

1. Parent Learning Presentation (6:30-7:00)

Associate Superintendent Morag Asquith and Off Campus Education Coordinator Andrew Krul will present on our various off campus opportunities. You can view the PowerPoint shared at the link below:

[Off-Campus Education School Council - Revised - Copy - Copy - Copy.pptx](#)

2. Land Acknowledgement

3. Welcome and Introductions

Sarah Ahlgren. (Dr Probe elementary)

Nicole Williams (ICSS)

Edna ASem (Chinook and Lethbridge Christian)

Aaron Fitchett (Principal at Nicholas Sheran. Sitting at DSC as the ATA rep)

Andy Tyslau (Principal at Plaxton elementary)

Tish Elford (Chinook HS, GS Lakie, Nicholas Sheran elementary)

Viviana Lartiga (Chinook HS)

Morag Asquith (Associate Superintendent, Instructional Services)

Joanne Hill (École Agnes Davidson elementary)

David Franz (Galbraith elementary)

Allison Purcell (Trustee. Child at LCI)

Genny Steed (Board of Trustees representative at DSC).

(Children at LCI, Paterson MS. Plaxton Elementary)

Cythnia Young (Winston Churchill HS, Wilson MS, Senator Buchanan elementary)

Mike Nightingale (Superintendent)

Kristin Solowoniuk (Executive assistant to the Superintendent)

April Matisz (Gilbert Paterson MS, École Agnes Davidson elementary) (attended online)

Danika Forsyth (Mike Mountain Horse elementary) (attended online)

4. Additions to the Agenda

- Wellness committee report 12.e.
- Calendar Committee report 12.f.

5. Approval of the Agenda

Cynthia Young and Tisha Elford approved the agenda.

6. Errors and Omissions- None

7. Approval of the Minutes of December 4, 2023

Tisha Elford and Edna Asem approve minutes as presented.

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Middle School Policy Advisory Committee representative

- Middle School Parent representative still to be assigned.
- Concerns raised with the timing of the committee as middle schools have early dismissal on Wednesdays and most middle school parents will have to leave early to transport their children.
- Since there were no volunteers, Carrie Boschman will continue to attend as the alternate but stated that she will need to leave early each meeting for school pickup.
- Danika Forsyth - continuing as the alternate elementary rep (from December meeting)

9. Trustee Report

- Highlights from December 19, 2023 meeting can be found at <https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/download/436462>
- Policies
 - Amended and adopted Superintendent Evaluations Policy
 - Healthy nutritional choices – motion to make it a procedure (autonomy for admin to make decisions regarding nutrition in each school)
 - Approved a motion to continue to explore a pilot “KinderCare Program”
 - i. to support and enhance early education for students
 - ii. Board members had visited Medicine Hat to see and learn about their STAY AND LEARN program
 - iii. Families would pay a monthly fee to have kindergarten aged kids stay at school to continue to play and learn (vs required to choose childcare over Kindergarten)
 - Community Conversations – January 16, 2024 at 1-2:30pm. (TOMORROW)
 - Franks Redwood Coffee Shop (13th street North -across from Tim Hortons)
 - Ongoing conversation about Policy review
 - Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, January 23, 2024

10. Alberta School Council Association

A) Memberships: Out of the 24 Lethbridge School Division schools, 20 schools chose to join, 3 declined ASCA membership and 1 doesn't have a school council.

