



Division School Council Meeting **AGENDA**

April 7, 2025

6:30 pm

Education Centre Board Room / Microsoft TEAMS

PARENT LEARNING SESSION AT 6:30 PM – Inclusive Education Presentation (Rochelle Neville + Morag Asquith)

Presentation

1. Land Acknowledgement - Mike
2. Welcome and Introductions

Attendance: Michelle Bore, Danica Forsyth, Tyler Waldron, Tisha Elford, Andy Tyslau (Principal at DRP), Cynthia Young, Meg Fester, Carrie Boschman, Shelley Roest (DSC chair), Craig Whitehead (Trustee), Genny Steed (Trustee), Mike Nightingale (Superintendent), Tina Carnegie (Admin Assistant to the Superintendent),

ONLINE: Allison Purcell (Trustee), Ryan Walker (Agnes Davidson), Tasha Olsen (Wilson), Skye Curtis (Coalbanks elementary), Lena Gordon (?)

3. Additions to the Agenda - none
4. Approval of the Agenda – Danica Forsyth, Meg Fester
5. Errors and Omissions from March 3, 2025 - none
6. Approval of the MINUTES of March 3, 2025 – Tisha Elford, Danica Forsyth
7. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - a. Screen Time Use & Content – questions to bring back to your school council regarding TIME and CONTENT.
 - i. Danica – MMHE – some parents had concerns because during MINDFUL EATING students are not allowed to talk or move around the room. Admin inquired to determine who is doing this and found that fewer teachers than actually thought were doing this. Mindful eating varies based on grade level. Some teachers are watching you tube and movies. School council spoke about content shown and concerns. Students are feeling like they are in trouble when not allowed to speak or move around. Talked about the information coming home and what could change moving forward

- FAVORITE – audio book listened to 2 lunchbreaks a week
- ii. Tisha – GS Lakie/ Nicholas Sheran – still concerned with content shown and amount of time using these videos in class! Would like to see more basic content shown.
In contrast: Was amazed how kinder kids were captivated by a storyteller who had NO visuals and kids were incredibly engaged. Shows that videos are not a necessity.
- iii. Mike Nightingale – questions/assumptions/thoughts on next steps
 - Thinking about when screen time is being used (announcements on TEAMS, videos on at lunch, DPA and there is something on the screen). Reality is the accumulation of this screen time... Is admin aware of this and to what extent is this on their radar? Will have a discussion with admin team.
- iv. Tasha – Senator Buchannan – screen time is used as a classroom management tool so that classroom teachers can take a break and then an EA supervises up to 4 classrooms.
- v. Andy Tyslau (Principal) – observed at Plaxton Elementary – school as a livestream of chicks hatching in Learning Commons (no audio), hamster going through a maze on You Tube, books being read, old curious George videos... trying to balance supervision and teachers getting a break.
- vi. Parent comment: When a teacher sends out a request to watch a movie that is not PG, I feel respected as a parent that I have been notified and this strengthens the relationship between school and home.
 - Andy Tyslau at Dr Plaxton – “G” is allowed. Anything beyond G must have a letter that goes home that outlines the curricula outcomes and also WHY it is rated as higher than G. IMDB is a great data base to show what content is in. Common Sense Media also is a great site to use.

ACTION – Mike and Admin will look at what is happening at schools

8. Trustee Report –March 25, 2025, Board [Highlights](#) (Genny)
 - Capital plan was passed! (executive summary – LOTS of information)
 - New school approved for the west side (elementary), planning money for LCI modernization, continuing to advocate for other schools as well
 - o QUESTION: Are any of these plans a direct result from the accelerated budget?
 - o ANSWER: YES! Absolutely and from the advocacy from the Board and the division and the cooperation from the City.
 - 2nd quarter financial reporting available
 - Transportation: Government changes to transportations distances was to be implemented in September, but this has been reverted back to the current (old) funding model.
 - Meg Fester – Presentation: Advocate for food security for students and families

- School Fee schedules need approval from the Board – areas of concern, inconsistency between schools, areas needing more information, conversation is tabled until more info is available
 - School based fees include: options, athletics, extracurricular, international trips, anything on SchoolCashOnline.
 - Policy in place for any items increasing by more than 5%
 - Parent QUESTION: asking about discrepancy seen between schools (particularly high schools)
 - ANSWER: recognition of this and intension to create equity
 - QUESTION: Why are extravagant experiences needing to be the hook? Can we brainstorm ways to make options more affordable and perhaps stay within our backyard without the high price tag?
 - ANSWER: we will continue to represent this concern and discuss this as a Board as we seek to do what is best for students and families.
- School council conference support – changed from mileage to fuel to leave more money for hotels and deadline was adjusted to make it flexible based on ASCA resolutions available.
- Code of Conduct – 2nd reading. Tabled due to significant changes made and people wanting more time to read and reflect on it.
 - QUESTION: Will the proposed draft be in the Board package?
 - Answer: yes, there will be a draft that represents all the work will be available.

