District School Council Minutes for April 3, 2017

Prior to the meeting, there was a presentation on supporting math understanding from the parent perspective, led by Marian Biggins of the SAPDC.

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

2. **Approval of Agenda:**
   Moved by Rob Mitchell, seconded Carlye Lynnes - approved.

3. **Approval of the Minutes from March 2017:**
   Moved by Daniel Gosselin, seconded Corinne Steele - approved.

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**
   We will deal with the LCI letter in May.

5. **Trustee Report - Keith Fowler reported:**
   At their March meeting the Board recognised athletic champion (girls’ basketball at Immanuel Christian and boys’ curling from LCI) teams from the district. They approved a trip to Germany on an exchange for students at Winston Churchill. Some policies were reviewed and moved around. They received a financial report from the second quarter, and are on budget. They reviewed and approved the Capital Plan, with the south side elementary school as the top priority. The Ministry has approved planning to go ahead for the building of that school. Services still need to be put into place by the city.
   
   Some appointments of Associate Superintendents at the District office have been approved. The name of Immanuel Christian High School is approved to change to Immanuel Christian Secondary School (it includes grades 6-12), at the request of the Society involved in that school.
   
   There was a presentation to the Board asking that school councils be included in developing the philosophy of having multi-age classes for French Immersion. The decision to make this change was made based on program structure, numbers, and a desire for consistency across the two schools, rather than philosophy. The plan is that the classes will be “combined” rather than “split,” so will be teaching only one curriculum rather than two for most subjects (math being an exception). In subjects like science, the topics cycle from year to year so as to cover all topics every two years. There is always a continuum of student ability in every classroom, and all teachers are expected to provide differentiated instruction. Information will be sent to parents from the district about how this works. Coalbanks will also have all combined classes after grade 1.

   
   There was a quick roundtable during which members reported on whether or not their school council will be sending a delegate to the ASCA AGM, so that schools wanting to send proxies know who they can designate. The following schools are sending delegates: Churchill; Mike Mountain Horse;
Paterson; Wilson; Galbraith; Lethbridge Christian. The following are not: LCI; Park Meadows; Lakie; Immanuel Christian Elementary. Immanuel Christian Secondary will decide on Thursday. Probe thinks they will not send a delegate.

7. Reports from District Committees

7.1. District Policy Advisory Committee. Joy Morris reported that the committee has not met since the last DSC meeting.

7.2. Poverty Intervention Committee Joy wasn’t at the meeting last week, where a decision about how to spend the $92,000 donation from the E-Free church was to have been made. The other parent representatives were not present to report.

7.3. Healthy Schools Committee Laura Scarpelli hasn’t received any information recently. There will be a meeting tomorrow.

7.4. SAPDC Hollie Tarasewich reported the next meeting will be May 3.

7.5. Community Engagement Mich Forster reported the next meeting will be April 27 at 6:30.

8. District School Council Calendar of Events and Shared Opportunities

Remember to look at it on the District web site for this. Wilson will be performing James and the Giant Peach at the Sterndale Bennett theatre April 10-12 tickets $7.50. Evening shows. Wilson also hosted the Minister for an announcement about the planning for the south side elementary school.

9. Superintendent’s Report - Cheryl Gilmore reported:

9.1. Bill 1. The Ministry has eliminated basic instructional fees, and is providing some compensation to Districts, based on fees that were charged last year. Since District 51 still had basic instructional fees of $54 for middle school and $72 for high school last year, we will receive a modest amount of money from the Ministry of Education. Districts that were charging significant school fees in the hundreds of dollars per child will receive much more. The District has told the Minister that this is unfair. The district had not raised fees for years as a basic philosophical position, and wishes the Ministry to recognise and support this. The District will continue to raise this concern. The parent voice can also have political value, but parents should be sure that they fully understand the facts. The money we receive will go into instruction.

The Minister has asked school districts to send a letter to parents about the Ministry’s elimination of school fees. The Board has approved a letter to go out with the Minister’s letter (or possibly instead of the Minister’s letter) to clarify that there will be no changes in fees for our district, and that other school fees (eg. for option courses, yearbooks, etc.) will continue to be charged.

9.2. Minister’s Student Advisory Council. Don’t forget to nominate young people! It is an amazing opportunity, and the deadline is the end of this month. See https://education.alberta.ca/student-engagement/minister-s-youth-council/.

9.3. Provincial Budget. It contained nothing earth-shattering. It was a status quo budget, and we can’t complain about that given the current economic climate. There was a modest hit to high school budgets because the maximum number of CEUs that will be funded for any student in one year used to be 60, and now it has been reduced to 45. This amounts to a cut of about $80,000 combined to all of our high schools’ budgets (from a combined budget of $20 million). The principals have been alerted to look at the schedules of kids who do go over this number to
be aware of the reasons why students make this choice. Students will still be allowed and en-
couraged to take the number of courses they wish.

9.4. District Budget Development timelines. Public presentation of draft May 23 6:30 p.m. in the Board room. Board budget debate May 30 10:00 a.m.

The Board finished reviewing the Town Hall outcomes last week and their plans are on the district web site.

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

11. **Adjournment**

12. **Announcements.** The next DSC Meeting will be on May 1.