

Division School Council Minutes for October 5, 2020

1. **Welcome** and introductions
2. **Additions to the Agenda**
 - 2.1. Extracurricular
 - 2.2. Park Meadows questions
3. **Approval of Agenda** – approved
4. **Approval of the Minutes** of March 2, 2020 – approved
5. **Business Arising from the Minutes** - none
6. **Elections:**

Chair – Allison Purcell-Pike; Vice Chair – Alison Alma-North; Recording Secretary – Danielle Aubin

Committee Representatives:

Policy Advisory Committee – Shannon Pratt, Allison Purcell-Pike

Poverty Intervention Committee – Jamie Walburger, Alison Alma-North (alternate)

Division Wellness Committee – Edna Asem, Shannon Pratt (alternate)

Community Engagement Committee – Shelley Roest, Duane Pike, Ryan Hartford, Allison Purcell-Pike
7. **Trustee Report** – Christine Light shared highlights of the report attached to the agenda.
8. **Alberta School Councils Association Report** – Allison Purcell-Pike noted that the Annual General Meeting was virtual. The next virtual meeting will be held Saturday, October 17, 2020 from 10 am to 3 pm. You need to register to have voting power representing your school – www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca
9. **Policy Advisory Committee** – policies for review will be sent out via email to School Council Chairs and Division School Council representatives. They should then be distributed to School Council members for feedback. All information for where to send feedback will be on email.
10. **Superintendent's Report** – Cheryl

School year start up in Scenario One with in-person and on-line classes for students, student population went down approximately 300 to 400 students. Federal government grant fund allocations were shared. At-home learners at Elementary was 17%, Middle school was 15%, and High school was 14% - overall average was 15% at-home learners. Guidelines and Board support were included in the agenda. Board pays the ASCA annual membership fee in addition to \$250 / school for parent professional learning as well as registration for one person per school to attend the ASCA AGM.

School Council Membership list (sign up on school websites) – remind schools to send an email out with the link to sign-up.

Inclement weather guidelines – reminder to Principals to share the school closure guidelines.

School calendar for 2020-21 parent representation for a meeting following the October break. Meeting typically at the end of the afternoon. Linda McKeith with Shelley Roest as alternate.

Parent Professional Learning ideas for future meetings from 6:00 to 6:30 pm before DSC meetings were: MLA, Navigating Teams and Google classroom, Mental Health, Technology, Managing Student Anxiety COVID, Facilities operations COVID, Change management – anxiety, Physical activity – what can be done – ideas for parents, Technology and Social Anxiety, Inclusive Learning – students with disabilities, ESL Learning with inclusive learning for parents who have ESL. *Send ideas to LeeAnne over the next week for review.*
11. **Park Meadows question** – Linda McKeith commended their teachers for the videos before school starting. It helped alleviate anxiety for students.

Any thoughts about what you will do during the cold weather? Good question for your school council agendas. School administrators are looking at this. Entry into the school in cold weather is a challenge. Locker use is determined by schools. Communication with parents about this would be appreciated.

Is your school considering fundraising in the current situation? School fundraising from those in attendance: Beef jerky, The Mixing Spoon - jars of dried goods to create a meal (soup, chili, baked goods, etc.), Kernels Popcorn,

Cuppers coffee, and Gilbert Paterson asked for \$20 rather than fundraising.

For any fundraising activities that involve distribution of product, please adhere to the following:

- Products should be untouched for 24 hours.
- Individuals distributing the product should be masked and gloved.
- To be safe, products should be distributed in a school entrance way.

12. Extra-Curricular – Jamie Walburger noted that parents felt extra-curricular activities were being suspended needlessly and were not satisfied by the response from the Board. LCI students engaged in the rally, putting their social studies learning into action. They have collected 160 parent emails and 612 signatures wanting extra-curricular reinstated. Some of the families and students are feeling like it is not a priority and are wondering why it wasn't included in the re-entry plan.

Christine Light noted that the Board values the extra-curricular activities. The Pandemic Plan states that academics are essential. The Board wanted to protect and honor cohorts, the health and safety of students and staff. The Board will review the Pandemic Plan in the next few weeks.

Linda noted that those who have the ability put their children in community sporting events.

Cheryl shared that the Pandemic Plan was created with input from many stakeholders, it is a broad document that divides essential and nonessential in the event of a pandemic. It puts things in priority, includes a succession plan and considers capacity level at schools. The Re-Entry Plan re-iterates the decisions taken from the Provincial re-entry guide which includes recommendations that schools limit cohorts and that co-curricular/extra-curricular activities be limited. School administrators worked throughout August to put together their student cohorts. It was a group decision – the Board, Superintendents, Division leadership and school administrators had input in the Division Re-Entry plan. Schools need to be ready for that transition. Cohorts have integrity in our schools.

Christine Light and Trustees are responsible for students in the schools and, as such, it will not be a rushed decision. The responses to the public forum concerns will be included in the Board agenda.

Alberta Health Services re-entry plan continues to state that it is recommended schools limit co-curricular and extra-curricular activities to reduce the number of cohorts.

13. Roundtable Reports – Nicholas Sheran report was added to the agenda.

14. Adjournment at 8:30 pm

It was noted that the parent learning sessions are for ALL parents, not only the Division School Council representatives. An information flyer regarding upcoming sessions is sent out to representatives and chairs as well as posted on the websites. Please encourage parents to join for the half hour of learning prior to the meeting.