1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- 11.B Parent Engagement task force added

- Added to Superintendent report:
  1) International Travel
  2) What does our SD do when a teacher is charged by the police?

Hollie Tarasewich approves agenda

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 2, 2015
Hollie T approves minutes

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
none

5. TRUSTEE REPORT – KEITH FOWLER

Report included in meeting package

- From #5 in report - LGBTQ will become a stand-alone policy added this year and will be taken out of the safe and caring policy

- From #6 in report - January 13th there will be a consultation for the new French immersion school on the west side and Spanish bi-lingual school in Copperwood

Discussion regarding provincial Bill 8 – it would establish a committee with representation from each school board. Likely to pass 3rd reading this week. Minister of Education spoke to SD51 Trustees in Edmonton this past week and the upcoming model will be two tier – local and provincial bargaining. The details of each level have not yet been reported. This piece of legislation will be in place by the end of 2015.

SD51 Board of Trustees met with the Ministers in October and most of what our trustees want in the Bill is in the legislation.

6. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – CHERYL GILMORE

2016-17 School Calendar – available on the district website at: http://www.lethsd.ab.ca/Calendar.php

Question asked - Do our schools have good participation from parents coming to parent-teacher interviews? High school tends to be about 25% parent participation, elementary schools 80-90% and middle school somewhere in the middle.
High schools are required to have 1000 instructional hours in a year and elementary/middle schools need to have 950 instructional hours.

Cheryl to share draft calendar and charts with Principals first so they can share with staff first and then it will come out with January board report.

*District Education Plan*

Summary report included in meeting package

Detailed report under planning and reporting on SD51 website and linked in the agenda package summary report

Assessment – tabled until next meeting

Question about International Travel – if the international travel rating stays the same, then all school travel plans will be cancelled. Nothing has been cancelled yet, but the board will discuss next Tuesday. If our insurers tell us we can’t travel, then trips will be cancelled. The two trips to the USA and Cuba over the Christmas holidays this year will be going.

Question about criminal charges and teachers – How does this work?
If a teacher is charged and enters a mental health program, can they return to teaching?

If charges are laid, a teacher will be removed from the classroom until the outcome is determined. The district consults with ASBA lawyers and proceeds from there. Everything is done on a case by case basis.

Question regarding ISP Program set-up (Instructional Support Plan) – Will it be much speedier next September?

Yes, this year training happened in the fall on the new program. This coming 2016-17 school year it will be much easier. Cheryl will figure out what the timelines will be and report back to the DSC next meeting.

7. ASCA – ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCIL ASSOCIATION

ASCA Motions 2016

Parent Engagement Task Force (Hollie is a parent rep) – ASCA asked parents across the province to answer questions and send back up to ASCA. SD51 has 6? members on this task force.

1st Q – about school fees – Hollie had not receive approval to be on the task force, so did not receive this one

2nd Q – Will be included in the minutes;

1. Most of our schools have a Trustee come once to several times per year to school council meetings.
2. Yes, see answer above.
3. Yes. The upcoming school calendar for example.
4. Do we want more information? No.
5. Our district has a Town Hall meeting 1x per year as a district level information session. Another example is the second language exploration meeting in January 2016. We also have a public budget presentation every year.

It is suggested that there is a parent engagement meeting earlier in the year to offer input into budget.

The Board of Trustees talks about the philosophy behind budget allocation and they leave it up to Administration to implement budget changes. Most of the budget is staff salaries and benefits (~80-90%), so there is really very little budget dollars to discuss in terms of discretionary spending.

Individual schools are supposed to discuss budget with their School Councils. Not all Administrators communicate the budget to their School councils. It is suggested that if parents want to be more involved in budget at the school level, then they need to make that clear at the school level with each schools own Principal. Parents have the right to talk with their school administrators about where funds should be allocated in philosophical terms and can ask for priorities to be justified.

Hollie would like a better idea of what the discretionary versus non-discretionary budget looks like.

