

DIVISION COUNCIL OF SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time: Thursday, March 9, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual via **Microsoft Teams**

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 263 807 568 317

Passcode: kGL4d5

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Call to Order Karen Saffran called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Attendance

Alexandra and Crestwood School	Stephanie	Toews
Connaught School	Michelle	Millington
Dr. Ken Sauer School	JJ	Kimber
Elm Street School	Joni	Hunter
George Davison School	Gicela	Cardona
Medicine Hat Christian School	Jenna	Brost
River Heights School	RH	Co-Chair
Ross Glen School	Cassy	Whitford
Hub School	Stephanie	Williams
Division Council Chair	Karen	Saffran
Board of Trustees Representative	Catherine	Wilson
Trustee	Deborah	Forbes
Superintendent	Mark	Davidson
Associate Superintendent	Tracy	Hensel
Communications Coordinator	Lee	Krasilowez
A.T.A. Teacher Representative	Dustin	Look
Principal Representative	Todd	Samuelson
Recording Secretary	Joni	Treen

3. Adoption of Minutes

Karen Saffran presented the minutes of the Division Council of School Council Meeting held on [December 8, 2022](#) for adoption. Motion by Joni Hunter to adopt the minutes, Jenna Brost second; all in favour.

4. Treaty Land Acknowledgement

Karen Saffran, Division Council Chair, shared the treaty land acknowledgement. Karen also shared that the 4 Seasons of Reconciliation course has also been offered to the parents of students in our Division.

5. Presentation: Mental Health Grant

Tracy Hensel, Associate Superintendent: Student Services presented to the Division Council group.

Our Division, in partnership with Prairie Rose School Division, Medicine Hat Catholic School Division, and Our Collective Journey, have secured \$2.4 million in funding for a two-year health project to better support staff and students with their mental wellness.

The application process began in June of 2022 in collaboration with Claire Petersen, Director of Psychological Services and Gregory Ferris, Coordinator of Diverse Learning Services. Some initiatives were put in place prior to receiving approval for the grant in October of 2022. The group focused on increasing community involvement and adding to our existing supports by creating support teams in schools.

Our Collective Journey (OCJ) is the community partner included in this contract. Their Recovery Coaches use lived experiences with addictions and mental health to provide professional learning, classroom presentations and connection with our students as well as their families.

The Social Emotional Learning (SEL) team consisting of success coaches, family school liaison workers (FSLW), comprehensive school health teams and psychology supports will be providing classroom training and resources to support universal targeted programming.

Grade nine students will have the opportunity to explore the Rob Nash Project, a student-focused mental wellness curriculum presented by school success coaches.

The project partners meet quarterly to discuss challenges and successes and report directly to Alberta Education.

[Presentation: 'Enhancing a Mental Health Continuum of Supports and Services in School'](#)

6. Integrated School Support Program & CASA Classroom

Tracy Hensel provided an update on two potential pilot projects in our Division.

[Integrated School Support Program \(ISSP\)](#)

Alberta Education offered this pilot project to one of our elementary schools. Based on specified demographics, George Davison School was selected to participate in this pilot project. The goals of the program include early identified mental illness, physical fitness, mental health and nutrition.

CASA Classroom

The CASA classroom is offered in 20 classrooms across the province with a limit of 12 students per class.

The pilot program, offered in Medicine Hat, will serve all southeastern Alberta. Students are referred to the program, then successful applications are determined by a panel.

The goal is that students obtain interventions so that they can successfully transition back to their school after the 5 months of support and programming.

7. ASCA Conference and AGM

The Alberta School Council Association is holding their [Annual Conference](#) on April 21–22, 2023 at the Delta Marriott Edmonton South Conference Centre. The Annual General Meeting will be held on April 23, 2023. Online registration is available until April 14, 2023.

The Board has decided to sponsor up to six members to attend this conference. If interested, please contact joni.treen@sd76.ab.ca, Joni will handle reimbursements for travel and accommodations.

The annual general meeting is available as an online option.

8. Items for Discussion

Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers and Teacher Leaders

The Code has been updated effective January 1, 2023. The link provides information on key changes and reasons for the update.

Mark Davidson indicated that the new code of conduct applies to everyone not only teachers. The most relevant change is that if an employee has a conflict, they can file a complaint without first addressing it with their colleague.

The Board plans to review division Policy 532- Healthy Interactions and either update it to align with the new code or leave it as is. Currently, the policy holds employees at a higher level of conduct, however, it should be clear that there may be situations, for instance, when there is a concern for an employee's wellbeing, that they should not have to directly address their colleague.

Reminder: Parent Engagement Grant

ASCA virtual sessions can be hosted at Central Office so that more parents and council members can attend! Each School must register and pay for the session. Please email joni.treen@sd76.ab.ca to book a space. Some schools are hosting online sessions with parents in their schools.

Information on the Parent Engagement Grant can be found on the [Alberta School Council website](#). The funds are school based not division based.

Student Transportation

Mark Davidson advised the group on a past partnership pilot, about 3 years ago, with the city for transit use. The relationship was viewed initially as a win-win because the division could provide a steady level of riders and could share transportation grant funds. One challenge is the city route is a loop system; meaning a ride to school could be 9 minutes while the ride home could be 1 hour and 20 minutes. Another challenge would be the number of riders; for example, Crescent Heights High School has 11 buses each morning and the city was unsure they could sustain that number of riders in such a short time. MHPSD is open to reviewing the possibility of partnership.

Mark also noted that there is a 30% increase in our transportation budget for next year. The contractors (Southland) are going to have consider driver compensation, as well as increases in fuel cost. The division hopes to make some routes more efficient and shorten the ride for our students.

9. Items for Information

Friends of Education Award Nominations!

Nominations are open for schools to nominate a [Friend of Education](#). This process was updated a few years ago so that each school can make a nomination as well as the Division.

Trustee School Allocations

Mrs. Yvonne Sissons	Connaught School, Dr. Ken Sauer School, Vincent Massey School
Mr. Pat Grisonich	Alexandra Middle School, Southview School, Medicine Hat High School
Mr. Rick Massini	Crestwood School, Dr. Roy Wilson Learning Centre, Elm Street School, George Davison School
Ms. Deborah Forbes	Crescent Heights High School, Webster Niblock School, Medicine Hat Christian School
Ms. Catherine Wilson	River Heights School, Ross Glen School, Herald School, The Hub School

Future Meeting Dates:

- ASCA Annual Conference & AGM: April 21 to 23, 2023
- Thursday, May 11, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m. The next meeting will be in person at Central Office in the Learning Centre.

ADJOURNMENT 8:22 p.m.

School Council Parking Lot Conversations

Division Council Chairs would like to create an opportunity for sharing ideas, processes and build relationships.