



## Division School Council Meeting **NOTES**

**April 8, 2024**

**6:30 pm**

**Education Centre Board Room / Microsoft TEAMS**

### **Attendees:**

Shelley Roest- Division School Council Chair  
Carrie Boschman- Division School Council Vice Chair  
Mike Nightingale- Superintendent  
Sarah Ahlgren-  
April Matisz- Gilbert Paterson Middle School  
Viviana Lartiga- Chinook High School  
JoAnne Hill- Agnes Davidson Elementary  
Aaron Fitchett- Principal, Nicholas Sheran/ ATA Rep  
Andy Tyslau- Principal, Dr. Robert Plaxton/ Administrator Rep  
Tisha Elford- Nicholas Sheran  
Tyler Waldron- Nicholas Sheran Elementary  
Chris Rodler- Coalbanks Elementary  
Skye Curtis- Coalbanks Elementary  
Cynthia Young- Senator Buchanan Elementary  
Edna Asem- Lethbridge Christian School  
Monnu Bains- Nicholas Sheran  
Allison Purcell- Board Chair

1. Parent Learning Session - Director of Finance, Avice DeKolver provided a presentation on the Alberta Education Budget Overview.

Important Upcoming Budget Dates:

- May 21st 1-3:30 Public Meeting and Board Video Presentation
- May 21-26 Survey open to the public
- May 27 3:00-5:00pm Board Budget Debate.
- Budget must be approved and submitted by May 31st.



Division School  
Council – Budget Up

2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Welcome and Introductions
4. Additions to the Agendam- none brought forward

5. Approval of the Agenda - approved by Tisha Elford, and seconded by Tyler Waldron
6. Errors and Omissions - Viviana asked for a note surrounding the question Nicole posed re: seminal works to be included in the minutes from March 2024 - Kristin will review and add to the March minutes.
7. Approval of the Minutes of March 4, 2024 - postponed to the May meeting
8. Business Arising from the Minutes
  - A) School Website Update:
    - a. LCIschool website had lots of information and was up to date
    - b. SJF doesn't have by-laws, has some minutes and agendas
    - c. Gilbert Paterson doesn't have up to date minutes
    - d. Dr. Probe - minutes are there up until December, no bylaws listed
    - e. Wilson has info on their website
    - f. Churchill - minutes are not in order and are hard to find
    - g. Chinook - doesn't have bylaws, website is out of date
    - h. Agnes Davidson - bylaws/minutes/agendas are there but hard to find
    - i. Lethbridge Christian - no bylaws, website out of date
    - j. Nicholas Sheran - minutes are posted, procedures not there but working on it
    - k. Robert Plaxton - bylaws listed, minutes are posted, description for what school council is will be updated shortly
    - l. Coalbanks - agendas and minutes are up to date, bylaws and procedures are there and up to date
    - m. It was noted that Alberta Ed says minutes should be kept for the last seven years
    - n. Mike noted there doesn't necessarily need to have a standardized procedure but will review with the admin group
    - o. Allison noted that a catalogued binder should be kept in the learning commons so any parents can go and look at them at any point
      - i. Each rep should go to learning commons to see if past minutes are there and should ask chair/principal to update website and make it accessible for all parents
      - ii. this is stemming from a discussion on what an "active school council" is and encouraging all parents to engage at some level on what school council is and does.
      - iii. minutes and bylaws are meant to be kept for 7 years. How are schools achieving this?
      - iv. Reaching out to administrators to remind them to update school council minutes and information.
9. Trustee Report
  - a. April 22 at 6-7pm is Community Conversations at Petals, Paws & Beans on Columbia Blvd W.

- b. April 30 - Westside Boundary Open House - 4:30-8pm at G.S. Lakie - board would like to hear from stakeholders, invites were also sent out to the business community - there will be a few boundary options available for viewing and a survey out at the same time
- c. May 21 - 1-3:30pm - budget debate - email trustees to give feedback or meet with a trustee.
- d. May 27 - board budget debate
- e. May 30 - parent session with regards to inclusion/students that have ISPs, will be an open invitation to families that would be impacted or need more information on that topic (likely an evening time, TBD). Emails with information will go out to school councils.

#### 10. Alberta School Councils Association

- a. ASCA Resolutions - seven resolutions are going forward to the AGM. Questions please see Shelley. Conference is April 27/28 (TEAMS option available), deadline for forms is April 15 at 1:00PM. Monnu and Skye will be attending virtually and can take proxy votes for any interested schools.

