District School Council Minutes for January 16, 2017

Prior to the meeting, there were presentations on Literacy as a District Priority in District 51: one focusing on the K-3 level, and one on the grade 4-9 level.

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
   Joey Gentile, the principal for the new Coalbanks school attended the meeting and was welcomed.

2. **Additions to the Agenda:** none.

3. **Approval of Agenda:**
   Moved by Amanda Cross, seconded Katrina Neil - approved.

4. **Approval of the Minutes:**
   Moved by Cindy Veluw, seconded Amanda Cross - approved.

5. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

   5.1. **Math Parent Tutoring Opportunity (grades 6–9) update**
       Joy Morris reported that these sessions will begin this Wednesday, January 18, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 127 at GS Lakie. They are strictly drop-in and there will be no expectation that parents at a session have been to any of the other sessions, although they will focus on different material each week for those who don’t have their own questions. She has about 15 math education students volunteering to help, and the schools have provided excellent publicity and support.

6. **Trustee Report - Keith Fowler reported:**
   At their December meeting, the Board met local students who won an Independent Order of Odd Fellows speech competition for this zone. As their prize, they will be going to the United Nations Pilgrimage for Youth next July in New York.
   The calendar dates for 2017-18 and 2018-19 were reviewed and approved, as were several policies. The Town Hall topic has been finalised and invitations have been sent out.

7. **Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) Report** – Allison Pike reported that the annual conference and general meeting will be April 28-30. School councils should consider who they will send to the meeting. ASCA held its Board Meeting this past weekend, and Paul Lamoureux who is one of the Ministry people in charge of the curriculum redesign came to discuss that with the ASCA board. In May and June there will be local focus groups for further parent feedback; locally these will be run by SAPDC.

8. **Reports from District Committees**

   8.1. **District Policy Advisory Committee.** Laura Scarpelli reported that the committee reviewed a number of policies and will be circulating drafts with some changes for further feedback. An email with these will be sent to LeeAnne to be distributed to school councils for discussion.

   8.2. **Poverty Intervention Committee** Joy Morris reported that the committee had provided over $15,000 to school food programs, 26 $1000 grants for special projects, and agreed to buy stands and decorations for some Christmas trees that had been donated to FNMI families. They also agreed to fund the purchase of hygiene kits for the 2017-18 Ready, Set, Go fair on a one-time basis. Heather Paul and Trina Tymko noted that they had not been informed of the meeting.

   8.3. **Healthy Schools Committee** Laura Scarpelli reported that visual aids have been produced with information around poverty, anxiety, stress, social media pressures, and other health topics, and will be posted around schools. Cafeteria food choices were also discussed, including the issues
raised by contracting out. Start times were discussed; our district is the earliest to start by about
1/2-hour.

8.4. **SAPDC** will be meeting on January 25. Amanda Cross has not received communication about
the meeting.

8.5. **Community Engagement** met Wednesday. The scholarship breakfast will be on February 14
from 7-9 a.m., at the Coast hotel. All details are finalised now, with a cost of $50/ticket. Informa-
tion is on the district web site. The proposed scholarship is innovative and the information
has now been circulated to students. Please share this information at school councils and en-
courage parents and businesses to buy tickets. The suggestion was made that some people
might wish to sponsor students to attend the breakfast.

8.6. **District School Council Resolution Committee** Joy Morris reported that our resolutions have
been submitted, and should appear on the ASCA web site shortly,
http://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/?page=AGM.

9. **District School Council Calendar of Events and Shared Opportunities**
Please distribute information about the math drop-in sessions for parents. This has been emailed to
school councils.

10. **Superintendent’s Report - Cheryl Gilmore**

10.1. **Town Hall Meeting** The structure will be slightly different from past years, with some
movement. The question examined will be what strategies can be used to develop innovative
thinkers, with a focus on looking for actionable strategies; involving parents, community, busi-
nesses, etc. The invitation is open if schools have more interest than assigned spots; register
online if possible.

10.2. **Report cards** PowerSchool told us that they had no plans to make printable report cards
possible (their old version had this capability). Accordingly, the district has hired a programmer
to work with PowerSchool to create a solution. We expect it to be ready for the next report
card cycle. The plan is to be able to go into the parent view and click a button to access a print-
able pdf.

11. **Roundtable Reports**
are in the agenda for information.

12. **Adjournment**

13. **Announcements**. The next DSC Meeting will be on March 6.