Lethbridge School District No. 51  
District School Council MINUTES – January 15, 2018

Meeting started at 6:37 p.m.

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

2. Approval of the **Agenda** - Allison Pike, 2nd Locke Spencer

3. Approval of the **Minutes** from November 6, 2017 - Edna Asem, 2nd Amber Johansen

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**: Trina Tymko - absent last meeting inquired as to the outcome of the question posed regarding assistance with writing resolutions. Response: The offer of assistance was based on feedback received in the spring that assistance would be appreciated for individuals desiring to write resolutions for school based resolutions. The assistance was not intended for writing of District resolutions.

4.1 **Science Sizzle** Club - Cheryl – concentrate on grades 4/5. Depending on grants would continue working on programs. Two sessions at 90 min beginning Feb 5 at each school involved. Schedule attached to agenda.

4.2 **Blanket Exercise** in December (feedback from participants)  
Alison Alma-North, Doug James, Amber Johansen Alison Pike, Joy Morris commented positively on their experience. Joy said you can arrange a blanket exercise for your School Council. Cheryl indicated that approximately 25 people are needed for a Blanket Exercise; School Councils could partner. Focus of the Blanket Exercise is learning the historical context (foundational knowledge) and developing an understanding of the indigenous perspective regarding the colonization of Canada and Residential School trauma. These areas of focus are part of curriculum delivery in schools. Alberta has a strong emphasis on foundational knowledge. Shannon Pratt suggested parents need more foundational knowledge as children in our district are developing a strong awareness of the Native American history in Lethbridge and Alberta.

5. **Trustee Report** – Doug James provided some highlights of the report attached to the agenda. Encouraged community involved in students scholarship breakfast, buying chairs or tables Feb 14 7:00-9:00; $50 for a ticket online on district website. Great entertainment and speakers. Students will have projects of innovation on display.  
Cheryl added that students don’t have to be in grade 12 to win scholarships and encouraged parents to have their youth look at applying.

Some questions were asked regarding the calendar (seeking clarification as to whether it meant early dismissal). It was clarified that Middle Schools have had early dismissal Wednesdays for a number of years. The exceptions include Lethbridge Christian and Immanuel Christian because all students are on the same busses. The calendar change does not involve early dismissal for elementary. Some half days were added for teacher collaboration time.

Brooke Culley asked about the piloting of the full day kindergarten program at Westminster; the Board will be deciding in the near future.

Question was posed regarding whether there are guidelines for people booking (renting) renting school facility space. Concern about guidelines for political party renting school. Cheryl indicated that the City oversees rental of space in after-school hours. There is a Joint Use agreement between the City and the District. Cheryl will inquire with the Board as to perspective regarding expressing limitations to the City (e.g. political parties).

6. **Alberta School Councils Association** - Allison Pike
AGM coming up with feedback to resolutions due back in February. Information regarding the Conference on the ASCA website [https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/](https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/)
7. **Reports** from District Committees:

   **District Policy Advisory Committee:** Laura Scarpelli
   Minor changes to policies as distributed via e-mail to School Council Chairs. New policy- Audio and Video Surveillance. School Councils can forward recommendations to Laura before Feb 12.

   **SAPDC Committee:** Alison Pike - upcoming meeting February 1

   **Poverty Intervention Committee:**
   Heather Paul - a project called Weekends and More - Bags to kids with food for weekend (emergency) filled with 30 dollars of grocery and gift certificate to Loblaws included. Continue pilot. 150 bags since October to Senator Buchanan, Mike Mountain Horse, and Westminster schools. Grants given to schools for submitted projects. Joy Morris wondering about donating for Food for Thought.

   **District Wellness Committee:**
   Amber Johansen - no report; hasn’t received e-mail regarding meeting.

   **Community Engagement Committee:** Pauline Hall - Working on Scholarship Breakfast previously mentioned; next meeting is on Wednesday.

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

   8.1 Math Tutoring for Parents Joy Morris - Asks parents to talk-up-Thursday 6:30-7:30 at Wilson Middle school. Math University student volunteers are there to help parents and students. Some will be competent in French. Fun math activities to do with you child. Focus is grades 6-9

   8.2 Parent Learning Opportunity: “I Still Love You: Nine Things Troubled Kids Need from Parents, Caregivers and Schools” (handout February 27th)

9. **Superintendent’s Report** – Cheryl Gilmore

   9.1 Town Hall Meeting (February 6, 2018) Brainstorming Questions/Ideas. The ideas that have been submitted to date were reviewed as well as the topics that have been the focus for the past number of years. The Board will finalize a topic this week. Council members ranked the topics (top 3) they were most interested in as feedback information for the Board when selecting a topic.

   9.2 Innovation Scholarship Breakfast - February 14, 2018 - discussed previously

10. **Roundtable Reports**
    Reports are included with the agenda: an opportunity to highlight a very significant event or for questions from the representatives about information in a written report.

    Brooke Culley asked if a representative from Gilbert Patterson was present to discuss their Casino experience. A parent representative from Churchill indicated that a Society can apply (it takes about 3 years so need to get on the cue).

11. **Adjournment** at 8:00 p.m.