#### 11. Superintendent's Report

- a. ICE Scholarships & Showcase – Thank you to everyone that came out to the showcase event, applications for scholarships are still open.
- b. Staffing
  - In the swing of hiring, some administrator positions have been opened for application.
  - Now that we have our budget profile we are able to move into hiring full swing.
  - Is there a process for engaging with parents to provide input on what is going well what needs improvement when considering hiring for administrators? Yes, this process is not necessarily the same every time but we do prioritize gathering feedback from School Councils and Staff.
    - Mike Reached out to the Chinook and LCI School Council Chairs on creating a plan for School Council engagement.
    - an email and form has already been sent to Chinook High School regarding the open principalship at Chinook.
- c. Policy Feedback Page
  - posted right on the main division landing page, DSC reps should encourage principals to direct stakeholders to this page to drive more feedback
  - it was noted that you don't have to choose which demographic you fall into in order to submit your feedback, Mike also noted that we will be looking to make the feedback form mandatory to reduce the number of blank submissions.
  - A parent noted that perhaps there could be accordion options so there is less scrolling on the website as well as a way to see the final version of the policy that feedback was received on once the board has approved it in order to close the feedback loop.
- d. Collective Bargaining Process
  - teachers used to negotiate directly with the board, now it is a two-tiered bargaining process

- big items such as raises, leaves, etc., is bargained at a central level between the provincial government and the ATA. CUPE 290 just ratified their agreement and the board has ratified it as well
- legislation from the government requires the division to follow certain requirements which has posed challenges. CUPE 2843 negotiations are ongoing. Mike would like it noted that he is not speaking for anyone except himself - he has found negotiations challenging due to the government restrictions.

## 12. Committee Reports

- a. Policy Advisory Committee - Board unanimously removed 600.1 as advised by PAC, then PAC reviewed and discussed 600.2 and 601.2.1 and both policies went to the website for feedback from the community (these close today for feedback from the website). Allison explained the process that occurred with 601.2.1 where a trustee brought forward a motion to the board to change the policy, then the board determined that it should go to PAC and go through that process first before the board could make any decisions. A parent had extensive questions regarding community members engaging with a trustee in order to bring forward motions in order to change policies - and what supporting evidence was required in order to make such a motion, such as emails from the electorate, etc. One parent noted that regardless of whether the name of the break changes or not, Christian holidays should still be recognized in the school division as there is a large demographic of Christians.
- b. Poverty Intervention Committee - presentation from the Lethbridge Food Bank - numbers of families accessing their services has gone up by 143 - Food Bank is in nearly every school in Lethbridge and give 3000 lunches per week between both school divisions. Food Bank would welcome feedback on what schools actually want/what kids will eat. They will be sending a survey out at the beginning of the school year for parents to fill out. Biggest issue right now is parents that are working full time and simply can't afford the cost of food. Food Bank regularly supporting 133 families - financial strain is the number one issue facing families right now. Committee would like to know if there are specific stories that encourage donors, such as a teenager who had lost a favorite blanket in a fire receiving a new blanket in his favorite color. Next meeting is May 14.

## 13. New business

- a. \$500 grant and \$250 funds from division
  - When does the \$500 and \$250 get deposit into the bank account?
  - February 28th schools received an email about receiving the \$500.
  - Mike will inquire about the status of the \$250 fund, generally it is received in September but Wilson has not seen it.
- b. Education Week
  - Dates are April 15th-19th.
  - ATA and school division have partnered in celebrating and nominating teachers. Four names were drawn from the nominations and will be provided with a pizza and Kona Ice treat. Teacher will be provided with some professional development dollars. Each day

Garrett will be showcasing one teacher and all nominees should be provided a certificate with their nomination submissions.

-We would love to hear about what your school did to celebrate next month.

- c. Extra-Curricular Lead Teacher Work
  - as reported by Mike
  - temporary position given to three people for them to look at protocols for locker rooms, protocols for education coaches/teachers/students, examining fine arts items that are extra curricular along with their accompanying procedures
  - series of modules is being worked on for the athletes based on feedback received. Next steps will be to pilot procedures/modules in division schools.
- d. Any school councils interested in having Kaylee Low present should speak to Nicole Williams.
  - ICSS has been looking for a partner to bring in Caylee Low for a technology presentation.
  - LCI will be having a parent night and she will be speaking with a number of grade 9 and 10 students.
  - Senator Buchanan had Caylee Low present in November for \$300.
  - Lethbridge Christian is looking at bringing in resources but is still in discussion around which resources.

#### 14. Roundtable Reports

- a. World Teacher's Day - happens in October

15. Future Parent Learning Session Topics - a parent requested a learning session on AO/AR policy with time for Q&A from parents - questions like what is the intent of the policy, who is this policy supposed to protect, what are the implications should this policy not be followed, and what can parents expect to see at the school level should this policy be implemented. There is documentation that educators have been extensively informed about AR/AO but parents have not been duly informed. Other parents also supported this request and its importance as it relates to parents was discussed. Other questions - why was Critical Race Theory and intersectionality applied to this policy? Why is this policy important to each stakeholder? Mike is willing to lead this discussion/presentation and is open to attempting to answer difficult questions - he will put together as much background information as possible for the May DSC.

#### 16. Adjournment @ 9:11

#### **Division School Council 2023-2024 Meeting Dates:**

- May 6, 2024
- June 10, 2024

#### **2023-24 Division School Council Representatives**

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

Community Engagement Committee Shelley Roest