Question - In the planning cycle, where is the best spot for school council input? Engage your school principal in these discussions at your school councils. School level engagement is probably your most powerful level to give valuable input on the budget, as by the time the budget gets to DSC it is too late to make any changes.

Hollie would like to ask the Board to reinforce to Administrators that they should discuss budget with school council and let school councils know they have a voice in budget and can and should ask questions. Keith Fowler will take this request to Cheryl Gilmore for her to bring up at the next Administrators meeting.

Edna’s question about budget – how do we get $ for the learning commons at Lethbridge Christian if the budget is already set?

Lethbridge Christian Society is responsible for the building, so capital costs could be discussed with them. (As per Keith Fowler)

8. SCHOOL REGISTRATION/FOPP PERMISSION FORMS – JOY MORRIS

Inquiry regarding FOIP Registration Forms – the info acquired last year at schools was name and phone numbers only. Joy would like to add “email addresses” to that as it would make it much easier for school councils to interact with parents via email.

Was there a plan for this? Did Cheryl say she would take this forward to Administrators?
9. DISTRICT SCHOOL COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS FOR ASC SPRING AGM

Suggested Resolutions - notes to be included in the minutes.

At your January school council meeting you will be asked to vote on all 5 of the ASCA resolutions and put your school name behind each resolution that your school council will sponsor – these will come out from LeeAnne Tedder to your school councils:

- (1) Timely provision of Portables; Everyone is in favor of the amendment to the ASCA Policy 10-10 regarding Portables
- (2) Regarding sexual education curriculum – the topic of consent will be added to the sexual education curriculum; motion is for ASCA to support the ASBA motion in this
- (3) PAT Visuals – the request is that Ab Ed provide common visual resources during the school year when curriculum is being taught and would then be used during PATs with common visuals; many children with disabilities would benefit from these visuals
- (4) IPP’s/ISP’s and other outcome based tools – request is that boards allow teaching staff the time to develop these IPP’s and ISP’s for the beginning of the school year; built into this a request from a DSC member to see an amendment made ‘would like to see an extenuating circumstances clause’
- (5) Motion to have reference guide/tool kit for parents/school councils for LGBTQ policies, procedures and best practices; everyone is in consensus.

10. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COMMITTEES

District Policy Advisory Committee – Allison
Aligning to the school council act; the reference to DSC was removed from the school council policy. Once policy is in place, will look at guidelines for DSC.

Poverty Intervention Committee – Joy

The first priority of the committee is always to fund food. In a typical year it is $15,000/year. This does not include school partnerships with other agencies. This year we have already received requests for $15,000. In the past we have funded up to 3 special projects per school - $1000/each. This year we decided that based on the level of requests for food, we will only cover food requests at this time. The Making Connections team is saying they have almost nothing left in their stores for winter coats and boots. At Wilson Middle School, they feed 80 students breakfast and would like to feed 80 lunch, but can only feed 20 at this time due to staffing. The Chambers of Commerce will be asked for money. The Committee is going to talk to SD51 Communications Officer about getting the word out for more donations. If schools can get estimates of what their needs will be for requests, then the committee will be able to see if they have enough $ to field special projects request. Schools are also asked to find out what their Making Connections workers need for supplies.

Healthy Schools Committee – Lyndsey
The HSC is looking at its structure and would like to be more focused on an action plan instead of members just coming and sharing information. A meeting in spring 2016 in collaboration with school health champions will make some decisions around this.

Digital Citizenship Committee – Hollie

First meeting January 6th from 6:00-7:00pm; if anyone would like to come from school councils, they are encouraged to get in touch with Allison Pike and Allison will connect them with Hollie.

SAPDC – Allison - no update

Making Connections – Brooke - no update

Trustee Community Engagement Committee – rep needed

Hollie volunteers to be a representative on this committee with Allison Pike as a second representative.

11. DISTRICT SCHOOL CALENDAR

Calendar was shared and will be available on the website once approved by the Board of Trustees.

12. ROUND TABLE REPORTS

Included in agenda

Meeting adjourned at: 8:20