

**Attendance:**

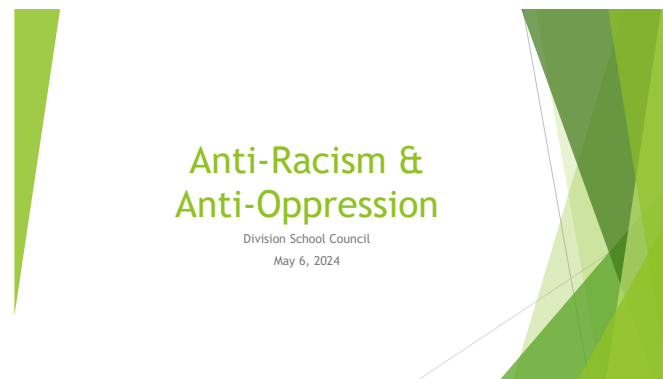
Shelley Roest  
Carrie Boschman  
April Matisz  
Genny Steed  
JoAnne Hill  
Viviana Lartiga  
Nicole Williams  
Edna Asem  
Andrea Andreachuk  
Sarah Ahlgren  
Aaron Fitchett  
Tisha Elford  
Jen Neufeld  
Tyler Waldron  
Danica Forsyth  
Cynthia Young  
Monnu Bains  
Allison Purcell  
Christine Light  
Skye Curtis  
Kristin Solowoniuk  
Tina Carnagie  
Chris Roedler (Via Teams)  
Andy Tyslau (Via Teams)  
Tiffany Hill (Via Teams)

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

Mike Nightingale will present on the Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression policy.

- Mike Nightingale presented on the Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression policy - the history of how it became policy in our school board, the feedback that was heard from various stakeholders as the policy was being implemented.

- The presentation can be reviewed below:



- Handouts of the Policy, Procedure and Appendix were handed out. You can review each of these items digitally here.
  - [Policy 103.1 Anti-Racism & Anti-Oppression](#)
  - [Exhibit 103.1.A Anti-Racism & Anti-Oppression](#)
  - [Procedure 103.1. Anti-Racism & Anti-Oppression](#)
- Question surrounding the timing of policy approval. Policy was unanimously approved after first reading which approved the intent of the policy. The definitions (appendix) were added later to clarify the intent. Trustee Allison Purcell clarified that each board member individually felt confident enough with the intent as presented before the definitions were added to vote unanimously to pass, should they have felt that the definitions or additions changed intent after the fact they were welcome to vote against it at future readings.
- Mike stated that his understanding of Critical Race Theory is an academic concept that's been around since the 1970s that examines racism in everyday life. One parent explained that Critical Race Theory exists on a spectrum where some people experience it on a very subtle level where institutions operate on a discriminatory level that is invisible to most people. One example given was that all feedback received to our survey was in English, so did we by the mechanism of our feedback inadvertently make it easier for one group to be represented over another.
- Anti-Oppression is about the day-to-day small events to combat discrimination. Anti-oppression is included to make the policy more broad to include those with intellectual disabilities even though it is lumped in with lots of discussion around racism.
- If this is not a policy on consequence, what is the goal for an outcome for this policy? There was a racist incident that was a catalyst for the creation of this policy but the intent of the policy was as a response to make a statement on where we as a division have a value.
- Superintendent Gilmore did make a statement that this policy did include CRT and Intersectionality.

- One parent raised their concern that in an attempt to solve this problem we are creating new division wherein we label some students as oppressors and others as a victim in which it becomes self fulfilling. There were concerns that the definition of White Supremacy refers to a historical racial hierarchy and creates the division of oppressor/victim and is an unfair characterization of white students.
- Edmonton Public has identical ARAO definitions to ours and they enacted their policy first which we've adopted. They publish a report on all of the ARAO work they've completed since the policy was created. Is that something we are missing?
  - We have not listed Edmonton Public School Division as a reference but we worked closely with them and received permission to use their work.
  - We do not quote Edmonton Public Schools as it is not the author of the Seminal Work, they do not own the original content.
  - A concern was raised that Southern Alberta has a unique culture from Edmonton and our school policies should reflect the unique population and culture of our division.
- What's happened since this policy was created? Have we seen a decrease in incidents or has any data been collected? Regulation 2.3 states "using evidence and data to better understand issues of racism and equity in Lethbridge School Division, to inform decision-making and action, and to monitor progress and outcomes of this ongoing work."
- How can we move forward from tonight and the last several months of discussion? Recommendation of amending the policy to rename Anti-Discrimination Anti- Oppression and the remove the line "furthermore, the Board acknowledges that racism can be perpetuated at the individual, institutional and systemic level and is rooted in historical oppression, white supremacy, and colonialism. Proactive action is required to create anti-racism environment."
  - One parent is concerned that the policy is so negative and doesn't honour the diversity of the school division.
  - How will this play out at my child's school? Will my child be taught that they are more of an oppressor than their classmate. No, students will be taught about colonialism and historical issues in Canada but they will not be personally assigned labels of victims or oppressors.
- Trustee Steed recommended that each person brings this back to their school councils and return in June with a decision on how to proceed and if we should bring this to a vote to request on a formal motion to have the policy returned for amendment to either the board or the Policy Advisory Committee.

