

District Council of School Councils - Minutes

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

7:00 pm at MHPSD Central Office

Attendance: Bob Burgess, District Chair and MHHS Co-Chair; Rebeca Rothfus, AMS and MHHS; Wes King-Hunter, Administrator Representative; Darrell Willier, First Nations, Metis & Inuit Coordinator; Elizabeth Gebhardt, Ross Glen; Chelsey Cowan, Connaught; Taneill Selinger and Katie Albers, River Heights; Tanya Buckshaw, Herald; Lee Krasilowez, Communications; Nathan Gale, ATA Teacher Representative; Corey Sadlemyer, Superintendent-Inclusive Mindset, Mark Davidson, Superintendent

Call to Order, Bob Burgess called the meeting to order at 7:01

Introductions: Mark Davidson introduced Lee Krasilowez, Communications. Lee is going to be supporting our Division with communications, not only getting information out but also listening. Some of Lee's current focuses are sharing our Mission and Vision, our universal goals, as well as thinking strategically around communications, websites and social media.

Corey Sadlemyer introduced Darrell Willier, the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Coordinator. Darrell has 30-years' experience working with youth. He has eight class presentations and provides presentations from kindergarten to grade 12 levels. He spoke about visiting many of the Division schools and about the Circle of Courage ceremony.

Mark shared that the Division will be working on the strategic plan so that it incorporates the recognition, by all staff, of aboriginal cultural heritage.

Election of Chair: Bob Burgess was nominated as Chair.

Appointment of Recording Secretary and Coordinating Committee

Representatives: Rebeca Rothfus agreed to take the minutes for this meeting. Bob is going to contact Jennifer to see if she would still like to continue this role from last year.

Bob Burgess will contact Amanda Kenny to see if she is still interested in Coordinating Committee. Bob Burgess also voiced his interest in this committee.

ASCA Conference in April: Tanya Buckshaw from Herald School attended the ASCA Conference in April 2018 and thought it was a great experience. A number of different sessions were offered. Tanya has the agenda if anyone is interested to learn more. She suggested that a different school should attend each year. Bob suggested to try and pass on the information when councils do their transitions.

Council Annual Report is due on September 30th each year. It is important that the schools submit their reports; as they must be compiled and sent in to Alberta Education.

Superintendent Comments: Mark Davidson

Professional Development

Each teacher receives funding for professional development.

Last year MHPSD introduced Optimal Learning Coaches (OLC). These positions are a direct connection to the teachers. We started with 11 now have 9, funding from one of the of the positions have been set aside to fund supports for the implementation of the new curriculum.

The MHPSD is building a cohort of professional support staff.

Early learning and kindergarten programs have become more aligned. Moving forward these programs will be working on “readiness skills”. The Division is working to support the practice of grade 1 to 3 teachers in teaching reading skills.

MHPSD is partnering with the University of Lethbridge to develop an Administrators professional learning plan.

The New Curriculum has required us to rethink assessments and work toward a standardize reporting system across the Division. The process has been challenging as there are 300+ teachers than need to agree on one process. Once the first report cards go out feedback will be requested from parents.

Enrollment

Enrollment has increase by about 80 students with a decrease in the Outreach program. Statics show that a low percentage of students that take the Outreach path continue on in their education. Corey Sadlemyer’s team has really focused on working with students to stay in School.

Kindergarten numbers have decreased throughout Medicine Hat.

Achievements.

- APORI measures have increased (qualitative).
- Grade 9 math was down for the province.
- There were significant improvements in Alexandra Middle School and Wilson Learning Centre.
- The Board will be receiving the official report in the next week.

Future Direction

- Developing optimal learning.
- Teacher’s best practices.
- Student learning best practices including: deepening collaborations, raising bar on student behavior and ensuring expectations are clearly outlined for returning grade 12’s.

Policy Updates and Revisions: Policy 595 Employee Drug and Alcohol Use and procedure 595 P 001 were reviewed. School chairs are encouraged to take the policies

back to their councils to share the proposed changes and send any feedback to Bob Burgess.

Superintendent: Inclusive Mindset: Corey Sadlemyer

Corey Sadlemyer shared some changes to the Education Plan. The new format models a strategic plan that ties in with the Division goals and highlights evidence of how we are going to measure success. The plan will be MHPSD's focus for the next three years.

Individuals schools will be able to look to the Education Plan to assist with their individual school plans.

The plan will be included on the January District Council Agenda. It was recommended that because this may be a lengthy agenda item the meeting start earlier.

Trustee Comments: Deborah Forbes: regrets

Future Meeting Dates: Thursday, January 17, 2019 and Thursday May 9, 2019.

Motion to Adjourn

Wes King-Hunter Moved to Adjourn at 8:32