



Division School Council Meeting **MINUTES**

May 5, 2025

6:30 pm

Education Centre Board Room / Microsoft TEAMS

PARENT LEARNING SESSION AT 6:30 PM – Off Campus Education Coordinator, Andrew Krul will present on our various off campus opportunities. [PRESENTATION](#)

1. Land Acknowledgement

- 2. Welcome and Introductions** – Nathaniel Kininsky, Michelle Bore, Cynthia Young, Craig Whitehead (Trustee), David Franz, Danica Forsyth, Tyler Waldron, Aaron Fitchett (Principal at Nicholas Sheran), Andy Tyslau (Principal at Dr. Plaxton), Carrie Boschman, Tasha Olsen, April Gedlaman, Shelley Roest, Mike Nightingale, Tina Carnegie.
ONLINE: Gurpreet Singh, Ryan Walker

3. Additions to the Agenda – none

4. Approval of the Agenda – Cynthia Young, Danica Forsyth

5. Errors and Omissions – Request for Technology evergreening portion of minutes to be re-written. Will revisit at June meeting.

6. Approval of the minutes of April 7, 2025 – delayed until June

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

a. Screen Time Policy – Mike Nightingale/Andy Tyslau/Aaron Fitchett

- Round table discussions regarding screen time at administrators meeting
- In today's age, there is more screen time during the day.
- Talked about appropriate educational use for screens (smart boards, announcements, DPA with screens, document camera to model writing, etc)
- Talked about lunch time use of screen time (conversation about content and necessity)
- Conversation regarding what is the overall time/exposure to screens compared to time that is not purposeful for education. Antidote to screens is often being outside and utilizing land based learning.

ii. Discussion as admins how to supervise kids during lunch

- Other uses of tec: Game based learning, Typing club, Timers that are for learning...

- iii. An evaluation of intentional vs unintentional use of technology needs to be looked at
- iv. There has been a shift to digital/online/website based resources (not text book based) – Admin are mindful that this adds to an increase in screen time at school
- v. Andy/Aaron are both speaking from an elementary perspective so if there are parent concerns at other levels, be sure to speak with your school administrator.

b. QUESTION – Are nutrition breaks harder to supervise or are lunch breaks?

(Andy/Aaron) It is NOT easy to schedule breaks and also be conscious of labor laws while still needing supervision of kids. Estimate that for approximately 20 minutes a day, a staff isn't directly in every room with students (staff are near by though – in and out while they are supervising 4 rooms within the area at lunch)

- i. Nutrition breaks (are 2 10-minute blocks)
 - ii. Lunch + am recess + pm recess
- c. Parent Frustration – student is OBSESSED with a screen and does not eat lunch . ADMIN shared that the LST had opened her room for students fasting during Ramadan – Admin shared that parents could request space if a child NEEDS something different for their own child – accommodations can be looked at) Parent appreciates the show at lunch – another student appreciated the screen time so her child has opportunity to dis-engage with other students and have a personal reset.
- d. Senator Buchanan had gone cold turkey NO SCREENS at lunch after a request from parent council (supported by admin) and the grade 4-5s “revolted”! They wrote letters to the parent council to share their perspective. Ultimately, it is now left to the teacher.

8. **Trustee Report – April 29, 2025**, Board [HIGHLIGHTS](#)

- a. ICE Scholarships (sponsorships at \$14,000)
- b. Community Conversation: 1303 – 13th St North (Youth One) 7-8:30pm
- c. Recognized person helping a student that had a cardiac arrest.
Schools can request that a poster is made (in their school colors) to post around the school to show steps to help in such an emergency.
- d. CODE OF CONDUCT – New government bill regarding discipline vs dismissal
- e. New agreement with CUPE 290 / CUPE 2843
 - i. Motion to treat non-union staff the same as CUPE staff

- f. May 20th at 1:00-5:00pm – Public Presentation of the Budget (a tough one!)
(Public welcome to join In person or can watch online. Link on division website).
- g. Board debate and amendments plus vote on May 26th. Monthly meeting on May 27th. Budget due to the government on May 31st.

QUESTION – Will there be a Community Conversation date for September?

ANSWER: Likely no...

(Shelley) With an upcoming election – The Division School council had organized a virtual meet and greet with the trustee nominees in the past. This could be held in person as well.

QUESTION – have school fees been approved?

ANSWER: Not yet. Some good discussion at the board level and amongst admin. The goal is to have these more consistent amongst schools. You should be able to see the fee schedule with the budget on May 20th.

Parent - Also questioning what the standard school fees are actually being used for – would like transparency.

9. ASCA (Shelley)

- a. **AGM Update** – was April 25-26 (keynote : Dr Robin Hanley was fantastic and inspiring!)
 - i. Shelley shared a hand out of resolutions and those that passed.
AGM: Resolutions 1 and 3 were both defeated
 - ii. See link for results of 2025 Advocacy Resolutions
<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/download/files/263244>
 - iii. Sessions for symposium: Michelle Bore attended as well as Danica Forsyth
 - Trustee relationship with the school council – BUT, wondering if content that was presented is on website
 - Fundraising associations – great information and potential resources but daunting
 - iv. President, Vice President, and 2 directors elected (LOTS of vacant seats if you are interested in becoming a director for ASCA!)

