District School Council Minutes for November 7, 2016

Prior to the meeting, there was a presentation on Mental Health and Support Services in District 51.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Additions to the Agenda:
   2.1. Parent Drivers (under 11, Superintendent’s Report)
   2.2. Middle School Science camps for girls (under 10, District School Council Calendar of Events and Shared Opportunities)
   2.3. Drop-in group for parents who want to help their kids with math homework (under 10, District School Council Calendar of Events and Shared Opportunities)
   2.4. District student advisory council (under 5.3, Topics for professional learning)
   2.5. School benches (under 11, Superintendent’s Report)

3. Approval of Agenda:
   Moved by Cindy Veluw, seconded Shelley Roest - approved.

4. Approval of the Minutes:
   Moved by Amanda Cross, seconded Lyvia Hughes - approved.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes
   5.1. Provincial Curriculum Development Survey deadline Nov. 18
       All parents are encouraged to fill out the survey, http://fluidsurveys.com/s/curriculumsurvey/
   5.2. School Council Contact Lists and District email accounts
       Every school council now has an email account provided by the district. Principals have the addresses and passwords to provide continuity; at least 3 individuals including the principal should have the password. School councils are asked to use these accounts beginning next year if not this year. These email addresses can be publicly posted on the school web sites for ease of parent use. LeeAnne will continue to send messages to the individual contact addresses she has been given.
   5.3. Topics for Professional Learning
       We have a complete plan for professional learning topics for the year. The list will be attached to these minutes. District Student Advisory Council Hollie Tarasewich suggested that we might want to hear the views and opinions of this group of students at some future meeting.

6. Trustee Report - Keith Fowler reported:
   At their October meeting, the Board held their organizational meeting. Mich Forster continues as Board Chair, and Don Lacey is now the Vice Chair. There was a presentation on inclusive education, and the 3 levels of intervention. The slides from this presentation are available from the District web page, at http://www.lethsd.ab.ca/view.php?action=documents&id=1559. Joy Morris made a presentation during the public forum about the benefits of later start times for secondary students. The Board will discuss this further at a future meeting. The Board passed third and final reading of policy 400.1.1, a policy for staff members on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. They will be having Breakfast with the Board at Westminster school tomorrow morning. The Director of Finance was honoured with the designation of Certified Administrator of School Finance and Operations. More details are in the written report that was attached to the agenda.

7. Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) Report – Allison Pike reported that tomorrow at 9:30am and at 8:30 pm (each time for an hour) there will be a special webinar on the curriculum development survey that all parents are welcome to join.

8. Reports from District Committees
   There seems to have been a gap in communication with the new parent reps to all committees; Cheryl will look into this.
8.1. **District Policy Advisory Committee**. Laura Scarpelli reported that this committee met and reviewed policies. Policies on policy development, guiding principles, poverty intervention, school 3-year education plan and annual education results reports were reviewed, and minor revisions were suggested. Feedback should be sent via Laura to the committee by November 14.

8.2. **Poverty Intervention Committee** has not met.

8.3. **Healthy Schools Committee** Laura Scarpelli reported that the committee will be running a health forum tomorrow at the Exhibition in the morning with representatives from each school (a school administrator and health coordinator from each school has been invited). The committee is looking for a new emphasis for its work, and hopes the forum will help them find such an emphasis.

8.4. **SAPDC** will be meeting on Wednesday of this week.

8.5. **Community Engagement** will be meeting tomorrow. They have decided to implement a new scholarship focused on innovation in learning, based on the Board’s new focus on innovative learners. There will be 4 scholarships awarded to high school students: two in grades 9-10, and two in grades 11-12; the intention is to make the amount substantial, perhaps in the range of $1000 per scholarship. A scholarship breakfast is scheduled for February 14, and they will be awarding scholarships beginning in June. The committee will report further on this work in December. Currently they are trying to develop a rubric to evaluate and compare innovation across disciplines, including its impact (while recognizing that impact can only truly be measured over time). The Chamber of Commerce is a partner and will be involved in the selection committee.

8.6. **District School Council Resolution Committee** Joy Morris reported, with a short discussion of each of the 8 resolution proposals. All DSC representatives are asked to take the proposals back to their school councils for feedback and direction. Any questions can be directed to Joy ([joy.morris@uleth.ca](mailto:joy.morris@uleth.ca)). For each of the proposals, each school council is asked to decide:
   (a) should the school council’s DSC representative vote in favour of the Lethbridge DSC bringing this proposal forward to ASCA? (A school council may also suggest amendments to any of the proposals.)
   (b) is the school council willing to consider moving or seconding this proposal at the ASCA AGM in April? (Every motion must be moved and seconded by a school council at the AGM.)

Voting will take place at the December DSC meeting to determine which proposals will be forwarded to ASCA. There will then be several months for feedback from school councils across the province on the proposals that get that far.

Cheryl pointed out that some of the points called for in the motion about behaviour guidelines for persons working on school property during school hours are in fact already in place.

No motion was written about bathrooms because the people on the committee discovered that there is already a clause in the building code that applies specifically to numbers of toilets in elementary schools (1 per 25 females and 1 per 30 males, with the number of females and males based on the building’s “occupancy load”), and the committee members didn’t have the experience or expertise to formulate and justify a specific proposal that would be an improvement over the existing clause.

There was some discussion of how to manage school council time so that these policy proposals don’t overwhelm local issues.

9. **December District School Council Meeting (December 5)** This was included on the agenda as a reminder since the Dec. 5 meeting date was not on the October agenda.

10. **District School Council Calendar of Events and Shared Opportunities**

There is a calendar on the district web site for school events, [http://www.lethsd.ab.ca/view.php?action=calendar&id=249](http://www.lethsd.ab.ca/view.php?action=calendar&id=249).

