

DIVISION COUNCIL OF SCHOOL COUNCIL – MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Corey Sadlemyer
Ammy Blenner-Hassett (VM)
Laura Conroy (Webster)
Karen Saffran (CHHS)
Karla Tweten (RH)
Rebeca Rothfus (MHHS)
Emily Nakamura (Southview)
Michael Filgas (AMS)
Joni Hunter (Elm Street)
Jenna Brost (MH Christian)
Jennifer Stang (Connaught)
Heather Hunt (Connaught)
Ashley Reimer (Connaught)
Al Thompson (ATA)
Catherine Wilson (Trustee)
Todd Samuelson (Principal Representative)
Lee Krasilowez (Communications)

Thursday, October 14, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

- Chelsey Cowan called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The meeting was broadcast live over Zoom.
- Chelsey gave Treaty Land acknowledgement.
- Introductions of name and which school/position represented were made.
- Minutes from last meeting were unavailable to be displayed.

2. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

- C. Cowan: Election of Chair
- Position of Chair/Co-Chair requires election at the first organizational meeting of the year. Chelsey asked council representatives for expressed interest in the position(s). Rebeca

Rothfus and Chelsey Cowan held Co-Chair positions for 2020-2021. Rebeca indicated that she would like to see someone else take the role since this is her last year representing MHHS. When no interest was expressed, Chelsey indicated that she would be willing to continue in the role of co-chair if someone else wanted to share the duties. Joni Hunter from Elm Street School then put her name forward. Chelsey Cowan then agreed to be her co-chair. Motion put forward for Joni and Chelsey to co-chair DCSC for the 2021-2022 year.

All in favour - motion carried.

- C. Cowan: Addition of Coordinating Committee Representative to Operating Procedures. DCSC Operating Procedures do not currently include the Coordinating Committee Representative as part of the executive. Motion put forward by Karen Saffran to amend the Operating Procedures to include Coordinating Committee Rep as part of the elected executive.

All in favour - motion carried.

- C. Cowan: Appointment of Coordinating Committee Representative
- Corey Sadlemyer explained that the 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 in the afternoon 1-2 weeks prior to the DCSC meetings.
- It is important to have parent perspective.
- Courtney Scott was Coordinating Committee Rep for the previous year and indicated by email that she is willing to fill the position again if no one else is interested. Since no one else expressed interest, motion put forward for Courtney to continue as Coordinating Committee Rep for 2021-2022 school year.

All in favour - motion carried.

- C. Cowan: Appointment of Recording Secretary
- No one put name forward as secretary. Agreed that a rotating secretary may be necessary if no one is interested. Lee Krasilowez stated that she may be able to create interest in position before next meeting. Position remains vacant.

3. STANDARDIZED DIVISION EMAILS

- C. Cowan: Chelsey asked how many chairs are aware that Division emails exist. Several new Chairs were unaware. Chelsey explained that Division emails are the preferred method of communication for council Chairs so that email addresses remain consistent with each School Council transition. Chelsey encouraged Chairs to connect with their Principals if they have questions about accessing Division emails. Rebeca noted that it is possible to have the Division

email forwarded to a personal account for ease of use. She says this has worked well for her and encourages others to do the same.

Chelsey shared the DCSC Chair email in the chat so that other chairs can reach out with any questions: mhpsd.chair@sd.76.ab.ca

4. ASSURANCE/ AERR RESULTS

- C. Sadlemyer: Corey presented survey results and took questions from council representatives.

5. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- C. Cowan: Annual Reporting

Council Chairs are reminded that they are required to submit a School Council Annual Report and financial update by September 30th each year. For those who forgot or are unaware, instructions on how to access the report template were given. Template can be found on the Division website and completed reports can be submitted to Joni Treen.

-C. Sadlemyer: Covid 19

Corey presents Policy 546: Covid Harm Reduction Policy passed this week by the Board of Trustees. Corey reiterates that this policy does not apply to students, however it applies to staff and contracted service providers, as well as other adults who enter school buildings. Corey gives time for council representatives to ask questions.

Joni from Elm Street School asks if there is any concern that the policy may lead to teacher staffing shortages (or a strike). Corey stated that they do not currently know the number of unvaccinated staff but indicates that staffing shortages are not a major concern and that many teachers have already submitted proof of vaccination.

Karen from CHHS asks about vaccine requirements for spectators at school sporting events. Corey states that processes around this issue are still developing and councils will be updated.

6. TRUSTEE COMMENTS: STUDENT TRUSTEE

- C. Wilson: Catherine introduced the idea of having an elected Student Trustee participate in open School Board meetings. This model is used in other divisions around the province and is a way for the student voice to be heard around the Board table. Student trustees typically serve for one school year and are selected by a democratic process. Medicine Hat Board of Trustees would like to consider adding this type of role for a student in the future. Feedback from council reps indicated that this is an idea worth pursuing.

Following her statements, Trustee Wilson leaves the meeting. It was indicated to her that School Board elections would be addressed, so she left prior to any discussion.

7. SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION INFORMATION

- C. Cowan: Prior to meeting adjournment and parking lot discussion, Chelsey reminds all Chairs of the upcoming municipal election. Chelsey encourages Chairs to engage their councils and remind everyone to vote. A website established by a group of local councils is available at mhelxn2021.ca

Ashley Reimer from Connaught School helped build the website. She posted survey responses from all participating trustee candidates. Councils are encouraged to share this website with their school communities.

Allan Thompson from ATA also directs councils to refer to vote4kids.ca where there is another collection of trustee candidate responses.

Reminder of future meeting dates:

- Thursday, January 13, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 10, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.
- ASCA Annual Conference: April 22 to 24, 2022
- Thursday, May 12, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT @ 8:25pm

School Council Parking Lot Conversations continued via zoom to promote casual conversation and support amongst Council Chairs.