

Medicine Hat Public School Division601-1st Avenue SW, Medicine Hat, AB T1A 4Y7 | Phone 403.528.6701 | Fax 403.529.5339 | www.mhpsd.ca**DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SCHOOL COUNCILS**

Attendees: Mark Davidson

Ammy Blenner-Hassett (VM)

Rick Massini

Lee Krasilowez

Rebeca Rothfus (MHHS)

Taneill Selinger (RH)

Elizabeth Gebhardt (RG)

Jessie Ruckabar (RG)

Gina Miller (AMS)

Jennifer Stang (Connaught)

Val Browne(ATA)

Attending Virtually: Tonielle Pavlovic (CHHS)

Chelsey Cowan (Connaught/CHHS)

Mike Fleiger

Deborah Forbes

Carolyn Freeman

Shannon Welsh (Crestwood)

Thursday, October 1, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

Central Office - Grant Henderson Learning Centre

1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

-Mark Davidson called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. The meeting was broadcast live over zoom as well with 6 people attending virtually.

-Introductions of name and which school/position represented were made live and virtually.

2. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

-M. Davidson Election of Chair

-Position of Chair was vacated in June by the outgoing Chair Bob, Burgess. Mark asked council representatives for a volunteer to fill the position. Rebeca Rothfus asked if the position could be filled by two co-chairs instead. Mark agreed. Rebeca then put her name forward. Chelsey Cowan was then asked to be her co-chair. Chelsea agreed. Motion put forward for Rebeca and Chelsey to co-chair DCSC for this year. All in favour. Motion carried.

-Rebeca Rothfus: Appointment of Recording Secretary

-Taneill Selinger put her name forward as secretary. All in favour. Motion carried.

Coordinating Committee Representative (4 more meetings 1-3:00 p.m.)

-Coordinating Committee is a policy/rule regulated committee. It is where policy is created and amended. Representatives come from CUPE, ATA, DCSC, Trustees, School Board, Teachers (elementary and high school), and school administration (elementary and high school).

-Meetings occur 4-5 times per year from 1-3 p.m. in the afternoon 1-2 weeks prior to the DCSC meetings. Next one is the beginning of November.

-It is important to have parent perspective.

-No one put their name forward at the meeting. Rebecca then suggested that we put the call out to all schools and councils to find a volunteer before the next Coordinating Committee meeting. Would like an email sent to school administrators asking to bring this to their council's attention.

3. ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCIL ASSOCIATION

-M. Davidson: ASCA General Meeting & Feedback on Resolutions

The [Alberta School Council Association](https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/download/files/107705) will host a VIRTUAL **Regular General Meeting on Saturday, October 17, 2020 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm** for

consideration of the *2020 Proposed Advocacy Resolutions*

<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/download/files/107705> and other business deemed essential by the Board. **REGISTER** by using the link above. The final draft Agenda and Order Paper will be posted by end of day **Tuesday, October 6th, 2020**.

*Please explore the ASCA webpage for resources, workshops, enews etc. Here is a link to update [Current School Council Contact Information](#)

-Rick Massini shared that he would like as many DCSC council representatives to attend this meeting as possible. ASCA gives a good sense of how school across the province are doing and is invaluable as a liason between parents and the governing body of this province. Would like a package sent to all Councils with a google doc asking for thoughts, impression, questions regarding the Advocacy Resolutions.

-Carolyn shared that ASCA's website is a really great resource for councils and associations. It has many free resources, webinars, and webcasts.

4. COVID UPDATE

-M. Davidson: **Transportation**

Adhering to Policy 804 – Transportation of Students to try to limit riders to approximately 44 due to pandemic. The guidelines to be eligible for transportation are outlined in AP [804 P 001 - Transportation of Students](#)

-Quite a few exceptions came from the province prior to school starting. Registration, attendance, COVID symption procedures, assigned seating, buss passes, etc.

-over 2000 students ride the busses in our district everyday.

-It is funded provincially (2.4 km+). Under 2.4 km is not funded. Prior to this year it was 1.2 km+, so that meant apx. 100 students did not qualify. Families needed to fill out an application to qualify and then there was an appeal process if necessary.

-Our district spends approx. \$100,000 per bus per year. Goal is no more than 44 students per bus.

-Robert Olsen has had a lot of challenges to deal with.

-Bus registration will happen with school registration this year to lighten the load prior to school starting.

-Deborah Forbes noted that we are one of the few school districts that provide FREE bussing for students. Will provide it without fees until it interferes in classroom funding.

Federal Funding

The Division retained 1.1 million to support potential central expenses such as PPE, substitute teachers, educational assistants and additional caretaking.

1.4 million has been allocated to schools based on categories such as staffing, custodial, and PPE requests.

-We spend \$23/week per classroom on hand sanitizer. (that's \$670,000 annually) and is outside of funding.

-District uses lower alcohol sanitizer with moisturizer for elementary students and higher alcohol no moisturizer for middle school and high schools.

-Received a grant from the city of MH for \$55,000.

-Hired a fulltime counsellor for the Hub.

-Pathfinding for Community. Alyssa Lindsey. Mental Health supports.

