

1. End of Year Dinner (6:30-7:00)
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Welcome and Introductions
  - Mike Nightingale (Superintendent)
  - Tina Carnegie (NEW assistant to the Superintendent)
  - Erin Hurkett (Director of Curriculum)
  - Genny Steed (Trustee)
  - Shelley Roest (Chair of DSC)
  - Carrie Boschman (Vice-chair DSC / taking minutes tonight)
  - April Matisz
  - Sarah Ahlgren
  - Jen Neufled
  - Cynthia Young
  - Danica Forsyth
  - Tisha Elford
  - Tyler Waldron
  - Monnu Baines
  - Aaron Fitchett (admin at Nicholas Sheran)
  - Andy Tyslau (admin at Plaxton)
  - JoAnn Hill
  - Nicole Williams
  - ONLINE: none
4. Additions to the Agenda
5. Approval of the Agenda – Monnu Baines. Seconded by Cynthia Young
6. Errors and Omissions – Genny’s comment about ARAO wasn’t an intension to ask / recommend someone to return to school council to discuss ARAO prior to making a motion. Comment was to educate and inform on ANY topic the proper process for bringing a motion to DSC. (Work on wording to reflect this intension better). We always want reps to come back to DSC to represent your school council voice.
7. Approval of the Minutes of May 6, 2024 – to be approved at October meeting

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

- A) Fundraising Delay – Danica Forsyth – struggling for the school council to get paid from School Cash Online (SCO).

After conversation with the Director of Finance, Avice DeKolver, parents are discouraged from paying vendors (an auditing nightmare) and this needs to go through the school.

As information, the Division gets paid every other day from SCO.

“Cheque runs” are on THURSDAYS so we need these billings before then. It takes an average of 10 days to get paid so plan your payment requirements accordingly.

If you need clarification, you can contact your admin or Avice at the Ed center directly.

- B) ARAO – reps were to discuss at own school council this policy and the presentation provided last month.

- a. Chinook – in favor of ARAO (note: no school council info online)
- b. Mike Mountain Horse – parents said they are seeing negative changes due to this policy... an increase in racially charged language
- c. Senator Buchanan/Wilson/Churchill – trying to understand why people are opposed to the policy?
- d. Gilbert Paterson – questioning why this is always a conversation – concerned for perpetuating victim mentality even when no one is endorsing a racist mentality
- e. Nicholas Sheran – in support of ARAO and not sure why there are issues
- f. Galbraith – parents in support of a policy and not requiring action
- g. Agnes Davidson – Shared information... no comments made.

Question – did anyone read the policy and the definitions as a school council?

Answer – no one answered affirmatively

Mike – Section 35.1.2 (change to the power point on ARAO presentation)

REQUEST – attach the power point to the minutes.

Question - Was this put on the parent learning site on the division website? Could this be emailed out as well?

9. Trustee Report

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

A) Looking forward to honoring graduates within our school division. A fantastic celebration! So proud of all our graduates!

B) Reviewed and approved locally developed courses for Middle School classes /High School (Outdoor Ed, Drivers Ed, e-sports, sculptures etc). Excited to see the creativity and expansion of courses offered at the schools.

C) Policy – approved amendments to 609.1, conversation around 502.1 (Student Code of Conduct), motion that passed re: Safe and Caring Learning environments wanting stakeholder feedback,

D) approved the Division Assurance Plan (annual areas of focus, strategies to achieve this and how we will measure the success)

E) International Trips – Policy that there is a 10:1 ratio to chaperones. Chaperones are usually covered by the paying students. One trip was asking chaperones to cover their own cost. Schools often use travel agents that build in these costs. Conversation is how to make these accessible yet chaperones are required... they make discounts and deals to build in the cost of the chaperones.... If they aren't following the 10:1 ratio then payment may be required. It is difficult which parent would get this advantage.

F) School Liaisons were also approved for next year.

<https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/board/trustees/school-liaisons>

#### 10. Alberta School Council Association

A) ASCA Membership for 2024-2025 – remember to discuss membership for next year (can opt in or out!)

#### 11. Superintendent's Report

A) [Division Assurance Plan](#) – Every school division is required to create / review and pass an assurance/education plan every year by May 31<sup>st</sup> (reviewed/created yearly, but must be a 3-5 year plan to meet government requirements)

- begins with gathering info at Town Hall in February, meetings with exec and admin committees to formulate over the next few months...

- May 31<sup>st</sup> assurance plan is passed

- November , a few months into the plan of action, you look at results and the cycle continues

- 5 DOMAINS all need to be reported on

- Discussed the previous format used

- Highlighted the new format – 2024-2025 Plan passed

- NEW: identified priorities / areas of focus for EACH DOMAIN
    - some are long term, others are short-term.

