

District Council of School Councils

Minutes – Thursday, November 17, 2016

In Attendance: Ammy Blenner-Hassett, Bob Burgess, Kathleen Curliss, Mark Davidson, Alana Durbeniuk, Carolyn Freeman, Elizabeth Gebhardt, Ken Jakubowsky, Erica Kelly, Wes King-Hunter, Jennifer Lancot, Shannon Logie, Shannon Nelson, Stacey Nunweiler, Heather Smith-Schenkey, Suzanne Velarde, Ashley Williams
Regrets: Amanda Kenny
Guests: none

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Heather Smith-Schenkey.

2. Introductions

3. Election of Chair

Bob Burgess was elected as Chair of the District Council of School Councils by acclamation. Elizabeth Gebhardt expressed the Council's gratitude to Heather Smith-Schenkey for her several years of service as Chair.

4. Appointment of Recording Secretary

In the absence of any volunteers, Jennifer Lancot agreed to continue serving as the Recording Secretary, which was accepted by Council.

5. Appointment of one person to sit on Coordinating Committee

This position has usually been filled by the DCSC Chair, however in recent history the Chair has designated another Council member, Amanda Kenny, to the role. Heather Smith-Schenkey indicated that although Amanda had sent her regrets for the meeting, she had expressed her willingness to continue in this role. Bob Burgess designated Amanda Kenny as the DCSC representative to sit on the Coordinating Committee.

Heather Smith-Schenkey turned the meeting over to the new Chair, Bob Burgess.

6. Report from Alberta School Councils - AGM

Council sent Shannon Nelson to the Alberta School Councils' Association AGM from April 22 to 24, 2016. The ASCA is available to visit Alberta communities and give workshops for local School Councils. Shannon provided information on the AGM, including: healthy food options at schools, an address by the Education Minister, Bill 10 transparency and better communication of intentions, funding for new students, fundraising and the need to identify the purpose of the funds to parents. A discussion followed regarding the difference in the roles of a Parent Society (money) and a School Council (advocacy), and the necessity of keeping the two separate and having separate meetings and minutes.

7. New Business:

- **Policy Revision: Section 200 – Policy 212: Policy on Policy Development and Review**
Mr. Mark Davidson explained that this policy was revised and a simplified flow chart can be accessed on the SD 76 website. It was identified that there was a problem with confusing administrative procedure with policy. The role of the Coordinating Committee was not changed, but the stakeholders able to identify a need or concern were expanded.
- **Policy to Review: Section 500 – Policy 530: Police Information Check / Children's Services Intervention Record Check**
"The Board requires that its employees and regular volunteers provide evidence that they have not been involved in activities that would be likely to jeopardize the safety and security of students."

Bob Burgess brought this policy to the attention of Council, indicating that across SD 76 it is enforced at varying levels. CSIRC are free, however PIC has a cost. This is lower for volunteers and Council requested that there be a form from SD 76 that volunteers can use when requesting a PIC. Mr. Davidson agreed to have a form drafted and sent out to the schools. Council discussed the ramifications of requiring volunteers to have these checks done. Concern was expressed that this may deter volunteers based on time or expense, but it was agreed that student safety is paramount. It was noted that the Guidelines of Policy 530 read:

"1. For the purpose of this policy a volunteer is defined as a person who assists with school activities on a regular, on-going basis or is supervising students in any capacity on an overnight trip. However, for the purposes of this policy a volunteer will not include the following:

- a) A parent who assists in the classroom or school.
- b) A parent who assists with the transportation of students (provided an automobile driver authorization form under policy 770 E 007 is completed).
- c) A community member who is involved in an educational session on a one-time or irregular basis and where teacher supervision is present.

2. Practices shall be in place to ensure systematic monitoring of all persons likely to be in situations where they are alone with students.

3. Any cost associated with a Police Information Check (PIC) including vulnerable sector records check or a Children's Services Intervention Record Check (CSIRC) is the responsibility of the employee or volunteer.

4. This policy will be consistently applied in all district schools.

5. Implementation of this policy will not deter parents from participating in their children's school activity."

Mr. Davidson noted that this SD 76 policy bases the need for CSIRC and PIC on the regularity of time rather than the nature of the activity. It was advised that on-going and regular volunteers and those participating in any activity where volunteers are alone with children without SD76 Staff supervision should get CSIRC and PIC.

8. Trustee Comments: Mrs. Carolyn Freeman

Mrs. Freeman thanked Council members for their time and involvement in SD 76 schools. She encouraged Council members to contact her with any questions. Kathleen Curliss requested that a Trustee visit Riverside School to help the School Council through the process of the impending school closure. Mrs. Freeman and Mr. Davidson indicated that there were plans for more than one visit to facilitate this process. Elizabeth Gebhardt expressed approval of the survey system currently being used for feedback in the District and several Council members voiced their agreement.

9. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Mark Davidson

- **System Direction**

Mr. Davidson shared his personal experience as a student and the concern that in the past there was, "that kid", who needed special attention, but now it is, "those kids", and it can be difficult to recognize the need. Mr. Davidson spoke about focusing on collaboration and building a wrap-around structure to support teachers. He shared Four Universal Goals:

1. Excellent Learning Environment
2. Inclusive Education
3. Culture of Wellness
4. Leadership

- **Secondary Students are invited to be part of all Councils**

School Councils at any school can have a student member of the Council. School Councils can also have a Member-at-large, or community member, on their Council.

- **Council Activity Report – School Council Regulation, Section 14(1)**

This Section specifies that School Council chairs must provide the board with a report by September 30 of each year. This report will summarize the activities of the School Council in the previous school year and include a financial statement from the previous school year of funds handled by the School Council and their usage. The financial component of the report is only in relation to the School Council account, NOT Gaming monies. The requirement for these reports will begin in the Fall of 2017. The possibility of a fillable form was discussed. Ashley Williams agreed to scan a template she had from the ACSA and send it to Mr. Davidson's secretary. Shannon Nelson encouraged Council members to access the ACSA toolbox and resource guide.

10. Future Meeting Date:

Thursday, February 16th, 2017 at 7:00 pm was determined to be acceptable for the next DCSC meeting. Mrs. Freeman suggested that Council members encourage attendance from School Council Chairs from unrepresented schools. It was suggested that it would be helpful if the DCSC meeting dates were on the SD 76 website.

11. Motion to Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm by Bob Burgess.