District School Council Minutes for April 9, 2018

1. Welcome and Introductions Joy call to order.
2. Approval of Agenda: Allison Pike, 2nd Edna Asem
3. Approval of the Minutes: Rob Michell, 2nd Trina Timko
4. Business Arising from the Minutes: Item 10 to be moved to item 5
5. Trustee Report:
   Doug James:
   - Presentation by representatives of the 2 westside middle schools (GS Lakie and Senator Joyce Fairbairn) exploring the implementation of a Unified Laptop project. The project entails every student buying or renting a laptop. Students in grade 6-8 would have a laptop that stays with them for their middle school career.
   - Cheryl conveyed that the focus of the project is to integrate technology effectively as part of regular classroom pedagogy. This does not mean that students have laptops in use the entire day; it means that they are accessible for retrieving and creating knowledge when it is the most effective tool for the instructional purpose.
   - Brooke Culley inquired about equity across the district
   - Cheryl indicated that the board will be looking at further information; equity is always a consideration of the Board, but it must also be kept in mind that not all schools are the same and the Unified Laptop project is a school initiative, not a District directive.
   - The plan has to be sustainable; it is unknown at this time if schools will be seeking seed money for first round, and if so, how much they will need; it is a school driven initiative and it needs to be sustainable
   - Brooke Culley asked about using cell phones as an alternative
   - Cheryl indicated that the purpose of change in pedagogy is not focused on retrieving knowledge and information; it is focused on creating knowledge and cell phones are not a very good tool at this time to accomplish this.
   - Naming of new middle school - Senator Joyce Fairbairn.
   - Approval of trips - Winston Churchill and Chinook high school taking robotics team to Houston Texas.
   - Technology upgrading approved a necessity for wireless accessibility
   - Breakfast with the Board: trustees visit schools and teacher for breakfast rotates the school monthly.
   - Humboldt Bronco player, Logan Boulet, from Lethbridge passed away due to injuries. Logan Boulet attended G. S. Lakie School. Dr. Probe and WCHS. Parents Toby and Bernie are teachers in the District.

6. Alberta School Councils Association Report – Allison Pike reported: AGM upcoming. It’s still not too late to send a member from school council if interested. If not attending, schools can have other schools who are attending vote by proxy. If needing a school to do this, contact Allison at Schoolpike5@gmail.com Growing up digitally: phase three will be looking at the research.
7. Committee Reports
   7.1. Policy Advisory Committee – Laura attended but not at DSC to report.
   7.2. Poverty Intervention Committee –
       Money from the committee has been spent on clothes, food, and winter clothes and boots.
       The E free church gave $100,000 which provided for extra food programs for children and their
       families on weekends. The committee is fine for funds now but for the future the Committee
       will need to find more funding to keep up with demand. One of the major initiatives, Food for
       Thoughts is no longer operating.

8. District School Council Calendar of Events and Shared Opportunities:
   Cheryl demonstrated steps to get to calendar; tell Leanne if there are events to post

9. Superintendent’s Report:
   Cheryl shared the budget development timeline that starts in February with the Town Hall meeting
   to establish priorities and ending in May with opportunity for the public to provide feedback and ask
   questions.
   Brooke Culley inquired about the Board advocating for money
   Joy had a question about percentage of teacher 22.1% changing; did not seem to make sense
   mathematically; Cheryl will look into this and report back.

10. French Immersion program structure and communication
    Rebecca Adamson, vice principal at LCI, provided information about the sequence of French
    program offering in Lethbridge 51. French Immersion starts in Kindergarten and the percentage of
    time allocated to French until grade 9 falls into the category of French Immersion. Once students
    enter high school, the number of courses delivered in French goes down and the program is French
    Bilingual. There was some discussion regarding the viability of increasing the number of French
    courses which is dependent on student choice and demand. It was pointed out that students can
    always take more courses using the distance learning delivery model.
    There is a French Immersion committee currently working on communication materials so that it is
    clear to parents what the pathway in French looks like in the District.

11. Roundtable Reports: none
    Edna: Requested that the District look at having a PD day after the spring change in time.
    Noted that the provincial budget approved funding for a new south side elementary school

12. Adjournment at 8:30