- The last 25 ish pages are all about BUDGET

- Ultimately, we'd like to spend some time on the assurance plan since the new framework has been established. Perhaps narrow down priorities.

- By writing it in a report, there is a level of accountability.

- Hope: Priorities will be used to aligned the work being done in each school.
    - o Perhaps can also seek to align the board priorities and reporting

- o Challenge: can't make everything a priority as nothing will be done well but hopefully CAN use this plan to narrow the work to be done and provide direction for the division.

- o On a school level, each school must also have a SCHOOL ASSURANCE PLAN – this is to be brought to school council for input by the end of June (an extension can be requested)

- “Required Alberta Education Assurances Measures – Overall Summary” report comes out in OCTOBER/NOVEMBER, created by the government, and reports on the previous school year. School council is to have an opportunity to review these results.
- Question: When results are released in November, is there opportunity to adjust the assurance plan or do you wait until May?  
ANSWER: Waiting is not required. If a problem is noted, adjustments can be implemented!
- Question: Where are the results tabulated by?  
ANSWER: Government sends out a survey to staff, students (grade 4, 7, 10) and parents of the same grade, in February and compiled in the spring. PAT and diploma exam results are also included in this report. Most of the NOVEMBER report is data from Spring of the previous year.
- Possibility of our own division doing a similar survey for our own results.
- Parents could petition the government: give access codes for ease of use to SCHOOLS, provide definitions for clarification, request for a shorter survey, etc.
- Question – are there parent reps when results are reviewed by the admin team? Answer: We haven’t done so in the past.

B) New Elementary School & Boundaries – West Coulee Station Elementary School. Boundaries to be announced in the fall (November). Currently looking at all the feedback shared. Construction is progressing!

- QUESTION: Has conversation with the city been started with regards to city bussing and access to this area (currently it is a dead zone for city busses).

## 12. Committee Reports

- A) Policy Advisory Committee- Skye Curtis/ Carrie Boschman/ Shelley Roest
  - June 5: Policy regarding Report Cards. Had 53 responses to the feedback on the website. A draft going to the board
  - Communication around Policy Advisory committee, reps and school councils
- B) Community Engagement Committee- Shelley Roest
  - No meeting. Next meeting Thursday June 13.
- C) Wellness Committee-Edna Asem – no report
- D) Poverty Intervention Committee- Sarah Ahlgren/Danica Forsyth (May 14<sup>th</sup>)
  - Broke even! Still \$74,000 in the bank. Family support up by 20%. Winter wear request decreased. 10 schools used PIC to enhance their supports.
  - Question on the nutrition grant money and dispersement for next year is still unknown
  - Created a list of charitable events at each school (SEE ATTACHMENT)
  - Yearly Financial report
  - Household Food Insecurity Community Action Guide.

### 13. New Business

#### A) Communication during extreme/adverse events ie. Lockdown- Danica Forsyth

- When communication is vague, rumors fly!!!
- Parents and School council are wanting changes to the communication piece to permit direct communication from a teacher to parents (especially if a child is upset because of a situation that occurs or is traumatized by).
- Mike: The School Division often meets with Lethbridge Police service and often LPS needs to vet the information sent.
- Mike shared a few communication memos that were sent out during lockdowns.
- NOTE: Lockdown reasons vary... armed robbery in the area, coyote or cow on the property, student brings weapon to school, etc.

#### Requests/Suggestions:

- Requesting a timeline of what happened (ex. Full lockdown, perimeter secure, weapon involved, threat on school property or in the community etc)
- Requesting the ACTION PLAN in the parent handbook for situations
- Requesting specific communication that the issue is resolved and it is safe for students to return to school.
- Mike: Often the school division office personnel supports the school administrators by coordinating the messaging on behalf of the principal, vetted by the principal and then sent out from central office.
- Mike: Could request the procedure to be looked at in your specific school council (physically or verbally take you through the procedure)

#### B) Visual Arts- April Matisz (speaking as a parent)

- Program of Studies is from 1986, a lot of great content yet there seems to be a poor adherence to this in our classrooms...
- Question: If visual arts is mandatory from k-6 BUT in grade 6, as a middle school, it is now an option... how is that following curriculum?
- What kind of professional learning opportunities are there for teachers to teach art and not be afraid of doing so?
- Where is the accountability for teachers for those who are NOT teaching art? Is there a course outline?
- Worried that art is being lost in our schools... wanting to understand more about accountability to the low adherence to the program of studies.... People may not know what their children are missing out on... and children may be denied the opportunity to see the world through the lens of the world of art

