District School Council Minutes for June 5, 2017

1. Welcome and Introductions: The Board was thanked for providing dinner.

2. Approval of Agenda:
   Moved by Amanda Cross, seconded Daniel Gosselin - approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes from May 2017:
   Correction - the minutes approved in the May meeting were the April minutes, not the March minutes. Moved to approve with this amendment: Amanda Cross, seconded Carlye Lynnes - approved.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes
   4.1. DSC and ATA School Trustee Candidate Forum
   The ATA should get in touch with us soon, after their Executive has discussed this. Using the Chinook Media Centre was suggested. The election is October 16. We should look at organizing the forum in the first week of October if possible. A date should be chosen sooner rather than later. There may be an accountability survey available online that includes school district candidates. The Herald has also indicated that they will be willing to run candidate profiles for trustee candidates this time. Allison Pike continues to maintain a Facebook page she set up during the last election for questions and answers to trustee candidates, at https://www.facebook.com/LSDistrict51/.

   4.2. LCI School Council Letter - Feedback Summary
   The feedback was included in the minutes. The process of proposing ASCA resolutions will be left to individual schools. Individual schools can seek support of other school councils, using District School Council as a communication link. There appeared to be no strong objection to a voluntary working committee to provide advice and support for writing resolutions, open to all parents in the district. The first meeting of the voluntary committee is therefore set for September 19 at 1 p.m., at the District building Division of Instructional Services (DIS) Meeting Room on the 2nd floor. Parents who cannot attend that meeting are welcome to contact Joy Morris joy.morris@uleth.ca and evening meeting times may be arranged if there is interest. Individual school councils can seek input from Trustees regarding issues to be addressed by resolutions.

5. Trustee Report - Keith Fowler reported:
   At their May meeting the Board commended the three Churchill staff who saved the life of a student with CPR.
   The Board heard an update from Joey Gentile, principal of Coalbanks school, on its readiness for opening next year.
   Results from the Early Development Instrument data collected from kindergarten teachers across the province indicates that our District is doing well, as improvements have been noted in all areas in comparison to the 2011 and 2012 data.
   International trips (to Cuba for the Churchill boys’ basketball team and to Washington for the LCI football team) for next year have been conditionally approved.
   Several policies were amended. Consultation on these was circulated by email to parents.
   The District’s Edwin Parr nominee, Brittnay Petkau, won the award and will be acknowledged by the Minister of Education in the Fall. Our district has had 2 winners in the past 4 years.
6. **Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) Report - AGM Attendees Presentation** – Duane Pike led a presentation about the ASCA Conference and AGM. It was a valuable experience for the parents who attended. The opening session of the conference consisted of participants breaking into 8 smaller groups and being led through the Blanket Exercise on the history of Canada’s treatment of Indigenous people. The conference included plenary talks by Charlene Bearhead on Truth and Reconciliation; by a member of the Edmonton Police force on Fentanyl; and by an Assistant Deputy to the Minister of Education. There were many breakout sessions. Amongst those attended by parents from our district were sessions on becoming a school trustee; the Learning Technology Policy Framework; an update on the Provincial Curriculum development; Dual Credit programs; a couple of different sessions on health in schools; a session on school fees; and one on reconciliation. Information was briefly shared about all of these. All of the resolutions that came to the Annual General Meeting passed, some in amended form.

7. **Reports from District Committees**

7.1. **District Policy Advisory Committee** Joa Morris reported that the committee met in May and sent out policies for review. Feedback is due by June 14.

7.2. **Poverty Intervention Committee** The committee hosted its annual thank-you lunch for community supporters. At the meeting afterwards, the committee decided to increase the grants available to schools next year, to fund a maximum of $6000 in grants per school (instead of $3000) as well as being more flexible regarding the number of grants funded. They will also fund a 2-month pilot project of food backpacks that can go home with kids over the weekend (to include food, recipes, and a gift card to cover perishables). The pilot project will run at 3 schools next fall (including Nicholas Sheran and GS Lakie).

7.3. **Healthy Schools Committee** Laura Scarpelli reported that the committee has not met since the last DSC meeting, but will be meeting tomorrow.

7.4. **SAPDC** There was no report.

7.5. **Community Engagement** The innovation scholarships have been awarded. There were no applications at the junior level (grades 9-10). Two of the four candidates at the senior level were awarded $1000 scholarships. The other two were excellent presentations and a decision was made to create honourable mentions with $500 scholarships for them.

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

9. **Superintendent’s Report - Cheryl Gilmore reported:**

   **Provincial Nutrition Project Grants** were announced almost 2 months ago. The district is on track for meeting all of the timeline requirements in the program. Fleetwood Bawden will receive funding for a daily meal; others will receive some support.

   **Government Decision re Student Learning Assessment Administration** The Minister announced in late May that it will be henceforth left to individual teachers to decide whether or not to administer SLAs to their students. They can choose parts to administer if they choose. Schools will continue to make every effort to provide supports as needed for students who do take the assessments.

   **Classroom Improvement Fund** Part of the central Alberta Teachers’ Association settlement with the government is the establishment of a classroom improvement fund that can be spent on staff, resources, or professional learning. Any expenditures must include measurable outcomes for improv-
ing student experiences, and are negotiated by a committee that includes ATA and Board representatives. The district has received $1.25 million in this fund, but it is a one-time fund, so could not be used for ongoing salary support. The ATA and district reps have to agree on how to spend this money by December and it must be paid out or returned by the end of June 2018.

**Playground Funding** There has been an announcement of provincial funding toward playgrounds for new schools. It is not yet clear exactly which of our schools this will apply to, or whether or not an application will be required. None of this money is for upgrading of existing playgrounds.

10. **Roundtable Reports**

    are in the agenda for information.

11. **Adjournment**