

Division School Council Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2005
6:45pm
Microsoft Teams

1. Land Acknowledgement

- Acknowledge that we are meeting as a Division School Council on Blackfoot land and give recognition to the Blackfoot people past and present.

2. Welcome and Introductions

- In person – S.R., C.G., A.N., C.B., A.T., C.L., C.Y., K.L., S.P.
- Online: E.W., A.P., E.A., J.K., J.S.,

3. Additions to the Agenda

- No addition

4. Approval of the Agenda – Approved and accepted as presented

- Approved by: S.P.

5. Approval of the Minutes from April 4, 2022

- Approved by: C.Y.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

6.1 Elementary Bell Times

**Note that since last Division School Council meeting, information regarding School Hours and Bell Time Changes have been put on the website at this link [School hours and bell time changes - 2022/2023 | Lethbridge School Division \(lethsd.ab.ca\)](#)*

There is also a link to the section of the April 26 Board meeting where bell times were discussed [April 26, 2022 Board Agenda](#)

- The Board did meet with Christine Lee, who is the Associate Superintendent Business and Operations who gave a short presentation about the bus schedules in relation to the bell times. There is a link above to the Board of Trustees meeting with the presentation. Bell times are on school websites. There is information regarding bell time decisions on the Division website (see above). The new bell times were sent out to all parents.
- Christine Light had been asked if the bell times were appealable. There are 2 items in Policy that can have appeals: 402.2 Employee Transfers (<https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/download/240916>); 505.9 Appeals Concerning Student Matters (<https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/download/187469>). *“Parents/guardians and students shall have the right to appeal a decision made by any Division employee that significantly affects the education of a student in accordance with section 42 of the Education Act. Prior to engaging in the formal appeal process, parents/guardians and student shall follow Policy 1003.1 Channels of Communication and Disputes Resolution.”*
 - Policy 1003.1 Channels of Communication and Disputes Resolutions (<https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/download/187805>)
 - Education Act, Section 42 – Appeal to board, starts on page 48 (https://www.qp.alberta.ca/1266.cfm?page=E00P3.cfm&leg_type=Acts&isbncIn=9780779829408)

Comment: Some may argue, the start and end times for bells will impact education learning, especially in elementary, so when you say they fall under that policy, not really.

Answer from Trustee: As a Board they met, they believe that this would be an Administrative decision. The bell times are not far off from where they were a few years. The Board acknowledges that there have been multiple changes over the last few years, where we didn't have any control, due to COVID. The Trustee appreciates the acknowledgment and the apology from the Superintendent as they didn't want to make changes to bell times 2 years in a row. The Board understands their willingness to try stuff that is out of the box and sometimes that is not a success and that can affect families. The changes were based on the feedback over the year.

Superintendent Comment: This current school year, with trying out of the box solutions and parent requests. They tried to have different times with some individuals advocating that, it's sound practice to have younger students starting earlier. We have had time issue circumstances and realized that the bussing this year is not consistent or safe with unpredictable times. The goal for the next year is to have consistent and safe bussing. There is a set amount of dollars for transportation for the Division as well as Holy Spirit Catholic Division. They have to give consideration to the co-ops that are part of the system as well. Southland operates busses all over the country, so when you give them the amount of dollars, the boundaries, the number of students and schools, they provide a schedule. They gave 9 different drafts for feedback. Times must balance with instructional hours. The instructional hours will be balanced next year. There is also the complexity of the teacher's instructional hours and their non-instructional time such as supervision. They regret that there is a change to families 2 years in a row, but we can't continue with a system that is not consistent and safe. In terms of student activities right after school, as it is scheduled this year no one will be there. There won't be an elementary student in this city that will end at 3:30 pm so the Superintendent is sure that providers will accommodate that. Some parents don't find those times as optimal for their children, but other parents are happy about those times. They know this is a challenge to change.

Question: One of the issues is where you have high school kids that are being bussed from the same neighborhood to LCI and Chinook because of the boundaries, so you have double the busses running the same route. Chinook and some are going to LCI, so could they do that?