## 2. Land Acknowledgement

A land acknowledgement was read by Shelley Roest

## 3. Welcome and Introductions

4. Additions to the Agenda

None

5. Approval of the Agenda

Approved by Tisha Elford & Danica Forsyth

6. Errors and Omissions

None

7. Approval of the Minutes of April 8, 2024

Approved by Tyler Waldron & Cynthia Young

8. Approval of the Minutes of March 4, 2024

Cynthia Young & Tisha Elford approved the minutes as amended

9. Business Arising from the Minutes

A) \$500/\$250 School Council Funds- both funds have now been deposited. If you are missing either of those amounts, please reach out to your Admin who will work with Avice DeKolver.

B) Fundraising Delay- Bring back to the June meeting.

C) School Council Minutes in Learning Commons/Updated Websites

- Mike has reached out to Administrators as to how they manage their 7 years of minutes. Some keep binders in the learning commons but most are kept in digital copies.
- Request to have paper copies made available for accessibility

D) Immanuel Christian is having Kaylee Low present "Intentional with Technology" May 15, Lakie is having Madison Cameron for a parent only learning session on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

10. Trustee Report

Board Meeting Highlights can be found [here](#).

- Please reach out to trustees with any input on Budget.
- Finalizing priorities, further discussion and input welcome.
- Community Conversations May 15<sup>th</sup> 9-10am at Franks Redwood Specialty Waffle Café.
- Virtually Installed, collaboration with other divisions and organizations to showcase our student's artwork.
  - How does one submit student artwork? Is it only for work done in schools for a specific projects or home art etc.?
  - How accessible are visual arts to students? A parent was concerned about how art is prioritized in schools.
- Diversity and Inclusion Parent Table (DIPT)- May 30<sup>th</sup> Location TBD

- When will assurance plans be posted? Division Assurance Plan will be approved at the May Board Meeting. Schools will be bringing them to School Councils for presentation at their June meetings for posting by end of June.
  - Request to bring Division Assurance Plan for discussion to June DSC Meeting.

#### 11. Alberta School Council Association

##### A) Update from AGM Attendees

- Each school that brought forward a resolution was able to present the background information for clarity on intent of each resolution.
- Appreciation of the clear ground rules and the adherence to only one person speaking at a time, respectful dialogue.
- Extensive discussion around Bill 20 and how parents should be speaking against this going forward as it puts a lot of oversight at the provincial level and unbalances the democratic systems we have to elect Trustees/Mayors at a municipal level rather than working for provincial intentions.
- All participants seemed very happy and eager to be there.
- Online voting system worked very well.
- Shelley provided a handout of resolutions that were voted on and the outcomes. You can access that digitally [here](#).

#### 12. Superintendent's Report

##### A) Staffing

- Currently working on Administrator, Teacher, Support staff hiring and working to fill all gaps before the end of the year.

##### B) Budget

- 3-4 weeks remain to complete budget, working with a tight budget even though there have been announcements of additional funding.
- Public release of draft budget on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00. It will be released as a video which can be viewed online and provide feedback via survey. Budget will be voted on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### 13. Committee Reports

##### A) Policy Advisory Committee- Skye Curtis/ Carrie Boschman/ Viviana Lartiga

- Reviewed assessment of student achievement received only 3 submissions of feedback.
- 502.1 welcoming safe and respectful schools and code of conduct. Does PAC get involved with annual review or will it be reviewed by the Board?
- Policy on Report cards will be posted for feedback online.
- Reviewed standing committee feedback sheet.

B) Community Engagement Committee

- was cancelled in April, upcoming meeting in May to go through ICE scholarships.

14. New Business

A) Policy Feedback Loop

- Discussion resulted in the expressed preference of emails to come out from the Division through school messenger instead of emails to council chairs or for Admins to manage.

15. Roundtable Reports

A) What do you have planned for end of year to celebrate your schools?

- Mentos and Fanta for “fanta-stic” teachers
- Parent Council June BBQ
- Coalbanks will be hosting a year end BBQ June 18<sup>th</sup> for all families.
- LCI teacher appreciation door hangers in May and Staff Breakfast in June.

B) Other

- If you have AGM elections in June and have questions please contact Shelley.

16. Future Parent Learning Session Topics

A) Brainstorm 2024/2025 Learning Sessions

- June 10<sup>th</sup>-no parent learning session but food will be provided. Kristin will send out an RSVP.

17. Upcoming Events

May	21	Public Presentation of the Draft Budget
	27	Board Budget Debate
	28	Board Meeting
June	5	Policy Advisory Committee
	10	Division School Council

18. Adjournment 8:37PM

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

- 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