- The Board will continue to discuss how this choice of membership for school councils will be made in future years.
- PARENT COMMENT – believes that it is important for school councils to have a conversation if they want to be a member of this association.
- PARENT COMMENT – believes that if ASCA isn't representing our parent voice, then we don't want to pay a fee for membership.
- COMMENT – Other options for parent voice and advocacy to the Alberta Government include Parents for Choice in Education, Alberta Parents Union, others?
- Board will be discussing if/how money that is budgeted for ASCA memberships and AGM registrations can be used other ways.
- Board will discuss if money designated can be collectively used to offset the costs of delegates attending the AGM.
 - PARENT COMMENT - Last year one delegate paid \$1200 out of pocket to attend for 3 nights, meals, and travel. This was later approved to be reimbursed by her school council.
- QUESTION – are all 23 school councils *active* and having meetings as required? Shelley will look into this!
- Annual School Council Conference (April 26-27) and AGM (April 28, 2024)
Annual Conference:
<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/annual-conference>
Annual AGM:
<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/annual-general-meeting>
- Deadline for “Proposed Advocacy Resolution” submissions was today (January 15). See ASCA website for forms and more information
 - GREAT to discuss this with your school council starting in September!
 -
- ASCA WEBSITE: “All school councils with current ASCA membership are eligible to submit *Proposed Advocacy Resolutions* and send parent representatives to vote on behalf of the school council at the ASCA Annual General Meeting.”
 - Conference and AGM Registration deadline: Monday, April 15 at 1 pm
 - NOTE: Hotel is not included in registration. Conference hotel books up fast so book early (and cancel if needed)
 - Proxy votes for the resolutions can be sent with another representative attending the AGM. Application deadline and form submission: Monday, April 15, 2024

11. Superintendent's Report

A) Upcoming Events

- TOWN HALL February 6, 2024 - 6:30pm at Victoria Park

- Administrators are tasked to find students, parents, teachers and community members.
- More information at: <https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/town-hall-2>
- Administrators will be reaching out for volunteers to attend and then there will a public call out for community members.

B) Bussing Cancellation

- QUESTION: Can you address the cancelation of busses but keeping schools open?
 - Southland made the decision that they didn't have enough busses to ensure complete safety!
 - There are all sorts of reasons for a bussing cancellation vs school closure: busses can't run, pipe bursts and no water, grass fire and poor air quality.
- QUESTION: What are division rules for inclement weather?
 - Parent concerned with text messages sent saying buses were 20-30 minutes late and students standing in the cold.
 - Parent works with immigrant families and concerned about well-being of people who often don't have appropriate clothing.
 - SUPERINTENDENT ANSWER: Temporary school closures are tricky as there are many different factors... currently it is COLD. If schools are open, parents still have a choice... they can keep their kids home if they choose or they can take them to school themselves if the busses don't run.
 - Looking into how to better communicate these things.

12. Committee Reports

- a) **Policy Advisory Committee**- Skye Curtis/ Carrie Boschman/ Viviana Lartiga
 - policy review process discussed (supposed to be every 5 years)
 - Superintendent (Mike) identified all policies that were due/overdue for review.
 - suggestion for a risk analysis for policy review and to provide a formal framework for reviewing policies (in the event that an audit is done by Alberta Education to ensure alignment/compliance of policies with the education act)
 - Board of Trustees are continuing to explore the hiring of a consultant to help pair-down the number of Policies (Currently 166 plus procedures, resources, appendices, etc)
 - discussion of a webpage for Policy feedback (to ensure all stakeholders have opportunity for input).
 - Policies Under Review:
 - 501.3 School Choice under review
 - 600.1 Guiding Principles for Educational Programming in School
 - 600.2 School Based Decision Making
 - Next meeting: February 7 at 12:30pm

b) Community Engagement Committee- Shelley Roest

[Link to Community Engagement Committee Minutes](#)

- Town HALL – structure and how it would be collected.
- ARAO survey results
- Technology Survey is being created.
- ICE (Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurial) scholarship
- Division Assurance
- Next Meeting February 28

b) Poverty Intervention Committee- Sarah Ahlgren

- Received almost \$15000 in donations since last meeting.
- Increases in rent/month is a major concern for many families.
- Housing is primary reason for family support.
- 73% accessing support because of finances.
- Infographics for more info:
<https://povertyinterventioncommittee.schoolsites.ca/>
- Christmas supports: Close to 4500 accessed supports through Angel Tree/Shop of Wonders/Salvation Army etc (up from 3800 last year)
- Donations are always welcome (tax receipts provided for donations of \$20 or more)
- Next meeting: March 12, 2024 at 1pm

