District School Council Minutes for May 1, 2017

Prior to the meeting, there was a presentation on strategies for engaging First Nations, Métis, and Inuit parents in our school councils and in other school activities.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of Agenda:
   Moved by Amanda Cross, seconded Jana Roth - approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes from March 2017:
   Moved by Edna Asem, seconded Lyvia Hughes - approved.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

   4.1. LCI School Council letter re: provincial resolution process
   A table containing notes of the feedback received from school councils on this issue is attached.
   In summary, all councils that responded replied that it is important for District School Council to discuss broader education issues, but many noted that they are more likely to circulate this information in print than discuss it in detail at local meetings, and several expressed a concern that any issues discussed have some direct relevance to our own district.
   Most (but not all) wanted to continue to provide the opportunity for parent representatives to work together on writing resolutions for ASCA. Significant comments and concerns on this and on the process for this included:
   • a broad desire to focus the process of ASCA resolutions more at the level of individual school councils;
   • the suggestion to discuss issues and coordinate resolutions with input from members of our Board of Trustees where appropriate;
   • ensuring that the committee is not open only to DSC representatives;
   • concern that the importance of a resolution not be minimised simply because it may not be relevant to all levels of schools (e.g. high school vs. elementary);
   • the idea that such a committee could serve more as advisory, helping school councils that have concerns to develop resolutions;
   • concern that representatives and parents make meetings of DSC on provincial issues more efficient by increasing preparation;
   • concern that resolutions get confusing and turn parents off, especially when there are many of them;
   • concern that it is backwards to have individuals developing policies before discussing the issues at their school council.
   There was widespread agreement that for the development of resolutions, District School Council should only be used for coordination and advice (including seeking additional sponsors for motions coming from individual school councils), unless there is a resolution around an issue that is of concern to all of our district.

   4.2. Volunteers for sub-committee to organise ATA/District School Council sponsored School Trustee Candidate forum
   Shelley Roest, Joy Morris, Duane Pike, Hollie Tarasewich, Allison Purcell-Pike, and Jana Roth volunteered. Cheryl will put this group in touch with the correct person at the ATA.
5. **Trustee Report - Keith Fowler reported:**

At their April meeting the Board recognised an LCI student who won the 3A girls’ provincial wrestling championship. They had a presentation from the Secondary Healthy Schools Coordinator about projects at LCI (including lunch time intramurals and standing desks). They reorganised where the foundational statements (mission, vision, etc.) fit into Board policy. The superintendent passed her summative evaluation with flying colours, and has been offered a 4-year contract renewal (subject to permission from Minister of Education). The public budget presentation will be on May 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Education Centre, and the budget debate and approval will be on May 30 at 10 a.m. Mark DeBoer is the new Director of Finance. Churchill staff were recognised for successfully performing CPR on a student in December (her genetic heart condition had been previously undiagnosed). She is doing well.

6. **Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) Report - ASCA Conference** – Allison reported that a letter has been sent out to parents from the district about Bill 1, including a summary of a letter from the Minister of Education.

The next round of curriculum consultation sessions will be starting soon; there are some sessions on May 8 (morning science, social, wellness and afternoon math, English, others). SAPDC can also run these sessions at school council meetings if requested. There is a registration link as the main banner announcement at [https://sapdc.ca/en/welcome-to-sapdc](https://sapdc.ca/en/welcome-to-sapdc). You must register for both morning and afternoon if you want to go to both.

One of 5 ASCA School Parent of Distinction Awards was awarded to Joy Morris. The nomination came from Agnes Davidson School Council. Barry Litun (the previous superintendent here) received the President’s Award.

The AGM and conference took place this weekend. The Blanket Exercise on the first evening was really well-done and would be great for schools or school councils. Edmonton Police presented about fentanyl. Telus presented about internet safety. There were many great breakout sessions with lots of options, including one on anxiety in children. There was a great turnout, including about 300 participants. All of the resolutions that were presented passed with significant discussion and enthusiasm. Numerous participants expressed amazement and appreciation at how much we have been accomplishing in Lethbridge in terms of activity, resolutions, etc. It was a great experience and opportunity to network and learn from other parents, and to meet and have the ear of experts and Ministry representatives. Thanks to the District for providing this opportunity. Those who attended would be happy to provide a more detailed presentation to those who are interested, at the Board and at the next District School Council meeting.

7. **Reports from District Committees**

7.1. **District Policy Advisory Committee.** Joy Morris reported that the committee met in early April and sent out 5 policies about Board representatives and Board Committees for feedback. Feedback is due this Friday, May 5. The committee’s next meeting will be on May 10.

7.2. **Poverty Intervention Committee** Trina reported that it was a great meeting. The E-Free donation was targeted to food and basic supplies. This frees up some of our regular funds for other initiatives. The committee sought and received suggestions on how to spend these funds, and is still exploring options. Some things that will probably go ahead include FNMI literacy kits for them to keep at home (but not just FNMI); emergency gift cards and bags of food and recipe
cards for weekends (piloted at 2 schools starting in June); bed bug zappers (still seeking information on this); dual language books for ELL students. The committee’s annual recognition lunch will be on May 25, with a meeting following the lunch. A suggestion was made that transportation might be a helpful part of the weekend kits.

7.3. Healthy Schools Committee Laura Scarpelli reported that there is a nature theme this year for Mental Health Awareness week. There are some events around town; a link is on district website: [http://www.lethsd.ab.ca/view.php?action=object&id=49693&stream=Homepage%20News](http://www.lethsd.ab.ca/view.php?action=object&id=49693&stream=Homepage%20News). Events include YWCA yoga in the park, and Coulee Clean-up. The committee received reports from some schools on how they are encouraging wellness, eg. after-school spin clubs; fitness groups; Moonlight Run; Wilson will have an outdoor workout space (funded through grants). The Gay-Straight Alliance conference was well-attended with 75 kids (not all from this district, although it was held here).

7.4. SAPDC The next meeting will be May 3.

7.5. Community Engagement Heather Paul reported that the committee discussed the outcomes from the Town Hall meeting, and how the committee can help these things happen and also help plan for future Town Halls. There was also discussion of parent education and how that could work well, eg. tED talks. There was also some discussion of parent involvement in mentorship, and how to get parents to share their skills and expertise as mentors with students (not necessarily in person). There are about 10 local apprenticeship committees that could potentially fit into this process.

8. Superintendent’s Report - Cheryl Gilmore reported:
Cheryl said that the main points she had to report were discussed elsewhere in the meeting. All schools are part of the new nutrition program that the Ministry has announced, but we don’t have all the details for this yet.

9. Roundtable Reports
are in the agenda for information. Lethbridge Christian grade 8 students won the competition and will be going to Halifax in June for a week. Thanks to those who voted for them. May 29 4-7p.m. will be the Making Connections Clothing Exchange at GS Lakie. All sizes (infant through adult) are welcome, as well sporting supplies such as skates.
The Superhero Fun Run fundraiser on May 10 at 5 p.m. will be raising funds for the playground at Lakeview. They will start with the 5k run and then 5 minutes later start the 2k run rather than having them sequentially, so it won’t be as long an evening. There is a Canadian superhero theme. Participants can sign up through the school web site, [http://lv.lethsd.ab.ca/view.php?action=object&id=48087&stream=News](http://lv.lethsd.ab.ca/view.php?action=object&id=48087&stream=News).
There was a shout-out to schools who sent participants to the Skills Canada competition.

10. Adjournment

11. Announcements. The next DSC Meeting will be on June 5, and will include dinner at 6.