

Division School Council Meeting Minutes of November 4, 2019

1. 6:45 Welcome and Introductions
2. Additions to the agenda:
Edna-School Choice
Tisha-Maintenance at Mike Mountain Horse
3. Approval of the agenda - 1st Erin, 2nd Shannon
4. Approval of the Minutes of October 7, 2019 - 1st Tisha, 2nd Edna
5. Business arising from the Minutes - Reviewed the School Council learning sessions before regular meetings. Brooke indicated that MLA East, Nathan Neudorf, may attend the January 13th meeting.
6. Committee Reports: 7:25
Community Engagement – Heather- Terms of reference tweaked. Interest in book project. Judy Trin speaker at the Lodge for Ice Scholarship breakfast.
Policy Advisory – Shannon- Policy for parent responsibility. Brand new policy has three readings.
Cheryl shared how policies are created and steps involved.
7. Trustee Report 6:55
October was organizational meeting for committees, not much new business brought up.
Allison Pike - Timing of release of bus route information. Not released until before long weekend before school. Problematic.
Cheryl - City of Lethbridge is responsible for bus route information. Bus routes can't be established until summer school has finished. The Division will be working with Lethbridge Transit to try to have routes completed and communicated to parents earlier.
Brooke commented to Lola - Board needs to respond to political announcements from government; when it is the superintendent an employee (the superintendent) becomes the potential target for negative comments. Perhaps it should be elected officials who make comments regarding political decisions to media.
8. Alberta School Councils Association
Brooke - Ask your School Council chair if they are getting regular information from ASCA. Nov 23, 2019 1:00-4:00 - Online Member Engagement. Education Minister will be online <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/board-of-directors/member-engagement>

Edna – Choice – we should all look at big picture to educate our kids and support each other no matter how or where we educate our kids. We all want to educate our kids.
Brooke - Choice in education in Alberta -there is lots of choice. People like choice – but the question is how do we fund this choice?

Cheryl – There are different structures of choice under the umbrella of public education such as Alternative School programs. For example, in Lethbridge we have the two Immanuel schools and Lethbridge Christian that are alternative programs. A Society owns the buildings and operates transportation. The societies also oversee the religious culture and embedding of Christian perspective as part of school life. The Montessori program also an example of an alternative program. Not in a separate building. The government has put out a survey regarding Choice.

Link is: <https://www.alberta.ca/choice-in-education-engagement.aspx>

Cheryl- information from Allison Pike- Open survey until Nov 29, 2019- Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Review - <https://www.alberta.ca/tobacco-and-smoking-reduction-review.aspx>. Lethbridge School Division does already have a policy regarding vaping. Cheryl – policies are on the website.

Brooke - The province is working on provincial legislation regarding this.

9. Tisha – Mike Mountain Horse Basketball hoops not installed. Emails since April with maintenance with Board. Students in Grade 5 will not be able to play with basketball hoops they fundraised for. Communication with school should be that they [maintenance] is unable to do the work in a timely manner because they are too busy. The school should then have opportunity to contract someone (or have maintenance contract someone) if School Council is willing to pay for the installation. Cheryl – will look into whether a more seamless way for communicating and approving potential contract work is possible. Will report back.

10. Superintendent's Report

Gage interest in learning sessions that would not be formally scheduled unless there is sufficient interest.

Do schools want a session on how to be a society? Only one indicated interest. If a School Council is interested, we can link them up with another School Council that has gone through the process.

School Council promotions – there was some interest expressed. This session could be done with ASCA.

Provincial Fundraising Update - How we are main budget adjustments. Cheryl went through an Infograph that showed how the funding rolled out with budget and how it impacted for a 3 million dollar shortfall in funding.

Brooke- We need to voices out there. Parents need to speak out and not only rely on the board. Organize at local levels and have parents become more involved.

Cheryl- Westside School not announced as anticipated. The Division hoped that given the over-capacity percentages in all the elementary schools and continued growth in West Lethbridge, the Division would have had an elementary school announced. The MLA is working on behalf of Lethbridge but one voice can only go so far.
Brook encouraged parents to write to your MLA, Minister of Education, and Minister of Infrastructure
No one South of Calgary got a new school.

Edna – SLA (student learning assessment)-How many schools have participated in it?
Cheryl - Huge investment of time to assess. One teacher in one school - one classroom in the district.

11. Roundtable Reports 8:10

Ecole Agnes Davidson School hosting Turkey Bingo and Silent Auction Wednesday
November 13, 2019 6:00-9:00

12. Adjournment @ 8:12