



MINUTES

Division Council of School Councils

DATE: Thursday, Nov 21, 2019

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Grant Henderson Learning Centre @ Central Office: 601 – 1 Avenue S.W.
Medicine Hat, Alberta

1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS – Bob Burgess

Bob Burgess called the meeting to order at 7:00

Introductions / In Attendance: Bob Burgess Chair/MHHS, Karen Johnson (George Davison), Heather Emerson (George Davison), Mark Davidson (MHPSD, Superintendent), Jeremy Williamson (MH Christian School), Lee Krasilowez (Central Office), Aaron Myradon (Elm Street) Corey Sadlemyer (Central Office), Carolyn Freeman (Board), Catherine Wilson (Board), Rick Massini (Board), Karen Saffran (CHHS), Tessa Cowie (Connaught), Katie Albers (River Heights), Chelsey Cowan (Connaught), Nicole Lehr (Crestwood), Nicoelle Wanner (Connaught), Ashley Williams (Vincent Massey), Rena Materi (Connaught), Deborah Forbes (Board), Mike Flieger (Principal – Elm Street), Taneill Selinger (River Heights), Julia Stewart (Elm Street), Tanya Buckshaw (Herald), Rebecca Rothfus (MHHS), Celina Symmonds (Board)

2. COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL HEALTH – Mark Davidson

Comprehensive school health team continues to invest in the Rethinking Recess initiative with the health champions (for students) and the wellness champions (for staff). They are entering into a research partnership with AHS and have applied for a Wellness Fund Grant which supports wellness projects in schools.

3. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION – Mark Davidson, Bob Burgess

3.1 – Alberta School Council Conference and Annual General Meeting
ASCA Conference and AGM will be held in Edmonton on 24-26 Apr 2020. MHPSD typically sponsors one Parent Council Chair to attend. If you are interested, please email Bob Burgess at dqkid@shaw.ca

3.2 – Mini-Conference

Mark Davidson has volunteered to coordinate but would like help. Anyone wanting to help with organizing a mini-conference by ASCA can contact him directly. CHHS is having ASCA come down to do a mini conference explaining The Purpose of School Council. This will take place on 02 Dec 2019 from 6:30pm-8pm at CHHS. All invited to attend. No fee. For more information contact Karen Saffran at 403-928-7734 or logodog@shaw.ca.

3.3 – Alberta School Councils' Association Online Engagement Opportunity
Online engagement opportunity on 23 Nov 2019, advance registration required.

3.4 – Discussion on Division Council of Councils Election and Meeting
There was a request to develop a process for appointing/electing members for positions on the Division Council of Councils along with a process for notifying members and potential members about meeting dates and times.

Appointments/elections usually happen at the first meeting of the new school year, however, without enough advance notice, not everyone wanting to participate in the election process is able to attend.

Notification of the first meeting is sent out to School Councils from the principal of the school.

Suggestion that the appointments/elections for local School Councils occur in May/June so they are on the invite list and can be formally invited to the Division Council meetings, specifically the first one of the new school year.

Mark Davidson will prepare and present a proposal for process and structure of meetings and notifications at a later date.

4. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

4.1 – Budget – Rick Massini

New government budget will have a significant impact on schools. Our school division has a \$2.4M shortfall this year that will be covered by reserve. Next year the shortfall will be \$3.8M. MHPSD will tighten/reduce spending. This can be summed up by having more students every year but no more money.

There is a Choice in Education Survey available on the division website.

Trustees strongly encourage everyone to read the questions carefully and complete the survey.

4.2 – Family Voice – Carolyn Freeman

MHPSD has developed Teacher Voice and Student Voice to gather questions/concerns from teachers and students. Next the board sees value in developing a process where school communities can share their 'community voice'. This allows questions/concerns to be addressed as well as gives information on what is important to each group to the trustees.

5. POLICY UPDATES AND REVISIONS – Mark Davidson

5.1 – Policy 634 and 808, Banned Substances

Board gave direction in terms of policy and practice in educating students and families and other agencies. They are working with AHS to build resources that will be available on the division site for teachers.

Changes outlined in policies attached to the meeting agenda.

Definitions are written to be flexible so they can include new substances that come up. Mark will take the definition of “Drugs” back for rewording as it seems to only include certain drugs.

There will be a Fair Notice letter going out to the school communities outlining the changes and consequences of not adhering to the policies.

5.2 – Policy 206 – Regular Board Meetings

Next set will go to the Board in the future. Changes are outlined in policies attached to agenda. Any thoughts or comments can be emailed directly to Mark Davidson.

5.2 to 5.6 – Policies 206-206.4

Changes were necessary due to the new Education Act.

Mark Davidson will take policy 206.3 back to reword as it includes a now obsolete agency.

6. ANNUAL EDUCATION RESULTS REPORT AND 3 YEAR PLAN – Corey Sadlemeyer

Spring 2020 is the end of the current 3-year plan. The timeline for submitting this document has been extended into 2020 and once that report is complete, it will go to the Board for approval and then to this group. Questions presented were: What are priorities that families/school communities have?

Do we need a special Division Council of Councils meeting to discuss?

How to get information out and gather information?

Discussion included suggestions to have a spot on each school website with small facts to get information out, have somewhere parents could comment, having questions pushed through local school councils from the division, having an “open voice” section of each board meeting where people could voice opinions/concerns, inviting trustees to school council meetings.

7. MOTION TO ADJOURN – Bob Burgess

FUTURE MEETING DATES / NOTABLE DATES:

Thursday, March 5, 2020 – 7pm

ASCA Annual Conference – April 24-26, 2020

Thursday, May 14, 2020 – 7pm