

Division School Council Minutes for March 1, 2021

1. **Welcome and Introductions** - 6:34pm
2. **Additions to the Agenda**
3. **Approval of Agenda** – accepted as presented
4. **Approval of the Minutes** – accepted as presented
5. **Business Arising from the Minutes**
6. **Agenda items from parents**
 - 6.1. Use of lockers
 - 6.1.1. Parents need lockers for their children as students are refusing to take coats to school so they don't have to lug it around the school. Backpacks are too heavy, and students need some place to store books, at least for those that want it. Theft is also a problem.
 - 6.1.2. Positive impacts of no lockers, according to schools, no congregating in hallway (COVID pro), less bullying around lockers; elementary and middle school students stay in same room all day.
 - 6.1.3. Superintendent stated this is a school decision (the principals discuss pros and cons together and make decisions on what they think makes the most sense for all concerned) so advocate for it there.
 - 6.2 Final exam weightings / Diploma Exams
 - 6.2.1 Parents have voiced that the weighting of final exams is too high and unfair and should be revisited.
 - 6.2.2 Divisions on both sides of us decided not to weigh the final exams at 30%, parents feel our children are disadvantaged by still deciding to weigh the final exams at 30%
 - 6.2.3 Data will be reviewed as a follow up to see the relationship between school and exam marks.
 - 6.2.4 One parent said that Diplomas are not important for students that want to go out of province for schooling
 - 6.2.5 If final exams are weighted less, it means that all other exams throughout the year are weighted higher
 - 6.3 Avenues for Parental Voice and Chain of Communication
 - 6.3.1 Continuum depends on the type of concern, if it is class level you would speak to the school teachers and/or administration or school Council
 - 6.3.2 Every School Council has an attached Trustee that you can reach out to
 - 6.3.3 If it needs to go to the Division, what the concern is would depend on whom and what area it would go to within the Division
 - 6.4 Proposed needle distribution and harm reduction site
 - 6.4.1 Division and the community voiced how it would not be a good location so the application to have the site there was withdrawn and it will no longer be located there
 - 6.5 Extracurricular activities
 - 6.5.1 Parents are voicing that they are not happy we are not allowing our students to participate in them even though other Divisions are

6.5.2 Possible virtual extracurricular activities

6.5.3 Some students are exhausted with virtual events, so could we do sports teams within a class as they would still be in their cohort

6.5.4 Other Divisions are allowing private bookings of their gyms, and an evening PE class with a limited number of students

6.5.5 Able to do sports as an option but this is a challenge due to skill levels and desire to play a specific sport

7. Trustee Report

7.1 Each month the Board showcases a school, this month it was Fairbairn and Churchill, have a clothing swap taking place and some other neat things

7.2 Proposal for better funding for PUF

7.3 The Public forum portion of the Board Meeting will be on TEAMS starting the March Board meeting

7.4 School boundary proposal took into account parents input; some other Divisions just state where they will be and that's it

8. Alberta School Councils Association Report

8.1 You can still attend the ASCA Conference and AGM, Division supports one representative from one each School Council to attend (April 23, 24, & 25)

8.2 Review the Resolutions and see if someone wants to attend or if you want to send your vote by Proxy

8.3 Talk to school Administrator for yearly funding provided to each school by the School Division

9. Superintendent's Report

10.1 COVID numbers are currently trending up in Lethbridge so stages of fewer restrictions need to look at local context

10.2 Organizational status and learning factors to consider are used as a guideline

10.3 Common themes from town hall

10.3.1 Positives from COVID – on-line learning, school structures (staggered entry, health and cleanliness, schedules, and cohorts), enhanced community and wellness (for more detail, see School Division website)

10.4 School Locator is on the Division website, currently under transportation but will be moved to a more obvious location

10.5 Out of bounds forms are being rolled out and collected, not first come first serve

10. Roundtable Reports

11.1 Probe to touch base with Park Meadows and Tisha Elford as they have done a lot of dance-a-thons

11. Adjournment – 8:22pm

12. Next meeting – Monday April 12 as Monday April 5 is Easter