- RESPONSE (MIKE) . There are a variety of models for developing the arts within a school... could have specialists, could have home room teachers doing this, depends on the culture of the school and the skills of the staff (music, guitar, choir, bells, dance, drama, art class)...
- Parent: Visual arts is a mandatory discipline like math or social studies, and yet the accountability to teaching these components is not adhered to... if you don't see the outcomes that are in the program of studies occurring in your child's classroom, what is a parent to do?
  - Policy 1003.1 – Channels of Communication and Disputes Resolution  
<https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/download/187805>
  - Speak directly with the teacher, ask the administration and then Erin Hurkett (Director of Curriculum)
- RESPONSE (ANDY) – it is difficult as there is an OLD DRAFT of Programs of Studies for Fine Arts and so it is unclear on what is mandated by Alberta Education
- COMMENT – as students are registering in options, there are often costs associated with FINE ARTS for supplies and this can be limiting for students with financial barriers. Can this be addressed?

C) New Curriculum & Reporting- Erin Hurkett

- New reporting required due to a huge CURRICULUM CHANGE (LINK POWER POINT HERE)
- English Language Arts and Literature, Math, Science, Physical Health and Wellness, Social Studies pilot 2024-2024
  - ELAL: organizing ideas with 1-2 outcomes for each idea
  - Math:
  - Science: Computer Science is new (coding Grade 4-6), new curriculum is constantly building at each level (previously disjointed concepts)
  - PHeW – Physical Education, Health and Wellness are melded together
  - Social Studies – draft curriculum (30 teachers piloting next year)
    - Organizing ideas: Time and Place, Systems, Citizenship
- Curriculum Layout shared – Learning Outcomes are what needs to be assessed and reported on.
- In order to align reporting with the new curriculum what is implemented this year will be used to collaborate the creation of a new report card... wanted the new report card to be outcomes based, a legend for clarification, determine how does ISP reporting look like on a report card, seeking common understanding, clear and

- accessible to parents, details in learning, specific comment in written section for next steps for learning, printed copies...
- Piloting the new report card in 2024-2025
  - Question about purchasing resources... ANSWER: all subjects were once piloted with only a few recommended resources. Work wasn't done with the publishers to align with the new curriculum so the division team had to search out the resources to use/purchase. Some of the approved resources were used and then there were also division approved resources that have been purchased. There are common resources among all of the schools.
  - NEW LEARN ALBERTA Website – Parent Hub portal... a helpful tool, go check it out!
  - IDEA: as reporting is changing, there is the idea to do parent education within a school council about the process, the new style and elements of the report card to engage parents in the process.
  - Power school will be hosting the new report card (has limitations).
  - Requesting for all the reporting to be first and then the comments to be at the end and all together.
  - Do not know exactly who is piloting the new report card.
  - For more discussion or if you have questions, please feel free to email: [erin.hurkett@lethsd.ab.ca](mailto:erin.hurkett@lethsd.ab.ca)
- D) Expression of gratitude re: arts alive and well in the schools- Nicole Williams  
Currently free at SAAG until the end of this week (sponsored by TD)  
– charcoal opportunities for kids
- E) [LearnAlberta.ca Home - LearnAlberta.ca](#) - Nicole Williams
- Wanted to highlight that you can go to this site and give feedback and interact.
  - Can also find all the program of studies for your child's courses
- F) Year End Reports – all required by school councils to be handed in  
[Form 1002.4.1 School Council Annual Report](#),  
[Form 1002.4.2 School Council Balance Sheet \(just for school council, not society\)](#)  
[Form 1002.4.3 School Council Statement of Receipts and Disbursements \(Alberta Schools Engagement Grant\)](#)

Due in September but is fantastic to have it done before the school year ends.  
Can send them to [tina.carnegie@lethsd.ab.ca](mailto:tina.carnegie@lethsd.ab.ca)

#### 14. Roundtable Reports

- A) What do you have planned for end of year to celebrate your schools?
- “room service” provided to LCI teachers as an act of gratitude for all they have done this year
- B) Use of Grant money...
- Maddison Cameron came to speak at GS Lakie – Digital Media and Social Media
  - Additional presentation with 3 U of L basketball players who share their upbringing and effects of social media.

#### 15. Future Parent Learning Session Topic ideas...

- Dual credit with Andrew Krul (pushing as an email to high school)
  - o Good and bad from a post-secondary perspective...(students lack content when doing it on line and they aren’t able to be at a lab yet they get credit even though they don’t complete the content)
  - o Disconnects between Division and post-secondary...
- The brain and gut and connection for mental health

#### 16. Upcoming Events

June	25	Board Meeting
	26	Last Day for Students

#### 17. Adjournment

##### Division School Council 2024-2025 Meeting Dates:

- October 7, 2024- AGM
- November 4, 2024
- December 2, 2024
- January 13, 2025
- February 4, 2024- Town Hall
- March 3, 2025
- April 7, 2025
- May 5, 2025
- June 9, 2025

##### 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