Superintendent: no that wouldn't make a big difference that would impact bell times. For example, some busses running in the South area, as there is no walkway, there is not funding to transport those kids for that area, but are doing it for safety reasons and pressuring the city to put in the proper walkways.

Question: Parents are still struggling with the high school and elementary kids start and end times. The Superintendent stated that it's better to have younger kids start earlier, so it's recognized that it is better for the little ones to start earlier but the Superintendent stated that due to the circumstances the bussing wasn't consistent or safe. Can you elaborate on that and why can't we have the high Schools and middle Schools flipped with the elementary schools?

Superintendent Answer: The Superintendent doesn't know the complexity deeply enough to describe. They tried it this year and it was unsuccessful. From some people's perspectives, the times work better. There won't be consensus. Sorry for giving the impression that I have a personal perspective regarding start time. There is a breadth of perspective from parents. Some are happy for the change, and some are at the other end of the perspective. For safety, the reliability has to come first. The students are not going to school longer. There must be a buffer for instructional hours. It was looked at and given the complexity, the Superintendent can't give the details. There were 9 iterations of the schedules.

Follow up Question: That didn't answer the question, as parents are looking for what those complexities are in more detail and not getting proper communication around that piece makes it harder for parents to accept these changes. Also, at the last meeting, it was suggested to have the information session with Southland and the Division to have those conversations.

Follow up Superintendent Answer: The flipping did not work, they added busses at the end, at a high cost, which didn't work. The complexities are the number of schools, number of programs in schools, number of students, number of routes. They did speak to Southland and the decision in terms of the presentation is that they couldn't explain to each person for their circumstance with respect to the routes. They trust Southland given the resources they have been given by the 2 school Divisions and the hours, number of routes and number of students that they did their best to come up with a schedule that would work for all students in the Division. The spreadsheets for the routes are pages long and School Councils can call Christine Lee for more information if they'd like to dig deeper.

Follow up Comment: From the parent's perspective; parents are being told that they have to accept these changes. There is not going to be an opportunity for parents to do anything or effect any positive changes with the bell times and as it was mentioned in the Board of Trustees meeting, that the Division/Board doesn't want to make changes to the bell times again so these changes that go into effect next year will remain for the subsequent years to come.

Follow up comments: Sometimes we are in institutions where decisions have to be made, as those on the outside, we don't understand all of the complexities, but we have to trust that the people in leadership, and they are balancing the needs to see fit. And regardless, they are not going to make everyone happy.

Follow question: That is understandable that you can't please everyone, but the conversation has gone from they are looking into it, to now it's a closed-door issue. When parents report back to their School Councils and other parents, they need to be able to give honest feedback rather than rhetoric that is not going to go anywhere. How much effort should parents put into advocating to change this issue at this point?

Superintendents Response: With all honesty, it would produce chaos to change the bell times and routes. The bell times are set to be safe and reliable. If changes were made with parents advocating for change, the change logistics will result in opposition from another whole group of parents. What is provided is safe and predictable routes within reasonable hours. Believes they did their due diligence based on the budget that they have. They could not make the high schools start late and make the schedule work, trust that is true. It's an operational decision, it's not an appealable matter to the Board or to appeal to Southland and finance. They did it early to give parents advance notice. To figure out what parents want and do not want is tumultuous from an admin perspective. We can't change one school as it would change 20 other schools. The bell times are what they are for the next school year.

Question: With French Immersion School, they are bussed separate from the English students, and they are going to the same school? There is a French Immersion bus. The LCI bus comes then leaves, then their children's bus comes, it's the same route and the same stop.

Comment: At another school, the French Immersion and the English students are on the same bus.

Superintendent's Answer: That is a good question, they will look into that.

Question: If the Division finds that this system is not safe and is not consistent, can we assume that the Division and Southland will go back to the drawing board?

Superintendent's Answer: That is correct as they have asked for the system to be safe and consistent.

Question: Why does the high school have to go before? Is it because there are more schools or kids?

