

**Division School Council**  
**Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2020**

1. 7:03 pm Welcome and Introductions
2. Additions to the agenda:  
Shannon Pratt- addition of Fridays in Kindergarten  
Alison Alma-North- Bussing update
3. Approval of the agenda: Alison Pike and Shannon Pratt
4. Approval of the Minutes of December 2, 2019: Tisha Elford, Locke Spencer
5. Business arising from the Minutes
6. Committee Reports
7. Trustee Report: Christine Light: Winston Churchill/Finnish exchange successful with WCHS students visiting Finland this fall. Students of Winston Churchill inspired by lack of food waste and attention to using non garbage containers.  
Trustee Board donated \$50 each to charity of school's choice in lieu of treats during Christmas season. Two School Resource Officers from police from 6 for all schools in the district. The two school divisions (public and Catholic) have lost 4 out of 6 SRO's (School Resource Officers) due to deployment elsewhere this past year. There is now almost zero SRO presence at elementary and secondary schools have to call 911 more frequently due to lack of prevention from SRO's. Letter has gone to the Police Commission asking for more presence or re-thinking how preventative measures can be employed.  
Brooke: What can parent council do?  
Christine: Children need to know Police can help and care before crisis. Parents need to voice that to have this presence is invaluable.  
Cheryl: Bring SRO deployment as business arising at next School Council meeting.
8. Alberta School Councils Association: AGM in Edmonton is April 24-26 2020. The Board will pay \$250 worth of expenses as well as the conference registration fee for one person per school. The \$250 has already been deposited into school accounts. Will hear something about curriculum from provincial government soon. Parent consultation will be done in Jan and Feb and will be online. Will be your opportunity as a parent to provide input. Allison will provide time and links when it becomes known. Policy Resolution deadline is Jan 15.  
Locke Spencer: Can you use other School Council funds provided by the board if there are more interested parents?  
Cheryl: School Board budget is based on average but not by school. It would be up to a School Council if they wish to allocate \$250 (or some of those funds) to a different School Council. A School Council cannot designate registration costs to another school because that budget line is based on 'average' access the year prior.  
  
Poverty Intervention Committee: Visual shown of areas in Crisis in Lethbridge.  
1-5 children live in poverty in Lethbridge. Wilson Middle School hosts WAM bags which are bags containing money and groceries for the weekends for families in need no question asked. If you are aware of a student in need contact the Making Connections Worker at the School.

Question that seeking input posed by the Poverty Committee: *How do you see the work of the Poverty Intervention Committee creating a more vibrant, inclusive and caring culture within our School Division?*

Tisha: conveyed personal thanks and gratification for the difference the program can make. Others indicated that they know the WAM bag and other food programs make a difference to families.

Community Engagement: Christine Light: Ice Scholarship planning.

Policy Committee: Shannon Pratt: LeeAnne will forward any new policies or other revised policies seeking feedback to School Council chairs. New (upcoming) is parental responsibility policy.

9. Superintendent's Report: Cheryl:

Town Hall meeting Feb 11, 2020. Town Hall meeting a little later as the Board is finalizing the direction where the board wanted to take it. The focus will be about establishing priorities for our schools for budget. All stakeholders are invited.

Shelley Moore parent presentation: effective practices of inclusion - Jan 21 at Wilson Middle School (6:30-8:00).

Ice Scholarship: Feb 14, 2020. Third annual. Seats are sold out. Applications for next year will be coming out in March. 2 for gr 9 and 10. 2 for grs 11 and 12. Innovation doesn't have to science oriented.

Kindergarten changes: Changes in requirements in employment standards (legislated break time) and ensuring adherence to the definition of instructional time for students compelled some change. What has historically been a four-day program will expand to include alternative Fridays. Basically, it will be the same timetable as other grades, Monday to Friday.

Transportation: Lots of advocacy on behalf of parents. City is not changing their minds about transferring bussing to boards. Board will be asking for extension of time for transition. Board is looking at business partners and/or putting transportation under own ownership. Board is working with city administration.

Locke: What would it take to change the city's mind?

Cheryl/Brooke: Decision is done and it has been made clear the Council will not go back on it.

Shannon: Who owns the buses?

Cheryl: Buses are owned by the Board.

Brooke: Not enough people informed about effect of the change, especially by people who no longer have children in school.

10. Roundtable Reports

11. Adjournment @ 8:02 pm Tisha/Locke