

Division School Council Minutes for October 4, 2021

1. Welcome and Introduction

2. Additions to the Agenda

Added the topic of Resource Selection under 10.0 Roundtable Reports (Jamie Walburger)

Added the topic of Liability Insurance under 10.0 Roundtable Reports (Dr. Probe School)

3. Approval of Agenda – accepted as presented

4. Approval of the Minutes of June 7, 2021 accepted as presented

5. Business Arising from the Minutes – nothing noted

6. Business Arising from the Minutes -

Elections for Division School Council results:

Chair: Shelley Roest

Vice Chair: Alison Alma-North

Recording Secretary: Marlaina Ditrich

Policy Advisory Committee: Alison Alma-North and Allison Purcell (alternate)

Poverty Intervention Committee: Jamie Walburger and Shelley Roest (alternate)

Division Wellness Committee: Edna Asem and Carrie Boschman (alternate)

Community Engagement Committee: Shelley Roest, Cynthia Young, and Allison Purcell

Calendar Committee: Shelley Roest, Carrie Boschman, and Linda McKeith (alternate)

7. Trustee Report was attached to the agenda.

8. Alberta School Councils Association Report

ASCA “Special Offer” and expression of interest in sessions. At your next School Council meeting, please inquire if there is interest in any of the sessions listed on page 2 of the correspondence from ASCA (in your agenda package from the meeting). If there is interest in any of the sessions, please provide LeeAnne Tedder with the Workshop title and an estimate of the number of parents from your School Council who would participate. If there is sufficient interest in sessions, the Division will access the special deal and make arrangements for the sessions.

9. Superintendent’s Report

-School Year Start-up: Cheryl shared some highlights and challenges of the school year start up.

-Enrollment at the end of September indicates an increase. Parent request to bring enrollment data to the next Division School Council meeting.

-Changes to COVID-19 health protocols

-Division School Council Guidelines and Division Support

-Standing agenda item – “Exploring Topics of Common Interest.” When the call for agenda items goes out, if there are topics that parents feel are of value to be explored as a collective, the topic should be submitted by the parent/school. The process will include break-out into small groups (on Teams or in-person once meetings are on site) to explore ideas with groups coming back to the collective group to share top two or three perspectives/ ideas/ recommendations for consideration.

-School Council Membership List. Reminder to encourage parents to select the membership button on the school website (under School Council). Garrett Simmons, the Communication Officer, will send School Councils a spreadsheet with the updated parent membership for communication purposes.

-Inclement Weather – Reminder to parents of process if there is a school closure due to inclement weather. The determination for closure is if transportation is cancelled.

-School Calendar for 2022-23. Parent volunteers for committee: Shelley Roest, Carrie Boschman and alternate – Linda McKeith

-Parent Learning

Please find attached the Parent Learning Interest sheet. You will note the topics that were put into the chat on October 4 (at bottom of the page). Please send LeeAnne Tedder any additional areas of interest for parent learning sessions typically schedule from 6:00 – 6:30 on the Division School Council evenings.

-Enrollment Update will be provided at the next meeting.

10. Roundtable Reports

Division Wellness Committee:

Edna Asem explained that at the Division Wellness Committee meeting, the committee expressed interest in gathering feedback from parents about what resources they felt they could use to support wellness in the home or for themselves. Please send ideas to Edna at the following email address: edjokoto@shaw.ca

Concern with Selectin of Resources – Jamie Walburger described a situation in which a student in high school accessed what parents would consider inappropriate (language and sexuality) from the classroom library. Some discussion regarding processes for selection of readings/ literature. Some discussion regarding process if a parent is wanting to bring forward a concern. Jamie asked School Council representatives to check with their own School Councils to see if it is a common concern.

Possible topics for future meetings: Resource selection and process for parent expression of concern.

Inquiry into the Need for Liability Insurance for School Councils.

Some discussion as to whether School Councils need to purchase liability insurance. Allison Purcell indicated that School Councils could inquire with Alberta School Council Association.

Cheryl Gilmore indicated she will ask the Associate Superintendent of Finance and Operations who oversees matters of liability.

Cheryl checked and response is as follows:

School Councils are covered under Lethbridge School Division insurance, but not the fundraising societies. Marsh Insurance applications were sent to Principals on September 21, 2021 that offers insurance for fundraising societies. It is up to the Societies to arrange their own insurance as they are separate legal entities. Cost is around \$585 per year dependent on how much they plan to raise.

11. Adjournment

DIVISION SCHOOL COUNCIL

2021-2022: Ideas for Parent Learning

For the past few years, there have been parent learning sessions scheduled for 30 minutes prior to the regular Division School Council meetings. The focus and content of the learning sessions is based on parent input.

Please brainstorm ideas for parent learning this year. These ideas can be based on your own interests regarding the Division, programs, processes, or provincial education matters, or the nature of child development or the nature of learning and development generally or social issues impacting children or student resources such as technology. To give you some idea about what has already been delivered, the sessions that have been hosted for the past two years are as follows:

2020-2021- 1) COVID-19 impact on operations and instructional delivery/ Guide to decision making 2) Mental Health (including social anxiety and influence of technology/ use of technology) 3) Physical Activity – contribution to student growth and development 4) Celebration of Learning (watched the video that was put together for ICE Scholarship winners

2019-20 - 1) Technology – access to software/ social media (2) Mental health – school programs and external resources/ adolescent welfare (3) Funding (how we are funded and how it is distributed) (4) FNMI – role of School Councils re: inclusive approach and TRC Calls to Action. Did NOT get to: MLA Lethbridge East visit scheduled for April or Inclusive Practices in Lethbridge School Division/ Voice from the Diversity Table Conversation

2018-19 – 1) Technology – what programs do students access at school/ have access to at home? Websites that support student learning 2) Engaging FNMI parents in School Council 3) Curriculum – significant shifts 4) Inclusive Learning 5) Social Media 6) Innovative practices in science and technology in the District

2017-18 – 1) Opioid Crisis and School Division Response 2) FNMI – Blanket Exercise for parents 3) Parent Concerns, Interests and Questions – Where do I go? *And* Governance Structures – public education 4) Secondary - Career Development – transitions – school to work and school to school *AND* Elementary – Update on numeracy and literacy 5) Supporting Student Diversity 6) Innovative practices in science and technology in the District

IDEAS FOR PARENT LEARNING:

Ideas put into the chat at the DSC meeting on October 4:

- Sleep and brain development
- Resources for parents whose child may be falling behind from the 2020/21 school year
- Internet safety/ Online platforms
- Literacy and literacy catch-up/ extra testing in literacy/ how parents can support literacy in the home (best practices)
- Minecraft and the difference with educational Minecraft
- Selection of literature resources (process for selection in classrooms)
- Process for parents to convey concerns