

District Council of School Councils

MINUTES – November 19th, 2014

Present: Dr. Henderson, Heather Smith-Schenkey, Terrie Chapdelaine, Amanda Kenny, Dawn Jakubowsky, Ken Jakubowsky, Kristi Mack, Jennifer Lanctot, Lorian Taylor, Kathy Scrivener, Rebeca Rothfus

Regrets: Carolynn Freeman, Marcie Moore, Alana Durbeniuk,

Guests: Terry Freeman

Action To Be Taken

1.0 Call to order

Meeting was called to order by Heather Smith-Schenkey at 7:02 pm

2.0 Presentation: Instructional Intelligence/Tribes/Cooperative Learning

(Mr. Terry Freeman, Director of Programs and Instruction)

Mr. Freeman described SD76's vision of education as focusing on a "cooperative learning lens". He summarized the strategies that the district has trained our teachers to use. This journey was initiated with 5 years of implementing Barry Bennett's "Instructional Intelligence", followed by "TRIBES", and now "Kagan's principles". An activity followed that demonstrated learning techniques, as well as PIES (positive interdependence, equal participation, and simultaneous interaction).

Discussion:

Parents voiced their satisfaction with this approach in terms of teaching beyond academics and including student accountability, teamwork, and leadership. Questions were raised requesting if there is evidence of benefit to students in the post-secondary learning environment (no Canadian data available).

3.0 Appointment of Coordinating Committee Representative

Amanda Kenny volunteered to remain on committee.

4.0 Report from Alberta School Councils 2014 AGM

(Amanda Kenny)

Deferred until next meeting due to time constraints.

5.0 Superintendent's Report

(Grant Henderson)

The following points were discussed:

- New provincial Minister of Education has been appointed and this may result in change of education: we must wait and see.
- Currently there are plans to approve a K-6 school in Terrace subdivision. No timeline has been set (a few years from now, if funding remains available).
- Changes have been made to Grade 3 learning assessment
- Diploma exams: policy to shift the weight of exams from 50% to 30% has been requested and will be voted on at the Provincial level
- Cenovus has generously given a grant of \$450,000 over 3 years to support literacy
- Medicine Hat High School modernization project is underway and changes are exciting
- Draft calendar for 2015-2016 school year is being circulated.

6.0 Next Meeting Date

January 14th, 2015 7:00 pm

March 18th, 2015 7:00 pm

7.0 Motion to Adjourn

Meeting adjourned by Heather Smith-Schenkey at 8:19 pm