SD51 - District School Council Meeting

May 2nd, 2016

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions - Start 6:30 pm. Superintendent explains the process for the three Student Celebration Presentations that will happen throughout the evening.
   - Student Celebration Presentation: Nicholas Sheran Leader In Me (see attached for more information).

2. Approval of Agenda - Shanea (Mike Mountain Horse) approved, Nancy (WCHS) second

3. Approval of Minutes from April 2016 Approved by Daniel (LCI), Brooklyn (Lakeview) second

4. Business Arising from the Minutes - NONE

5. Trustee Report – Keith Fowler highlighted a wonderful FNMI presentation that was given to the Board. The complete presentation can be found on the districts website; Policy 502.2 Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression passed second and third reading unanimously; A number of policies are under review - Policy 608.1 Counseling Services, Policy 1005.3 Advertising, Distribution and Merchandising In and Through Schools, and Policy 1001.3 Communications; Art's Alive and Well in Schools is running from May 1st - June 12th with approximately 425 pieces of student art; Reminder that the Board will be hosting a public Preliminary 2016/2017 Budget Presentation on Tuesday, May 24th, 2016 beginning at 6:30 pm. at the Education centre.
   - Student Celebration Presentation: Wilson Middle School Integration of Technology (see attached for more information).

6. Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) – Allison Pike gave a brief discussion on the ASCA AGM & Conference that was held April 23rd & 24th in Edmonton. There were 11 parents from our district that attended, one of the largest representations from SD# 51 to ever attend. All five resolutions and the one proposed revision was/were passed on the floor of the assembly, and five of these items were submitted from our District School Council Resolution Committee. Allison explained that the Minister of Education was the key note speaker for Saturday and spoke to how the new budget affected education. Minister Eggen expressed how parent engagement is not only important, but the key to success. He discussed additional funding to inclusive education, what is happening with the PAT's, that school districts will not be exempt from the new carbon tax levy and many times stated "judge me by my actions". For the June District School Council meeting, Allison would like all those that attended to bring all
the materials they gathered from the weekend and speak briefly to a couple of the workshops they chose and share that experience with all those present.

7. **Reports from District Committees:**

- District Policy Advisory Committee: - Allison Pike reported - Three draft policies will be sent out to school council reps shortly to share and send feedback.

- Poverty Intervention Committee: - No report.

- Healthy Schools Committee: Trustee Donna Hunt reported - A large forum was held to look at all the programs they are doing and supporting and to have discussion on what is working or needs changing.

- Digital Citizenship Committee: - Hollie Tarasewich reported - Aprils scheduled meeting was cancelled. Reminded those in attendance to please review their schools websites (things they like, links that don't work, etc.) and email any feedback to holliet@shaw.ca

- SAPDC: - No new information to report.

- Making Connections: - Have not met. At this time, based on a fluctuating budget it is not sure if this committee will be able to stay as a standing committee.

- Community Engagement Committee: - Hollie Tarasewich reported. Please see attached report.

  - **Student Celebration Presentation: LCI Dual Credit Classes (see attached for more information).**

8. **District School Council Calendar of Event and Shared Opportunities** - Bring Your Own Bylaws Workshop #2 is scheduled for Monday, May 16th at 6:30 pm. at the Education Centre; Public Budget Presentation scheduled for Tuesday May 24th starting at 6:30 pm at the Education Centre. A nod of appreciation was given to Garrett Simmons, the District Communications Officer who does a fantastic job of posting, sharing, and notifying the community on school centered activities throughout the district.

9. **District School Council Facebook Page** - Allison Pike reported that a Facebook page for the District School Council has been set up. This is for information sharing only and not discussion.

10. **Superintendent’s Report** – Cheryl Gilmore reported that feedback has been successfully received from the online questionnaire regarding the Boards new Vision and Mission, which is currently in draft form. The district would still like more feedback, see link on District website. A short questionnaire/survey will be mailed out to all school council reps to have their councils respond and rate how effective certain mechanisms have been for parent engagement with the
district (ie. Town Hall Meeting). This request has come from discussion at the Community Engagement Committee, and the Board would like feedback on how they are doing.