Superintendent's Answer: The Superintendents wishes there was an easy way to articulate what she saw in all the spreadsheets. Factors include: number of schools, boundaries, programs, student numbers, instructional hours, aligning with another school system. Bringing high school later, can have a 4:40pm end time. They worked through a number of different combinations.

7. Engagement Fund Discussion

- Albert School Council Engagement fund - \$500

Question: Did we have the date as to when the money had to be spent?

Superintendent's Answer: School councils must report on their expenditure before the summer holidays. School Councils will be sent the sheet to report; it will be kept as simple as possible.

Question: Are we are getting it again next year?

Superintendent's Answer: Yes, it's in next year's budget.

- Ideas for uses of the Grant:
 - Some of the School Councils, are looking at doing a book study. One suggestion was to buy the books this year and do the session for next year.
 - Dr. Debbie Pushor, there is an engagement specialist (<https://www.debbiepushor.ca/>)
 - Jody Carrington, she has packages for \$500. Contact Tamara Smith at tamara@drjodycarrington.com, 403.507.3563.
 - Jody Carrington has three packages (each \$500):
 - Kids These Days Package; or
 - Teachers These Days Package; and
 - ReLit Group Package.
 - David Irvin, spoke at ASCA there are some books available and parenting in a post pandemic world.
 - David Irvine: www.davidirvine.com
 - Complementary David Irvine webinar at <https://davidirvine.com/complimentary-webinars/>
 - One school did beginner French for parents
 - Nicholas Sheran Elementary had a psychologist, Dylan Tate, it was colourful and the recording cannot be shared due to some of the language, talked about the mental health, psychology 101 type.
 - Caution towards some presenters, they were all shocked and the person who organized this didn't realize that his language was so colourful.
 - One school is thinking of having a museum night to invite parents in to look around the school and have a guest speaker who can speak about the history of the school.
 - Immanuel Christian had a speaker come in and gave a presentation for Gen Z; the presentation had a Christian background.
 - Fleetwood are going to do an ASCA workshop, they will be transitioning a new Chair and have some workshops for that.
 - Dr. Gerald B. Probe, is doing a book and partnering with Senator Joyce Fairbairn; they will be sourcing the book through the U of L book store.
 - Some schools haven't decided
 - Save the Kids <https://www.savethekids.org/#home>
 - Based in the US
 - Their objective is to help kids and families break free from screens and create real connections.
 - They will do in person assemblies or Parent nights. Could have multiple schools to pitch in \$500 US dollars for an assembly. It is \$2000 for 3 assemblies; the costs go down with more. You would have to pay for travel expenses. They charge for \$1000 for Parents Night. Nick Sales is going to Taber on May 16th.
 - Would like to have an event in the fall with multiple schools.

Question: Can we pay now for next year?

Superintendent's Answer: No, it must be an event that happens this school year and is paid this school year. When you book a speaker or presenter, you can't pay fully in advance for them in case something happens, and they cannot present.

Comment: There was some confusion at the ASCA where this was suggested that you can pay now for an event or speaker for next year, but they were talking about purchasing ASCA workshops.

Question: Can you use corporate sponsors and combine the grant and the sponsored money?

Superintendent's Answer: You can use the grant money with a corporate sponsor.

Superintendent's Comment: With Save the Kids, there is a powerful message with the harmful use of social media and it could fit with the Division as well. If the parent or School Council want to put the information together to send to the Superintendent and include that the event will occur in the fall, the scale, how many schools, what is the cost with the sliding scale to see how many schools that you get. This is in Middle Schools and High Schools, but this can apply to Elementary Schools as well, so if they can put funds towards a Parent night.

Comment: Elementary School is not too young to start with awareness, even grade 4's have phones.

Comment: Grade 3,4, 5's that would be a primary discussion for parents, and for the 1, 2's grades it would benefit those parents as their kids will get older.

Comment: This information can be sent to all the School Council Chairs. November or the last week of January and going forward would be a good time. October is not the best month.

Comment: There are schools who are looking to purchase books, can start talking to parents about this to move towards a guest speaker.