10. ATA Report – Aaron Fitchett (attached report)

Hats On! For Mental Health

- In May we raise awareness of the importance of mental health in schools. Wear a hat on May 7th to support the important initiative, Hats On! For Mental Health.
- This annual initiative is in partnership with Canadian Mental Health Association and Global TV this year.
- To learn more about the campaign, or to access teacher resources, go here:
<https://teachers.ab.ca/advocacy/campaigns/can-we-talk>

Voting on Mediator's Recommendations

- Voting on the Mediator's Report (also known as central ratification) opened on May 2 at 9:00am and closed today (May 5) at 5:00pm. Results of the teachers' voting will be announced on the ATA website on May 6.

DEHR Art Show and Sale

- The theme this year was "Joy Unbound".
- This past week, the ATA Local No. 41 Diversity, Equity, and Human Rights (DEHR) Committee held their annual Art Show and Sale at the Galt Museum (April 19th). Many elementary, middle school, and high school student art pieces were on sale with proceeds supporting 5th on 5th Youth Services.
- The hard work of the DEHR Committee supports different community organizations and initiatives through their Show and Sale each year.

11. Admin Committee Report – Andy Tyslau

- a. Professional Learning – April 16th Calgary Board of Education CBE came to share about outcome based reporting with admin group
 - i. Shared successes and challenges
 - ii. HIGH SCHOOL – outcome based learning using 1 2 3 4 scale and then translating this into a percentage for report cards
- b. Screen time policy roundtable discussion (See "Business arising from minutes" section above)
- c. Assurance Plans – time to work together to discuss plans to continue to better our schools in the many areas that are noted.
- d. Budget discussion – challenges and how to support each school moving forward.
- e. Alberta Ed assessments (Grades 1-3) – round 3: May 12th-30th. Only students identified as "at risk" will be reassessed.
 - i. If your student is going to be assessed, feel free to reach out to your students teacher ask any questions about the assessment and what has been done for interventions since January (every school is different)
 - ii. GOAL: using this information to help plan for the fall to ease transition and support students right away.

12. Superintendent's Report

- a. Staffing & Budget – will be challenging (\$148 million)
 - Budget is never static... grants will be announced in days to come
 - BUT: expenses have outpaced the funding provided
 - The BASE GRANT (55% of budget): there is NO increase
 - Weighted moving average: has created challenges in our growing division
 - Reserves have been depleted (mandated by AB Ed to be under a certain percentage AND needed to supplement for students that haven't been fully funded)

- Continue to advocate for the need of additional funding
 - Looking at becoming more efficient within the division
 - Staffing is 77% of budget.... Seeking to keep staff IN SCHOOLS!
 - Staffing / hiring is behind schedule... needing to fine tune the budget before moving forward with staffing.
 - ATA contract ratification is to come: government USUALLY funds these increases
- b. Division Assurance Plan (Mike Nightingale): <https://www.letbsd.ab.ca/our-district/plans-reports/assurance-plan>
- i. Assurance Domain Summary (5 domains – different priorities in each domain)
 - ii. Shared the assurance plan from the website.
 - iii. NOTE: There is a requirement that each school council is given opportunity for input on the School Assurance Plan (should be completed by end of June – may work with school council in the fall as well). CAN request opportunity to review and have input as a school council.
 - iv. Desire for the assurance plan is to provide a meaningful document that can guide education

13. Committee Reports – no committees met since the April meeting

- a) Policy Advisory Committee- Shelley Roest/Skye Curtis/Meg Fester – May 7, 2025
- 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

14. New Business

- a. **ASCE Grant –**
- Galbraith: Speaker shared about Regulation with children
 - a. Speaker in person, with child-minding (from Wilson) and food
 - Nicholas Sheran: Welcome to Kindergarten and Grade 1 – resources for parents to use at home over the summer (School Council
 - ICES: Run Free Counselling – Spoke about Anxiety in Children and how we as parents can help our kiddos. Was hosted on TEAMS and quite well attended.
- b. **Yearly Forms:** These are REQUIRED DOCUMENTS.
- Reach out to Tina Carnegie / Shelley Roest if you need help.
 - Email a PDF to Tina Carnegie or use Interschool mail via your administrator
 - Ideally submitted prior to the end of the school year....June 30
 - Keep a copy for succession planning

FORMS REQUIRED:

- School Council Statement of Receipts [FORM](#)
- School Council Annual Report [FORM](#)

- School Council Balance Sheet [FORM](#)

c. **June 9th meeting at 6:30pm** – School Council Dinner and casual Q & A about school council

- Email any questions or ideas you'd like addressed
- Tina: form regarding attendance and dietary restrictions will be sent out closer to the date. Please RSVP if attending.

15. Upcoming Events

May	7	Policy Advisory Committee 12-3 pm Board Room
	22	Poverty Intervention Committee 12:30-3 pm Board Room
June	2	Division Wellness Committee 12:30-3:30 pm Board Room
	6	Policy Advisory Committee 12 – 3 pm Board Room
	9	Division School Council Meeting

16. Adjournment @ 8:31pm

Division School Council 2024-2025 Meeting Dates:

- 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