- **Question for the Superintendent:** Can schools have their own Facebook pages? Answer: Yes. There is a district policy on the Responsible Use of Technology that will have an addendum to be added stating that the Communications Officer, Garrett Simmons must be made an administrator of the page. The district needs to have the ability to shut it down should posts or dialogue take an unbecoming turn. The policy will be more clearly defined by the fall; and will include such things as district social media guidelines and school councils & Facebook pages.

- **Question for the Superintendent:** Can or will the district make every school run the Leader In Me Program? Answer: No. The district would never mandate any school that they 'must' run or offer a certain program. The district understands the costs behind such programs and as such some schools could afford or fundraise to offer something, but other schools may not be able to. The district also firmly believes that a school should have the passion, the 'buy in' for offering such a program as all the staff need to be engaged and part of it.

- **Question for the Superintendent:** Will there need to be a parent training presentation on the new system that is replacing HomeLogic? Answer: No. At the moment district administration is getting set up on the system. The Superintendent has accessed the parent part of it and has found it very straightforward and super easy to use.

- **Question for the Superintendent:** In reality, aren't all achievement tests meant to test "Teachers"? Answer: No. Achievement tests were created to with the intent to measure systems, not individual students; for example to be able to compare Lethbridge school district with Calgary school district as districts as a whole. Over time, reporting of these tests has changed for public consumption - the ability to rank individual schools, to give the appearance that one school may have low scores because the teacher instruction is also poor. What the achievement tests fail to have in place are measurements for socio-economic statistics which may greatly affect test results with no fault to anyone.

11. Roundtable Reports

12. Adjournment 8:38pm - Next meeting: Dinner meeting (buffet style) with ASCA Conference information available on Monday, June 6th beginning at 6:00 pm.
Monday, May 2, 2016

Good evening, everyone.

My name is Zara Enayetullah. I am 6 years old. I am a Grade 1 student at Nicholas Sheran Community School, a Leader in Me school.

The Leader in Me philosophy is that each student can be a leader. Each of us is responsible for our own actions. It includes 7 Habits that help us to make better choices, so we can be responsible, young citizens.

This evening, I will talk about how this philosophy promotes leadership and learning at Nicholas Sheran Community School.

At my school, you will find students running the assembly. The student-run assembly teaches the 1st of the 7 Habits: Be Proactive. If it’s a morning assembly, then I and other students help set up chairs and benches. When I see my fellow students running the school assembly, I see students being responsible and taking charge. This is a philosophy that I will hopefully take with me even when I grow up.

My school participates in the Rocky Mountain Book Award. I am a member of this book club. I had to plan my time so that I would read 5 books between September and April. This teaches me the 2nd habit: Begin with the end in mind. Always have a plan.
Nicholas Sheran has a group called the Student Lighthouse Team, of which I am a member. We work together to come up with ideas to make our school great. Just before Christmas holidays last year, we celebrated with a fun pizza party. We were practicing the 3rd habit: Put 1st things 1st. First work, then play.

Recently a new student joined my Grade 1 class. This student is new to Canada and is learning English. My teacher sometimes pairs me with this student: we might play a card game together, or play Tic Tac Toe. I learn more about him, and he learns new English words. Both of us have to listen to each other carefully and work together. Having a student in our class who is new to Canada and learning English is an experience that teaches 3 habits to my class. Number one: Think win-win – everyone is a winner because we can all learn something new. Next, Seek first to understand, then to be understood. And it teaches all of us about Synergizing, which means working together.

Finally, I come to something that my school does on Fridays. It is called Enrichment. Enrichment is all about teaching us how to balance our lives. In other words, Sharpen the saw. Activities include: Card and Domino Games, Puppet Making, Yoga, Nature walks, and Spring Art. I signed up for the Walking Club. We walk around the school area. It really helps me in the way that my body is happy, my mind and brain are happy too because my mind gets to learn and see many new things like different types of flowers.

Nicholas Sheran Community School works hard to improve their students’ happiness. It guides us to make better choices in a situation. This is a lifestyle approach that I can use as I get older.