Question: Looking at the David Irvine website, how does that relate to schools?

Answer: David Irvine has some books like Parenting in a Post-Pandemic World, Raising Accountable Children, and Living Your Authentic Self. He spoke at the ASCA conference, and he would most likely tailor to what parents are looking for.

8. Trustee Report

- The highlight report is attached in the agenda.
- Supt. Cheryl Gilmore provided a report on the release of the new curriculum. She added Alberta Education sent curriculum information before the Easter break, and added the Division is very fortunate to have the expertise of Karen Rancier, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Lead Teachers Bev Smith and Michaela Demers. Gilmore provided information on the new curriculum and added Division teachers will be provided Professional Learning on Literacy and Numeracy in the spring, with PE and Wellness Professional Learning set for the fall. Trustees heard the Division will not be moving forward with Grade 4-6 ELAL and Mathematics curriculum in the fall of 2022.
- This week is Education Week (May 2 – 6). Encourage all Council Members to send notes of gratitude to Staff at the schools
- School Transition, as school reimagining what the school looks like without Covid restrictions.
- There is the possibility for advocacy action for Bill 15, it takes away the ATA's ability to discipline Teachers.
- The Board approved the proposed resolution with amended paragraphs and agreed that it be sent out to all Zone 6 Boards on April 27, 2022 as well as to Zone 6 Director, Brad Toone, and that the Board also have this topic added to the May 18, 2022 Zone 6 ASBA agenda for the Boards to vote for the draft resolution to go forward to the 2022 ASBA Fall General Meeting,
- Transportation and bell times, it was a good conversation, cast a motion to meet with the Holy Spirit School Division to see if they are having the same concerns.
- Policy committee, there policies that currently have to begin the process to separate policy from procedures. Passed a motion to table this until May.
- Community conversations, they are held once per month, opportunity for stakeholders to meet the board member and where we want to take the division and what to hear from the community, what are your experience. The next is on May 19th, 4-5:30pm at the Gunnery Point Picnic Shelter at Henderson Lake, that is the bug park. Every month it is a different day and time. (<https://lethsdcommunityengagement.schoolsites.ca/current-community-engagement-projects/community-conversations>)
- The Student Art Gala, this year the online exhibit starts on May 2nd on the Division website (<https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/departments/instructional-services/virtually-installed-lethbridge-schools-students-art2>) and there will be in person gallery for grades 9 – 12 at SAAG and starts on May 14th – June 19, 2022.
- ASCA was held in April.

Comment: We understand the reasoning to changing the location and times for community conversations, but it's hard to keep track of.

Trustees Answer: This year it has been planned for one month ahead, next year it will be planned for the year and it's good feedback to ensure clarity of communication going out.

Question: Is the curriculum going forward despite all the opposition or is it being amended based on recommendation?

Superintendent Answer: Yes, it is going forward. The implementation will have a focus on pedagogy. Teachers will have their first induction sessions on the 10th and 11th and talk about pedagogy and teaching and be masters of any curriculum with good teaching practices. Want to make sure that the teachers are getting the best information. Don't want to be in a flurry ordering resources for K-3, not a fan of the recommended resources, but it's only recommended. But they are not sure how much money they are getting, and not sure how much money they are getting for professional learning either.

9. Alberta School Councils Association

- There were several people from the Division who attended.
- There were 4 resolutions, they all passed some with amendments.
- It was all virtual.
- <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/annual-conference/sessions-preview>

Question: A new School Council person is looking at setting up a welcome table gallery in the school and looking to see if anyone has done that, to promote school council, a membership drive. Tried to look at ASCA and went on the resources and you need a login/password

Answer: The chairperson can email ASCA and they will give it to them.

10. Reports from Division Committees

10.1 Policy Advisory Committee – Alison Alma-North, Jamie Walburger (alternate)

April 6, 2022. The draft policy changes that went out to School Councils for feedback are attached to the email with this agenda.