9. ASCA - Shelley

- a. Spring Symposium - <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/annual-conference>
 - i. Saturday, April 26th - 9:30am-3:30pm
 - ii. Sunday, April 27th is the AGM
 - iii. Deadline to register is April 18
- b. 2025 Resolutions - <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/download/files/256168>
 - i. Please review in your school councils and determine how your school council would like to vote - there are **SIX** resolutions for this year's meeting.
- c. AGM Documents - <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/annual-general-meeting/meeting-documents-2025>
 - i. Must fill out the proper form as well as have the form signed by the school council chair and have a motion in the minutes to be a voting delegate at the meeting
 - ii. - Danica Forsyth attending
 - iii. - Michelle Bore attending
 - iv.
 - Symposium has a fee (AGM is free as it is online)
 - Division pays for registration for one member for each school council if desired. (Reimbursement with receipt)
- d. Only ONE nomination for Director position. Will be by acclamation if no other nominations come forward

10. ATA Report – Aaron Fitchett (regrets) – [NOTES](#)

11. Admin Committee Report – Andy Tyslau

- Indigenous Learning Team (Joel Tailfeathers and Melanie Morrow and school reps) – trip to Head Smashed IN Buffalo Jump. Was great Professional Learning (PL) for teachers who can then share with their schools
- Admin Professional Learning (PL): Assessment and Outcome Based Reporting – Calgary Board of Education (CBE) coming to share their journey towards Outcome Based Learning in order to advance thinking at a secondary level.
- Early phases of planning for next year... Starting with transitions from grade 5-6s and grade 8s-9s. Gilbert Paterson Band came to Plaxton to showcase the Band program at middle school. Watch for registration and option changes etc.

12. Superintendent's Report

- a. Technology Evergreening – what happens to school council purchased technology?
 - i. Generally goes to recycling company in Calgary (MAY get repurposed to different levels) (\$0.75 / lb) (Mike)
 - ii. Admin could have a conversation with school council as to what wanting to do with them. (Mike)
 - iii. If laptops have been donated, they are property of the school but if they are retained as part of school council, then this process would be dictated by the school council by-laws or operating procedures (group discussion)
 - iv. Division must be working with each school council – this does come with a cost to the division (upkeep and removing software etc) (Mike)
 - v. Parent comment– wanting to provide technology access for families from their own school community that may not have access at home.
 - vi. Parent - If a school council wants to buy tech, does this have to be through the division?

Answer: This is a cooperative/collaboration in order to ensure the software/hardware is compatible. (Mike)

QUESTION: How do we retain possession of this tech as a school council?

ANSWER: Society CAN own property/assets, but school councils typically purchase items for donation and so fundraising for assets then are donated to the school and everything done should be through motion and resolution. Do you have historical evidence to show that these devices are NOT donated? (group)

Reminder that all Division technology needs to be compatible with the Division and connected to the network. (Mike)

QUESTION: Could the division look at tech that is ready to be evergreened and instead of recycling, could families be offered these devices?

SBE (Michelle) – Question - the devices that are purchased by the school council, can these devices, once needing to be evergreened, instead of being recycled, offered to families without access to any tech?

SBE (Tasha) – concern, the money paying for the tech is from the specific school council while the evergreening recycling funds are going to the division pool instead of giving it back to the school community.

Shelley – typically your school council/society has a purpose to raise money to benefit for the school and then this is gifted and released to the school to be used as they need. Now, they are no longer school council devices.

- Encourage your school council to advocate with the trustee liaison

Genny – school councils are transient and don't have consistent school council members so this becomes a difficult process.

Mike – Summary - there is a possibility to have the devices back. BUT: If you are ever considering this as a school council, you need to work with admin as there are costs to the division (adding/removing operating systems and staff time needed).

- b. Assurance Survey
 - Thank you for all the parents who participated in this survey! Went from 500-surveys last year to 900+ surveys this year!
 - Results usually come out in November...
- c. ICE Scholarship
 - Wonderful night showcasing the amazing kids in our division!
- d. Staffing and Budget
 - Beginning for 2025/2026 school year. New school opening so staffing has begun!
 - Budget is not what the division hoped for No increases in these three major areas...
 - Base Grant – zero increase in this funding and yet COSTS ARE RISING...
 - Announcing money for next year or three years?
 - How quick do we get our funding profiles?
 - There were SOME increases but these are minimal in comparison
- e. Collective Bargaining Processes – out of respect for negotiation, this is only a high-level view.
 - i. Teachers (2 tiered bargaining process: (1) Central Table – ATA with the government. Public knowledge is that there is an agreement that will be voted on in May. (2) Local Bargaining – only certain items that can be discussed)
 - ii. CUPE 290/CUPE 2843 (only local bargaining) – doing some negotiations here in Lethbridge (all strikes throughout the province have been dissolved)

13. Committee Reports

- a) Policy Advisory Committee- Shelley Roest/Skye Curtis/Meg Fester – April 2, 2025
 - Meg Fester:
 - Support Staff Supervision , growth and evaluation – second draft amendments
 - Admin procedures

- Policy consultant update – the intension was to finish revising the structure and number of policies by the end of the school year BUT this may not be the case (Genny)
- b) Poverty Intervention – Kristina Gilmore – May 22, 2025
- c) Division Wellness – Ryan Walker – June 2, 2025
- d) Community Engagement – Gurpreet Singh/Ryan Walker – June 11, 2025 (Everyone welcome!). (7pm in the Board Office)

14. New Business

15. Upcoming Events

April	18	Good Friday
	21	Easter Monday
	22 – 25	Easter/Spring Break
	29	Board Meeting
May	5	Division School Council

16. Adjournment. 8:50pm

Division School Council 2024-2025 Meeting Dates:

- 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/ Carrie Boschman, Alternate, Tasha Olsen /Skye Curtis, Alternate, Danica Forsyth
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 Olsen (Elementary rep), Danica Forsyth, Alternate