School Re-Entry

Discussion on how school re-entry has gone thus far.

-One month in and no school closures. Understand the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Alberta Education have put a lot of restrictions in place. It's hard, but necessary. Central Office is working hard to soften the blow and keep schools operating as normal as possible. Since school Central Office has adjusted class cohort sizes, sought clarity on use of paper (see note below), as well as are constantly changing and loosening restrictions. Have to remain vigilant on mask wearing and rules surrounding masks. OH+S tested three schools and all three had improvements to make.

-They understand everyone is tired. Hard to be "on" all the time. Stress is exhausting. Change is hard. Hard for teachers/ admin/ parents/ and students. Students are doing remarkably well though. Families have been gracious.

-Athletics - We are having mini leagues. Worked really hard to get that together. Not many divisions are doing that.

Wellness, Mental Health and Community Supports

Wellness supports

Both high schools were staffed to help accommodate extra work with online / in class learning.

Can we still have fun during a pandemic?

-Sarah, the school Division's Wellness Support, came back from maternity leave early. She is trying to get better benefits for staff if they are home sick. There has been lots of time off. Our school Division is doing its best working with staff to teach at The Hub and take time off when necessary.

-470 students are enrolled in The Hub from Kindergarten to grade 9. High school students are doing virtual school through their own school if they can't attend in person. All high school students have moved to a quarter system instead of 2 semesters, hopefully temporarily. There have been some challenges. Not all students are attending all the time. Sometimes only half a class is in attendance in person. More are still tuning in virtually than previously, but it is still challenging for teachers not knowing how many they will have in class at any given time.

Substitute Teachers

Current shortages – discussion on non-certificated subs

Recalling EA layoffs

Release time for teachers

-Short on substitute teachers most days. Not catastrophic yet, but getting worse. Some have not activated as they are still receiving CERB.

Parent Feedback

-Quarter system is a struggle for many older students.

-Masks have not been an issue.

-Expressed thank you to Central Office for clarity and communication with parents. All questions answered timely. Digestible. Emails are clear. All scenarios were communicated well.

-Discussed having a parent rep from The Hub come join in these meetings. Will email school administrators to pass along request.

5. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

M. Davidson: **Print Centre**

New printers are being provided to all schools (estimated end of October).

The OHS guideline for paper handling: to be stored for 72 hours before use. Mark has reached out to AHS to see if this may be relaxed/changed.

Richard E. Taylor Science Centre

There was a plaque with Dr. Taylor's name and a small photo in the previous science wing at Medicine Hat High School. During the modernization, the plaque could not be removed without damaging it, so it was disposed of.

Dr. Taylor was from Medicine Hat and went on to win a Nobel Prize for physics and became a professor at Berkeley University.

The Board requested to have the new science wing at Medicine Hat High School renamed the Richard E. Taylor Science Centre. (Photos below!)

-When the skywaks at Hat High were tore down and the north wing was removed, the science wing was removed as well. This science wing is new.

-Richard Taylor discovered quarks and subatomic particles. He won the Nobel Prize in 1990.



6. COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

-Rebecca R: School Councils from each school are to submit an Annual Report. If your school has not submitted a report, please do so as the deadline was September 30. [Template](#) is on the MHPSD website.

7. POLICY UPDATES AND REVISIONS

M. Davidson: **Policy 210: School and Facility Naming**

It is recommended to provide the addition of a policy *or* administrative procedure to include the naming of a team or mascot.

Policy 210.2 School Team / Mascot Naming or

AP 210 P 001 School Team / Mascot Naming

-Boris Grisonich, the Principal of Hat High led this discussion, change, and push for policy to be put in place. Hat High's team names will be amended.

-Corey - especially with Orange Shirt Day being yesterday, and the truth and reconciliation regarding residential schools, we need to be more vigilant and respectful of our team/ mascot names. It is important for our Division. Not an easy or straight forward policy or decision. We didn't have a policy in place previously.

8. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

C. Freeman: Thank you parents for all your patience and hard work in the schools.
Any questions or concerns feel free to contact your school trustee rep.

9. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

M. Davidson: Will vote for DCSC Operating Procedures at next meeting if ready. Will also look at changing when we elect chair or co-chairs and secretary. Spring would work better to gain momentum in the fall. Would like to have a meeting with Rebeca, Chelsey, and Carolyn to edit and ratify the operating procedures before the next meeting.

R. Massini: Really encourage councils to get more involved provincially in ASCA. Would love to see a greater partnership and collaboration with school councils and the Board. Current Education Minister and Premier have really paid attention to ASCA lately. They have even attended some school district meetings and school council meetings.

-Chelsey suggested that we find a way for parents to offer more feedback in the future. More two way communication.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

-Thursday, January 14, 2021 @ 7pm

-Thursday, March 25, 2021 @ 7pm

-ASCA Annual Conference: April 23-25th, 2021 @ the Delta Marriot Edmonton South

-Thursday, May 13, 2021 @ 7pm

Note: there is a long time until January. Would like to add in one more meeting prior to the next one.

-Motion to Adjourn - Ammy Blenner-Hassett. Seconded by Gina Miller. Motion carried.