- Met on April 6th, looked at a few policies
 - o Anti-Racism is a new policy that is being put out. The Board acknowledges that racism exists and in supportive roles that public education serves a reflecting influencing in driving a positive systematic change. Furthermore the Board acknowledges that racism can be perpetuated at the individual, institutional and systemic level and rooted in historic oppression, white supremacy, colonialism. Corrective action is required to create anti racist environment. The diversity of the school, staff and families at Lethbridge School Division as a strength. The Board recognizes that respect for diverse cultural perspectives, traditions, languages, beliefs, lived experiences are values that enriches the learning and working environment for everyone and is important to Students and Staffs wellbeing and personal growth.
 - o Some changes to the knowledge and employability courses, locally developed courses, alternative programs and outreach programs.
 - o Feedback is due back by May 4th.

Comment: The policy's are sent out and our School Council doesn't have the opportunity to discuss due to the timing.

Answer: There is the opportunity to have the policies sent out to all the schools parents.

Comment: Sending more emails, people tend to not read those emails.

Answer: That is where the sign up is for parents to sign up for Council emails.

10.2 Poverty Intervention Committee – Jamie Walburger, Shelley Roest (alternate) -

- was postponed until later in May

Question: If the Designated person who cannot make it should be contacting the alternate.

Answer: It would be the main person who has to contact the alternate to let them know they cannot make it.

Comment: Would it be valuable, to include the alternate in the emails and then if the main person can't go, they still contact you, but you have the minutes and are in the loop?

10.3 Division Wellness Committee – Edna Asem, Carrie Boschman (alternate)

- next meeting was rescheduled for May 30th.

10.4 Community Engagement Committee – Shelley Roest, Cynthia Young, and Jamie Walburger
March 24, 2022. Report from March 24. Next meeting is May 12 (6:30 – 7:30) – ALL parents invited.
Meeting information will be on the Community Engagement website.

- Next meeting is May 12th
- all parents are invited to come to the Community Engagement Committee
- this is a hybrid
- if you go in person, they are upstairs, you will find the room.
- one of the standing agenda items is ways to engage.

11. Superintendent's Report – Cheryl Gilmore

Upcoming events and important dates will be highlighted.

Note – If you are a parent of a student in grades 9-12, check out the Lethbridge School Division ICE Scholarship [Applications | Lethbridge School Division \(lethsd.ab.ca\)](https://www.lethsd.ab.ca)

- Updated the curriculum piece, that is moving forward for k-3, have confidence that Staff and teachers will be ready and have the resources
- Important event, ICE Scholarship Applications extended the deadline to May 9th, if you know of a student in Grades 9 – 12 this scholarship process is very straight forward. ICE is not tied to grades, is there something that is innovated, creative or entrepreneurial, such as fine arts, technology, inventions, participations to do different things. Its not intended to be bound to grades, but to ideas. They have received 6 or 7 applicants. It's not bound to them us the scholarship in a particular way, they could use the check however they want.
- Under the community engagement website, you will find the Loop, this is a collection of resources, services, education centers that families can access. This is a great resource for Parents.
<https://lethsdcommunityengagement.schoolsites.ca/current-community-engagement-projects/the-loop>
- Dual Credit Courses -- May 5th is the Discovery Night. This is for post secondary credits with Th Lethbridge College and U of L.
 - o There are 17 different courses to choose from.
 - o You can get High School Credit and College Credit
 - o The Division pays the tuition for those courses, some have a separate small fee for books or other resources.
 - o On May 5th, this is the Discover Night, 6-7 pm. This is to learn more about the dual courses.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dual-credit-discovery-night-registration-318878553337>
 - o There are discover days, where the kids go to the college for the day, there are about 90 students who are going to those discovery days.
<https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/programs/dual-credit>

12. Roundtable Reports

Reports are included with the agenda: an opportunity to highlight a very significant event or for questions from the representatives about information in a written report.

Adjournment - at 8:40pm

Division School Council 2021-22 Meeting Dates: June 6, 2022

2021-2022 Division School Council

Chair: Shelley Roest

Vice-Chair: Alison Alma-North

Recording Secretary: Marlaina Ditrich