c) Wellness Committee

- Presentation on Physical Education and Wellness for Grade 4-7
- PowerPoint presentation and infographic shared with committee to outline the changes (division is taking the new outcomes and developing the details of how this will be implemented)
- Parents can opt OUT of Human Growth and Development portion of the curriculum (formerly Human Sexuality)
 - Nutrition grants given to Plaxton elementary
 - Deadline for Nutrition Wellness Grant is May/June

d) Calendar Committee

- Appreciated the feedback and process for the development of the upcoming school calendar as there are so many nuances to adjust to and many are non-negotiable requirements.
- A draft will be given to the Board of Trustees at the January 23rd meeting, and hopefully approved and available for the public shortly thereafter.

13. New Business

- A) Follow up from the outcome of the last Diversity and Inclusion Parent Table meeting held on June 14

- In 2019, approximately 60 parents of exceptional students gathered at WCHS learning commons as a means to connect people who tend to feel alone in their journey and provide an avenue for communication of supports available.
 - This has evolved to focus more on diversity (Division staff under this umbrella include Joel Tailfeathers, Rochelle Neville, DeeAnna Presley-Roberts, Jen Day, Jackie Fletcher, Jim Kerr and others).
 - the focus has shifted to:
 - rigor and high expectations
 - needing safe spaces
 - mental health needs to continue to be supported
 - digital wellness
 - career education (catalyst for Sara's hiring)
 - QUESTION: Are there plans to do another DIPT
 - MORAG - Jackie will be doing a "parents of students with exceptional needs" meeting once she is back from her medical leave (timeline unknown)
 - QUESTION: How did inclusion for disabilities (including neurodiversity) morph into racism and oppression?
 - ANSWER- MORAG:
 - It is difficult to pay attention to everyone who is needing a voice.
 - Initially, DIPT was a place to connect and gather... (a safe place for parents) and provide information that is needed.
 - They heard and are continuing to hear a representation of a broad variety of parent voices.
 - Saw that it wasn't just parents of children with exceptionalities feeling disconnected and isolated (indigenous families in particular)
 - QUESTION: what number/percentage of students have exceptionalities?
 - MORAG - will find an exact number and report back

Out of the initial meeting: Shelly Moore and Jodi Kerrington came to speak to the teachers in the division
 - Out of that initial meeting: ARAO policy, trauma informed practices with Ann Muldoon, changes to access for learning with English language learning, seeking ways to help parents of children with neurodivergent needs navigate the educational system.
- B) Discuss Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression survey and recently released results.
- Results can be found on division website under BOARD > COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT > MENU > SURVEYS > ARAO
<https://www.letbsd.ab.ca/download/436570>
 - Summary:
 - 500 people participated.
 - QUESTION: What are the demographics? ANSWER: 79% parents, 2% students, 4% community members, 15% staff.

- QUESTION: How were the questions created and who vetted these prior to sending out the survey? ANSWER: The ARAO committee (committee is comprised of division employees including both administrators and executive staff) created and vetted the questions and had approval of Cheryl Gilmore. They had chosen 5 questions based on comparisons to other sites/surveys they found but narrowed it down to 2.
- QUESTION – Some Parents felt that ARAO question 1 presupposes that we live in an anti-racist culture... was this intension? ANSWER (Andy TYSLAU)- The survey allowed an option for people to not complete a question or questions.
- QUESTION - Why are “lived experiences” valuable for creation of policy and procedures within the school division? ANSWER - All responses are collected and noted
- PARENT concern – parents were not permitted a voice in the creation of the questionnaire as parents are stakeholders in this creation of policy/procedures for the school division
- SUPERINTENDENT Response:
 - confident in the work that the ARAO committee has done .
 - Survey gave opportunity for parents to give input/feedback
 - NOT typical for admin committees to include a parent voice
 - Agreed that ARAO is a procedure that is impactful for many in the division
 - Idea has been presented to use the community engagement committee to be able to offer their perspectives that may not be seen by those sitting on a particular committee.
 - An Area to improve on: what is the purpose of a survey that is taken, what are we going to do with the information, how are we compiling the data (open ended questions give a wide expanse of responses, narrow questions are easier to define and tabulate but may have less depth/richness) and how are we going to report back.
- QUESTION: Is there data or what is the evidence that supports the need for this ARAO policy?
 - ANSWER (MORAG) – Without any details due to confidentiality, has had 5 meetings last year alone (3 with students and 2 with parents) who have had racial conflicts.
 - PARENT – shared that there is anecdotal evidence against those who look/sound different than those of majority in our division
- QUESTION: Critical Race Theory (CRT) is being taught in schools and parent is wondering if this has impacted how students relate to each other when defined as oppressed or oppressor under a hierarchy of intersectionality
 - SUPERINTENDENT – Reading from the ARAO policy sections 1.1, 1.2, 1.5... wanting all people to be able to come together, have transformational conversations,
 - How can we make sure that racism is not exclusive?

