jesy Malik, Joy Morris - ASCA conference presentation/sharing**
   Antonia, Duane, Hollie, Jesy, and Joy talked about the workshops they attended at the ASCA conference. One was about strategies for involving the community to ensure high school completion, and the difficulties encountered by those who fail to complete high school (about 30% of students). The presenters offered to make similar presentations to school councils if asked. Another was about inclusive education, and how to encourage that at home. Another was about dual credit programs (for work and school). Another was about LGBTQ student safety and inclusion. Another was about bullying prevention, and some resources were suggested as well as some strategies and consequences (you are free to choose, but you are not free of the consequences of your choices); Jesy has a slide presentation from this. Another was called Connected and Protected, about encouraging safe implementation and inclusion of technology. Another was about mental health. Another was about students with exceptional needs, and dealing with conflicts that arise in this context. Another was about the CTF (Career and Technologies Foundations) program for grades 5-9. Another was about strategies for reconciliation, but focused more on a particular program (graduation coaches) that Boards can implement to increase the graduation rate of FNMI students, than on anything for parents. An idea that arose out of this was that many FNMI parents are uncomfortable in schools due to the history of residential schools, and perhaps we could invite FNMI liaisons to present to school councils about how we can encourage FNMI parents to be more comfortable and hopefully active in their children’s schools. Another was about suicide prevention, which is a very important and timely issue, but disappointingly the statistics presented by the AHS representative were out of date. Another was about running effective meetings. Another was about welcoming refugees and other cultures, including being sensitive about language, food, encouraging mentorships, etc. A presentation from Lethbridge Family Services might provide more suggestions.

8. **Business Arising from the Minutes - none.**

9. **Portable classrooms/bathrooms**
   At Mike Mountain Horse, there are 684 kids and not enough bathrooms or stalls. There are lines that mean students who try to use the bathroom during recess don’t get recess. What can be done? Cheryl responded that currently we meet provincial building codes, and we do not get approved for portable bathrooms until we fail to meet code. This is an issue at several schools, both in terms of student numbers, and in terms of distance between classrooms and bathrooms. Cheryl and the Board will look into the precise implications of the code for when we will be able to expand the bathrooms at these schools, and will get these included in these minutes. A suggestion arose later in the meeting that this might be a good issue to bring forward to ASCA as a policy motion.
10. **Trustee Report** - Keith Fowler reported: The Board thanks parents for their attendance and engagement at the ASCA meeting, and the feedback they provided. Next year the Board will pay the registration fees up front for one parent per school, rather than reimbursing that expense.

The Board reviewed a number of policies and updated, removed, or amended them, or sent them back for further work.

The Copperwood school will be called Coalbanks Elementary. The city has already provided a playground.

Dawson Kennedy represented our District well as our nominee for an award, but was not put forward as the regional nominee.

The Board passed the budget as presented, but did hear concerns about the number of Educational Assistants. They see this as an ongoing challenge, both in terms of maintaining staff and paying for them. They have put money into providing time for teachers to take on some related work.

11. **Alberta School Councils Association Report** – Allison Pike was not able to be present. There has not been a Board meeting since the conference. Workshops are wrapping up across the province, and the first Board meeting is this coming weekend.

12. **Committee Reports**

12.1. Poverty Intervention Committee – the Committee held its annual appreciation luncheon for donors. Presentations from schools and kids who had been beneficiaries of funding were greatly appreciated by donors. This year was the first year bus passes were made available to students for attending extracurricular activities after school. There was limited uptake, but hopefully it will increase in the future. The Committee is suggesting to the Board that passes be made available to younger students, if their parents sign a form promising to accompany them when they use the pass.

12.2. Healthy Schools Committee – there was a meeting today. The ownership of Healthy Schools issues have been taken over more by individual schools, so this committee is discussing revising their role to be more of a steering committee, setting direction and coordinating the school-based activities.

12.3. Digital Citizenship Committee – haven’t met since the last report.

12.4. SAPDC – there was no report

12.5. Making Connections - there has not been a meeting. This standing committee was required by previous funding structures for Making Connections, but is no longer required, so will probably be laid down.

12.6. Community Engagement Committee - will have a meeting later this week, and welcomes input from parents. They are planning some events for the Fall. Feedback can be given to Hollie. Some suggestions for events were put forward.

13. **Duane Pike - ASCA conference presentation/sharing**

Duane added some additional information from the high school completion workshop, about programs that track students and try to analyze why they have dropped out if they do.

14. **District School Council Calendar of Events and Shared Opportunities:**

Lakeview raised $14,000 through their Fun Run. It will be an annual event.

15. **What is the role of DSC and DSC reps?**

LCI raised this question. It appears that DSC is becoming more involved in legislation and policies, but each representative is supposed to be representing their school; is this happening? Are the parent representatives for district committees being sought broadly from schools? Should our subcommittee that drafts policy for ASCA have broader representation? We all bring our own experiences to the table, but also have responsibility to represent the parents at our school.

This is an informal consultative and information-sharing body, not a decision-making body, as laid out by the DSC guidelines. The DSC has no control or say over how involved individual schools choose to become in ASCA. When we vote in DSC, it is typically to facilitate ASCA business if we choose to do so. Any parent can bring forward a policy motion for ASCA, and if it is approved by a school council or DSC then it will go to the floor of the ASCA AGM. The
DSC is not a legislated body. The role of the DSC is what the parents want to make it. Could staff be provided so that minutes are always provided in a timely fashion? Could a summary be provided more quickly? Committee representatives should be reporting to DSC if possible even if they don’t come from DSC, so that we all receive the information. These questions arose because of a survey that came from the Community Engagement Committee. Some school councils had the opportunity to respond to that survey, and others didn’t.

16. Superintendent’s Report:
Does the Superintendent know what policy areas the Minister is considering before implementing a new Act? The answer was speculative: probably the funding consequences of raising the ages for when students can leave school and the age to which they are funded; and of including students whose parents or guardians live in Canada but not in Alberta as funded students, which has implications for some boarding schools in particular. There were some questions raised about the “new” math curriculum, and the related outcomes, e.g. is there a diminished emphasis on numeracy? What are the strengths and weaknesses of our students in math? The feeling of the administrators’ present was that there is not a diminished emphasis on numeracy. Cheryl will provide more information about this, to be attached to these minutes. Would the DSC like a presentation on this, or a broader presentation aimed at more parents? This could be considered in the Fall, along with any other possible presentation topics that come forward.

17. Roundtable Reports:
Only two were circulated. No additional items were brought forward.

18. Adjournment.

19. Announcements. The next DSC Meeting will be October 3, with elections. The Resolutions Committee (developing policy resolutions to bring to ASCA) will meet Tuesday September 27 at 1 p.m. Any parent is welcome to attend. We will schedule some evening meetings also. There was discussion of the resolution process for ASCA.

High School Completion Framework Link:

ASCA 2016 – Bullying Prevention: Ripples & Dominoes: