



Division School Council Meeting **NOTES**

November 4, 2024

6:30 pm

Education Centre Board Room / Microsoft TEAMS

PARENT LEARNING SESSION AT 6:30 PM. Topic is School Year Calendar – process etc.

1. Land Acknowledgement

2. Welcome and Introductions

Mike Nightingale (Superintendent)

Tina Carnegie (Executive Assistant to the office of the superintendent)

Shelley Roest (DSC Chair)(LCI)

Nathaniel Kinisky (Vice-Chair) (Lethbridge Christian)

Carrie Boschman (Secretary)(Immanuel Christian Secondary and Elementary)

Genny Steed (Trustee)

Allison Purcell (Trustee) ONLINE

Danica Forsyth (Mike Mountain horse Elementary School)

Meg Fester (Senator Joyce Fairbairn Middle School)

Michelle Bore (Senator Buchanan Elementary)

Tasha Olsen (Wilson Middle School and Senator Buchanan Elementary)

Cynthia Young (Wilson Middle School and Winston Churchill High School)

Tisha Elford (Chinook High School and Nicholas Sheran)

Tyler Waldron (Nicholas Sheran Elementary)

Gurpreet Singh (Gilbert Paterson Middle School)

Skye Curtis (Coalbanks Elementary School)

Cynthia Figueroa (GS Lakie Middle School)

David Franz (Galbraith Elementary)

April Gedlaman (Gerald B Probe Elementary) ONLINE

Andy Tyslau (admin rep – Admin at Dr Plaxton)

Aaron Fitchett regrets (ATA rep)

3. Additions to the Agenda

- School society insurance discussion
- Learning session brainstorm/discussion

4. Approval of the Agenda. Approved Cynthia Young. Seconded Gurpreet Singh.

5. Errors or Omissions from Minutes May 7, 2024. None.

6. **Approval of [Minutes](#) of May 7.** Tisha Elford. Danica Forsyth.

7. **Errors or Omissions from Minutes of October 7, 2024.** Discussion and areas needing attention.

8. **Approval of the [Minutes](#) of October 7.** Delayed until minutes are fixed.

9. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

10. **Trustee Report –Board Meeting [Highlights](#)**

- Had follow-up conversation from a public presentation in September. Requested establishment of a Parent and community advisory panel for Diversity and Inclusive Education (meeting students who have complexities and exceptionalities).
 - o Looking at what the division is already doing.
 - o Where is there room for enhancement?
 - o How can the Board better share what is being done to help people know what is available?
 - o MOTION: For the division to create an inclusive education parent and community advisory panel that allows for ongoing opportunity to discuss inclusive education in our school division.
- Boundary review – has been in process for almost a year
 - o Feedback from community engagement - recognizing the need to keep families together and effort will be made to keep a grade 5 student and a younger sibling in the “old” school for one additional year, if that is the decision a family makes.
 - o Special meeting was called on Oct 29 to look at survey results (available on the community engagement website) and to make a decision regarding boundary reviews
 - o All survey results are available on the community engagement section of the website
- QUESTION: What are the avenues and strategies used to get information to parents?
 - o Community engagement website
 - o Email
 - o Trustee / Executive council engagement opportunities
 - o Radio (for Kindergarten registration)
 - o Attending school council meetings
 - o COMMENT: All people do not have access to technology and this becomes a barrier to accessing information.
Yet, some of these BIG decisions are being made and yet people are being left out.

- COMMENT: Schools have a better pulse on the needs of their families/students. This is much more difficult at a division level. We, as a Board and Division, do rely on the schools to pay attention to these particular families and really try to reach them.
- **Accelerator Program** – announcement from AB Government for \$6.5 Billion for 30 new schools and multiple modernizations in the next 5 years.
 - Identified as high on priorities a need for a new elementary school and high school on the west side.
 - Part of that conversation is LCI - technically at capacity based on square footage (yet bussing 500 students from the west side to LCI) yet every classroom is full.
 - Capital funding is separate for new builds AND modernizations. How do we advocate for BOTH as we truly need both types of funding.
 - City of Lethbridge and Operations have to have a site identified before being granted any new build funding.
 - Special meeting on OCTOBER 9 regarding the accelerator program. Links to the minutes are online. Several motions passed.
 - Striving to access funding for accessibility needs (LCI, Senator Buchanan, Westminster)
 - COMMENT – Would have liked to have community engagement regarding the restructuring of the hierarchy of the capital plan.
 - GENNY – the timeframe was extremely short when the Board received information and the opportunity to make a change to the capital plan was very limited. LCI was moved from 5th to 2nd on this plan.
 - The Board never wants to hurt any community members, and recognizes that this was not ideal.
 - COMMENT – is it public knowledge the assessments made on buildings and the recommendations made?
 - GENNY – 2 versions of the Capital Plan are on the website. The summary and the full Capital plan are both posted. Some of this information is available here.
 - COMMENT – Can public attend a special meeting?
 - YES. The public is welcome, unless the meeting changes to be an “in-camera” meeting (cameras are turned off and only Board /executive members are permitted to stay)
 - COMMENT – was the accelerator program the only reason to bring LCI up on the Capital Plan?
 - GENNY – There were a lot of factors at play and the Capital Plan was not unanimous and the vote was complex. Conversation was ongoing. Operations wanted the Board to request pre-planning money for LCI modernization as a means of assessing needs.

- COMMENT – How does accessibility for Westminster and Senator Buchanan access money without being high up on the Capital Plan?
 - GENNY – Looking for government funding specifically for accessibility (not specifically an entire modernization)
- MIKE – The accelerator program hopefully provides us with an opportunity to NOT pit projects against each other but leverage money for 3 different streams. (New builds and 2 streams of Modernizations – (1) Major/significant modernizations (2) less extensive modernizations)
 - If money is available in one area, it frees up money that can be moved or used elsewhere (Capital Maintenance Renewal Dollars)
- There are highlights to any Board meeting and a link to the recordings for more details and to hear the complexity of conversation.
- SHELLEY – EACH school is attached to both a Board of Trustee and Executive Council member. They may attend your school council meetings and can answer questions.

11. Alberta School Councils Association (Shelley)

- a. **ASCA & ASCA Membership** – reminder to let Shelley or Tina know, by email, if your school is wanting a membership for the 2024-2025 school year. Be sure to record this in the minutes of your school council meeting.
- b. **Alberta School Council Engagement Grant (ASCE)** – Money sent to your school general ledger on October 17. Speak with your Principal / Office Admin to confirm.
- c. Use the guidelines for how this money can/can't be used.

12. Superintendent's Report

- a. **Navigating Technology Together** – November 13th 6:00-7:30 pm @ G.S. Lakie Middle School
 - we will talk a bit about the personal mobile device procedure, social media procedure, will go over a little bit of the background, do some digital wellness, and have time for discussion.
 - opportunities to provide feedback will be available online as well
 - Please sign up to attend!
- b. **Town Hall** - [LINK](#)
 - The Division has been hosting this opportunity for parents, guardians, staff, students and community members to discuss the future of education.
 - Helps with strategic planning, budgeting etc.
 - Handouts (2): previous topics/suggestions for Town Hall
 - Wanting both broad and narrow topics – what's going on in the division and work that needs to be improved on.

13. Committee Reports

- a. **Policy Advisory** - October 9 Meeting
 - The October meeting was first meeting so terms of reference were reviewed along with the review processes used by the PAC.
 - an update was given regarding the work of the policy consultant and the process to reduce the number of policies within the division. The PAC will continue to move through prioritized policies.

- Will begin with Appendix 502.1.1 Student Code of Conduct, as per request from the Board at the November meeting.
- Following policy to be reviewed is Responsible use of Technology.
- Suggestion for DSC reps: have your admin add the policy feedback link onto your school website and a direct link in the weekly/monthly newsletter.
 - Next PAC meeting is November 13th. The Feedback loop should be available within 3-5 days of this date.
- COMMENT: PAC is a late start compared to the school council meetings and sometimes this item is forgotten or is difficult to add to the routine of school council meetings. September would be better to begin as everyone is excited and parents have a renewed sense of engagement.

b. Poverty Intervention – November 4 Meeting (Danica)

- Also the first meeting so briefly reviewed terms of reference and went over financials.
- seeking to fill in the gaps left once people have accessed the food bank and also MyCityCare (MCC).
- Previous budget of \$45,000.
- Looking to increase to money as food costs continue to rise
- WAM bags (Weekend and More bags) contain \$30 of dry goods and \$35 Loblaws Gift card to help purchase items that aren't in hampers such as milk, eggs, and butter.
- Needing to fundraise \$5000-8000 to increase the gift cards in the WAM bags
 - If you'd like to be part of this sub-committee, let Danica know
- Alberta Health Services have lesson plans for K-9 health curriculum
- Talked about interventions occurring at different schools. Looking to do an audit as to what each school does. (Period Poverty Program, Meal bags, Breakfast program etc)
- Issue: there isn't a concise way for people to access these interventions and some may not even know they exist.
- Mindful Munchies – There were 49,720 meals served last year, but funding is only available until December because of changes to the nutritional grant. Not sure what will be the outcome as many kids come to school being provided lunch and many families budget food based on this fact.

c. Division Wellness – October 7 Meeting (Ryan Walker / Skye Curtis) – no report

d. Community Engagement – October 30 Meeting (Gurpreet Singh)

- Terms of reference were discussed
- ICE scholarship discussion: will be at Churchill
- Discussion to improve Community Engagement and how to bring more people into the conversation.
- Town Hall: The logistics of this including location, and time
- Next meeting: December 4th at 7:00pm at the Education Center. Anyone is welcome to attend.

14. Engagement

a. Town Hall, Topics/Ideas BRAINSTORMING

- LOCATION: Traditionally at Victoria Park (Central Location and access to TECH)

- Is Chinook gym/cafeteria bigger?
- Wilson has a big gym
- Challenge for location – no classes at Vic Park / sports teams practicing where as other schools need to work around these aspects
- Could break out into classrooms for topics for quieter settings
- Could do multiple Town halls and split based on demographics (W/S/N) or based on education level (Elem, Middle, HS). Give options for people to attend one that works better with their schedule
- Could we use a city venue? Enmax? Ag-Exhibition building?
- **SUCCESSES: Elementary/MIDDLE/HS – general so people can share whatever they are incline to**
 - The Bigger we get, the more representation we get but it also gets convoluted.
- **SPECIFIC TOPICS TO DISCUSS:**
 - Attendance (middle and high school issue) – how do we support parents to push while the division pulls? How can we support all of our students
 - 2018 – what are we doing well? What can we do better?
 - 2024 – liked the group format to key in on ONE age division (elementary/middle/high school), others didn't like this as they had multiple students
 - Resource allocations (2020) is a hot topic
 - Do you feel informed about your student progress (aligns with report cards)
 - Access to technology varies significantly
 - Mental Health and neurodivergence in children – helping parents along this journey
 - Bus registration – lack of communication (bus drivers, southland, division, schools etc)
 - Bell Times – logistics
 - How can we preserve curiosity and the love of learning in education?
 - Barriers to communication (due to technology)
 - Lack of equity across the division (one school uses VR and another struggles to provide access to laptops)
 - How do we value education?

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b. School society insurance (David Franz)

- Email from Christine Lee to School council chairs saying all societies are required to have insurance. (Marsh Insurance info given – is very expensive) (Discussion what other school council societies are using and the cost)
- Reminder: Societies are also required to submit paperwork to the Government of Alberta each year, based on the month that you became a society.

c. Learning sessions

- Hand out for learning sessions
 - Anything jump out or what YOU'D like to prioritize (send as an agenda item or)
 - Is your submission out of context or misunderstood?
- Poverty Intervention Committee is willing to do a learning session – what they are, how they get funded, supports offered and how to access.

15. Upcoming events:

- * Navigating Technology Together – November 13, 2024, 6:00 – 7:30 pm G. S. Lakie
- * Policy Advisory Committee Meeting – November 13, 2024, 12:00 -3:00 pm. LCI Large Lecture Theatre. Look for the Policy Feedback loop

16. Adjournment: 9:15 pm

Division School Council 2024-2025 Meeting Dates:

December 2

January 13

February 4 Town Hall, No School Council

March 3

April 7

May 5

June 9

2024-25 Division School Council Representatives

Chair	Shelley Roest
Vice Chair	Nathaniel Kinisky
Recording Secretary	Carrie Boschman
Policy Advisory Committee	Shelley Roest, Alternate - Amber Murray (High School rep) Carrie Boschman, Alternate - Tasha Olson(Middle School rep) Skye Curtis, Alternate - Danica Forsyth (Elementary rep)
Poverty Intervention Committee	Kristina Gilmore/Alternate, Danica Forsyth
Division Wellness Committee	Ryan Walker/Alternate, Skye Curtis
Community Engagement Committee	Gurpreet Singh/Ryan Walker
School Calendar Committee	Skye Curtis (Middle/HS rep), Tasha Olson (Elementary rep), Danica Forsyth, Alternate