Thank you very much for inviting me and for listening to my talk.
Community Engagement Committee

April 25th, 2016

- Discussion with Christine Lee regarding the district starting a foundation or being part of Community Foundations. Christine met with George Hall and shared from that meeting and what the district is doing now. We manage approximately 80 Scholarship Trust Accounts totalling $473,000.00, of this amount $320,000.00 are endowment funds - only the interest earned may be expended each year. Decision to not become a "Foundation" as we are already a registered charity and incorporated under the School Act, and we are essentially acting as our own foundation.

- The 2012 ASBA Community Engagement Survey was updated and has been given to the committee members to review; are there any areas that have gaps? where are they/what are they? what has a high impact or a low impact?

- Discussion on the Board Vision and Mission and 2016-2017 District Priorities. The District Priorities went from 4 Priorities to 3, the first one (1) Supporting Student Achievement and Closing the Achievement Gap - stayed the same; the second one (2) Supporting the Implementation of Initiatives Designed to Develop Innovative Thinkers - came from all the feedback from the Town Hall Meeting; and the third one (3) Supporting Student Diversity - is new. The District is currently working on strategies to follow through with the 3 Priorities.

- Lengthy discussion on the committee focussing on an initiative to raise funds; scholarship(s) tied to the new district Vision - "Innovative Thinkers" and tie in Canada's 150th Birthday next year. Great discussion and creative thought! The funds raised could then be put into the Community Foundation for a higher return and have it grow as reserves.

- Next Meeting: Thursday, May 19th at 6:00 pm
WILSON MIDDLE SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY
Why Does Wilson Do Announcements?

Because it is an easy way to keep students and staff updated on current events taking place at Wilson. With the help of Mr. Greve a grade 8 math/science teacher, we are able to broadcast daily announcements to every classroom with his Tricaster. A device that allows him to change the back round and add effects, to keep students motivated while they watch the announcements.
How Mr. Greve films the assemblies.

Throughout the year Wilson hosts many assemblies and fundraiser events. Before the events start Mr. Greve is already prepping the gym with his tech. First he sets up his camera on his rotatable tripod, so he can film the entire gym. He also, with the help of other staff, sets up three screens and three projectors that capture what he films with his camera, and enlarges it to show anyone watching a close up image of the person on stage.

Leadership conference 2016

Another example
HOW TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WILSON.

If you would like to find out more about Wilson you can find us on our Wilson website, just search on google for “Wilson middle school Lethbridge“, and it should be the first icon to show up, then click on it. On the website you will find teacher links to learn more about teachers, and from there, you can also find Wilson’s YouTube channel. And other updated newsletters containing information considering current events, sports, and previous recorded assemblies and fundraisers.
Thanks for watching!
The University of Lethbridge/ LCI dual credit program is a partnership between Alberta Education, the University of Lethbridge, and Lethbridge School District 51. The program offers high school students at LCI an opportunity to take University level courses while in their grade 11 and 12 years. Students receive credit for a high school 30 level option, offered as a locally developed course, and University of Lethbridge credit for the course(s) they take. The idea around the program is to provide a supportive atmosphere to enable students to excel academically as well as ease the transition into post-secondary education. At this presentation, LCI students shared their perspectives with the program, having completed dual credit courses this academic year.

Gerald Rogers (grade 12) – Gerald took only the Systems and Supply Chain 1850 class. He shared how his personal business interests motivated him to take the class. He found the course to require a great degree of intrinsic motivation, but enjoyed the challenge. He found that the group work and presentation components to be stretching, but encouraged him to develop skills in compromising and time-management. In all, he found the experience of the dual credit class to be positive and one that would prepare him for the diverse experiences in post-secondary environments. He is already enrolled at the University of Lethbridge.

Hannah Middleton (grade 11) – Hannah took both of the dual credit courses and commented on how different each class was. She noted that both classes required a degree of diligence and time management in order to be successful. She also noted the significance of critical thinking in each of the classes and how challenging it was to think outside of a defined curriculum. Having permission to explore big questions allowed an academic freedom in the courses.

Nick Swidinsky (grade 11) - Nick took the Liberal Education 1000 class and commented on the diversity in the course. As an introduction course to the liberal education vision of the university, this class explored the diverse ways people construct knowledge of the world around us. Nick commented on the ability that students had to develop projects that stretched their understanding of the broad question of, “What we eat?” He too commented on the necessity of students to learn self-motivation and discipline to do well in the class.