10.1. **Middle School Science Camps for girls** - the university runs science camps for girls for 6 Friday afternoons (from 12-3) at all 3 middle schools. Dates vary; cost is $35 for the 6 weeks. The first ones begin on November 18 at Paterson and Wilson, with the Lakie one starting in February. Parents can register their child(ren) at
http://www.uleth.ca/destination-exploration/register; registration for the Lakie program opens on November 15.

10.2. **Drop-in group for parents who want to help their kids with math homework.** Joy Morris is a math professor at the university, and is interested in working with the District to set up this opportunity if parents are interested. Logistics and details are still to be worked out. Please mention this at your school councils and assess the level of interest.

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

11.1. **Town Hall Meeting topic** last year’s topic was developing mission, vision, and guiding principles for the district. We have those now. One idea for this year’s topic is to take a closer look at the new vision and mission statements and try to get feedback for a common understanding of what that means and what we feel that should look like in a school. What does successful mean? What should schools be doing to move students towards success? Cheryl is looking for feedback on that idea, and for any other ideas for the town hall. The Board will decide this at their meeting on November 29, so any feedback would need to be received by Cheryl by November 18.

11.2. **Provincial Exam results** are on the district web site under Planning & Reporting, Provincial Exam Reports: http://www.lethsd.ab.ca/view.php?action=documents&id=95. School education plans are due at the end of November, all schools will review their reports with Executive council during November and will post them by the end of November, also on the planning & reporting page. Our students’ provincial exam results have been behind the province at the grade 9 level in all subject areas for some time, although typically we have been ahead of the province at the grade 6 level. We have been working on strategies to improve this. A new literacy strategy has been incorporated into all school plans. The middle schools have a new common assessment strategy and tool, although the new levelled literacy tools that the district has acquired for grades 1-6 are not very applicable for grades 7 and higher. The goal is that all students will advance at least one grade level in their literacy skill in each year, and each student will be assessed every year. Transitioning to high school may be an issue. The district is looking at middle school outcomes. It was suggested that encouraging improvement in these skills could be a town hall topic. Availability of homework and exam questions online was raised. It was also noted that the kids in grade 6 this year haven’t taken PATs before. There is a process through which parents can opt their child out of PATs, but every child has to take Diploma exams in Grade 12 as a component of their final grade. Not writing a diploma exam leads to an incomplete grade in the course, which does not provide credit.

11.3. **Parent drivers** Some parents are uncomfortable with parents driving kids for field trips, particularly in relation to the lack of booster seat laws in Alberta. This issue arose from Dr. Probe school. The question was raised of whether or not parents could be billed for school buses in lieu of having parent drivers, and more generally it was asked whether this is an issue at other schools. Galbraith reported that they used to have parent drivers, sometimes a problem as some didn’t show up. The school council now provides money for busing kids on field trips. The same is true at Park Meadows. At Lakeview parents drive for most field trips. At Agnes Davidson field trips are all on buses, paid for from the school budget. These are decisions made at each school. The district policy on what is required of volunteer drivers is similar to the policies in other districts.

11.4. **School benches** The term “buddy bench” isn’t used in District 51, although a similar concept can be used under other names. There are several benches of this sort in the district (Fleetwood, Buchanan, Nicholas Sheran). A business had offered to sponsor these at all schools and the elementary administrators discussed the offer and saw the concept of a buddy bench (as introduced historically) as not following the spirit of the ways they are trying to foster inclusion. After a new bench was built at a school whose administrators had not been involved in that discussion, a new discussion was held by administrators at elementary schools. They collectively decided (though without universal agreement) that they didn’t want the historical associations of buddy
benches associated with any benches they chose to have at their schools, but might welcome these benches under other names and with slightly different philosophies.

12. Roundtable Reports
   are in the agenda for information.

13. Adjournment

14. Announcements. The next DSC Meeting will be on December 5.
Chinook High School Hosts

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION:
PARENTING TEENS IN 2016

November 23
7-9pm
Chinook High School
Media Centre
Please RSVP to:
www.surveymonkey.com/r/FVYZRK8

Light snacks and refreshments will be served!

7-9:00pm

Alison Lux - Stress & Anxiety
Q&A
Bruce Lyon - Teens and Today’s Substance Use
Q&A

In partnership with:
- Alberta Health Services
- Lethbridge School District #51
- The Public Library
- University of Lethbridge Nursing Program
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<td>November 7, 2016</td>
<td>Mental Health and Support Services for Students in Lethbridge School District No. 51</td>
<td>Cayley King</td>
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<td>December 5, 2016</td>
<td>Alberta School Council Association Resolutions</td>
<td>Joy Morris</td>
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<td>January 16, 2017</td>
<td>Literacy as a District Priority and how parents can support literacy growth in the home. (concurrent session for elementary and secondary)</td>
<td>Bev Smith and TBD</td>
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<td>February 7, 2017</td>
<td>Town Hall</td>
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<td>March 6, 2017</td>
<td>Technology Software: What are students using in schools and what can be accessed from home?</td>
<td>Rik Jesse and/or Karen Rancier</td>
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<td>April 3, 2017</td>
<td>Numeracy: What is numeracy \nWhat programs are in place in schools and how can parents support numeracy skills at home?</td>
<td>Karen Rancier? Other facilitator?</td>
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<td>May 1, 2017</td>
<td>FNMI: District programs and support services; provincial Truth and Reconciliation focus in curriculum and instruction; strategies for School Councils connecting with parents</td>
<td>Jackie Lever</td>
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<td>June 5, 2017</td>
<td>Dinner Meeting</td>
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