- QUESTION: Since the ARAO policy integrates intersectionality, how was the demographic data utilized or WHY were these questions even asked?
 - ANSWER: SUPERINTENDENT– wanting to gain a sense of who was filling out the survey and so demographic information made that possible.
- QUESTION: Can a copy of the ARAO procedure made May 1st vs the procedure on June 27th (after the survey came out) be shared?
 - ANSWER: SUPERINTENDENT – will look into this.
- QUESTION: How can the survey come out on May 14 and the procedure already be published on June 27th (Is that time enough o sift through the data and allow it to help form procedures?)
- TRUSTEE GENNY RESPONSE
 - Acknowledge and appreciates that parent voice is needed and recognizes that some of these accountability questions belong to the BOARD OF TRUSTEES as they are responsible for the policies.
 - From the process of seeing a policy that is brand new followed by the procedure, the board has been talking about how they are gathering information and asking if they are they hearing voices accurately.
 - Policy advisory committee: added more parent voice.
Discussing how to get more accurate feedback from the greater population and the Board is seeking to use the process to better inform processes moving forward.
 - Demographics – hasn't been included in surveys in the past
 - 500 responses is a high response rate!
 - But, some items had upwards of a 20% non-response!
 - ANDY TYSLAU commented – wanted the demographic information to have confidence that the survey was answered by a wide demographic
 - Board is continuing to look at how they can best use surveys, and be more effective to administer them and use the information gathered to support policy making.
 - History of creation of the ARAO policy – this work had begun prior to the current board being elected. Genny will look into the back history more and get back to DSC.

C) Alberta School Council Engagement funds allocation

- Bring this topic to the March agenda to discuss ideas for how to spend this money.
- Consider adding this to your school council agendas to begin idea discussion. You can access ASCE information and guidelines [here](#).

14. Roundtable Reports

- Question regarding viability of being back to Chinook in 3 days. Next week students will be writing exams in the gym and cafeteria and once students are back in class it should be back to normal. So, in total 3 days of online classes.

15. Future Parent Learning Session Topics

- School Cash Online and impact on fundraising

16. Upcoming Events

Jan	23	Board Meeting
Feb	6	Town Hall (No DSC in February)
	7	Policy Advisory Committee
	19-23	February Break- No classes for students
	27	Board Meeting
Mar	4	Division School Council

17. Adjournment 9:16pm

Division School Council 2023-2024 Meeting Dates:

- February 6, 2024 Town Hall
- March 4, 2024
- April 8, 2024
- May 6, 2024
- June 10, 2024

2023-2024 Division School Council Representatives

Chair	Shelley Roest
Vice Chair	Carrie Boschman
Recording Secretary	Skye Curtis
Policy Advisory Committee	Skye Curtis/ Jamie Walburger/ Viviana Lartiga
Poverty Intervention Committee	Sarah Ahlgren/Danica Forsyth
Division Wellness Committee	Edna Asem/Skye Curtis
Community Engagement Committee	Shelley Roest