

Medicine Hat Public School Division

601-1st Avenue SW, Medicine Hat, AB T1A 4Y7 | Phone 403.528.6701 | Fax 403.529.5339 | www.mhpsd.ca

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Members:	Doug Ashmore	Val Browne
	Lyle Cunningham	Mark Davidson
	Carolyn Freeman	Boris Grisonich
	Tracy Hensel	Jerry Labossiere
	Jason Peters	Jan Petersen
	Corey Sadlemyer	Cheryl Scholly
	Courtney Scott	Sharon Stolz
	Richelle Thomas	

Date and Time: Monday, November 30, 2020 @ 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Call to Order** (M. Davidson) 1:01 p.m.

2. **Treaty Land Acknowledgement** (M. Davidson)

I'd like to acknowledge that we are on Treaty 7 territory, the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Nations, including Siksika (Sick-sick-ah), Piikani (Pee-can-ee), and Kainai (Kigh-a-nigh), the Tsuut'ina (Soot-ina **a bit of a stop after the t), Nation and Stoney Nakoda First Nations. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.¹

3. **Items for Information**

T. Hensel provided an update on Wellness programs in our schools and our community.

A Community Mental Health Virtual Meeting was held October 7, 2020.

PRSD, CAPE School, Medicine Hat College, Medicine Hat Police Service, Redcliff RCMP and Southeast Alberta Child and Family Services, along with subject matter expert Kevin Cameron, came together to connect with families to ensure that they feel that they have the support that they need to have conversations with their own children.

A Continuation of the Conversation about Suicide and Mental Health in SE Alberta was held virtually on November 4, 2020.

Continuing the Conversation Part 3 – Discussion with Middle and High School Families

From December 1 to 3, Claire Petersen, Division Psychologist, will coordinate conversations with middle and high school families. Going forward conversations are also planned to include elementary school families.

¹ <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/indigenous-awareness/treaty-land-acknowledgement>

MHPSD

Coordinating Committee - Minutes

Even though this is a busy time it is important to make sure we are focusing on the importance of mental health.

Health and Wellness Champions

Wellness Champions serve the adults in our Division and Health Champions serve our students.

They are part of Social Emotional Support Teams in each school that meet every 5 to 6 weeks. This group includes BEST, HUG, FSLWs, and school counsellors to offer supports.

Enrolment Update

L. Cunningham reported on Division enrolment. As at September 30, 2020 enrolment is at 7,087 students which is a decrease of 319 students over the same period last year (7406 last year). There are 453 students enrolled at the HUB as of September 30, 2020.

M. Davidson discussed the concerns across the Province over enrolment declines that range from 2% to 30%. Some students have relocated to larger centers, some families have held off on registration for kindergarten, and some registered for home schooling. There are more than 30,000 students that have not been tracked across the province.

J. Labossiere described how Provincial funding is received based on enrolment using the *weighted moving average*. This means, regardless of an increase or decrease, funding is impacted over 3 years (50% first year then 30% the second year and then 20% the last).

Calendar for next year (L. Cunningham)

A drafted 2021-2022 school calendar will be provided at the next Coordinating Committee meeting. L. Cunningham is currently reaching out to Prairie Rose School Division and the Medicine Hat Catholic School Division in attempt to coordinate professional development days, as well as school start / end dates.

M. Davidson mentioned that the Division is taking into consideration that we may continue to experience the effects of COVID-19 into the next school year.

The drafted school calendar is reviewed by the Board, the Coordinating Committee, School Councils, and Administrators for feedback before being circulated back to the Board for final approval.

Literacy and Supports

The topic of literacy has surfaced through Teachers' Voice Committee - specifically what processes are in place in our system when we notice a deficit in literacy.

C. Sadlemyer emphasized the use of the Collaborative Response Model. Engaging in the Collaborative Response Process to identify individuals that require assistance and collaborating on how to best supports them. Teachers are also encouraged to reach out to Administrators, Classroom Support Teachers, or to team up with other teachers or professionals who may have knowledge or skills to assist.

S. Miner (Optimal Learning Coach) and other members of the team are working on how to extend the principles of the Early Literacy Framework (ELF to grade 2) to teachers in other grades.

4. COVID-19 Update

M. Davidson discussed the ever-changing situation with COVID-19. The most recent updates were released on November 24, 2020. The new mandatory public health measures are in place in communities across Alberta.

The updates to Scenario I (dated October 23 [summary](#)) included information regarding educational off-site activities, cohorts, student illness guidance, paper handling, volunteers in schools and protocol regarding singing, band and shared clothing. Some exhibits for our off-site activities have been updated to include COVID-19 information; 720 E 001 - [Consent for All Off-Site Activities \(COVID\)](#); 720 E 003 - [Local Off-Site Activity Approval \(COVID\)](#); 720 E 006 - [Off-Site Activity COVID-19 Risk Reduction Plan](#)

On October 29, 2020 Alberta Health Services released new guidelines for daily symptom checklist for children under 18. The new guidelines are more specific on 'COVID-19 symptoms' and 'other symptoms' as well as the recommendations on what to do if you have the symptoms

Concern was expressed regarding the decision to move students in grades 7-12 to scenario 3 or at-home learning with potentially less structure and less supervision.

There seems to be inconsistencies in the expectations that the government has set out.

Update on Diploma Exams

As of Tuesday, November 24 all Diploma Exams have been deemed optional until August 2021 (including summer school).

Students and their parents/guardians will have the option to choose whether they will or will not write the exam. Diploma exams count for 30% of a student's final course mark, students that do not write the exam will receive a mark from their teacher based on the course work completed.

5. Transportation Procedure Revision

J. Labossiere went over the updates to the administrative procedure 804 P 001: Transportation of Students. The procedure was updated to reflect current practice.

The background section was added to outline the rules regarding transportation and funding as set out by the ministry. It also outlines the concept of the shared responsibility.

Addition of definitions was made to provide clarity on eligibility, fees and funding. It was noted that the Division is permitted to charge fees if we are incurring more cost than we are being funded for. The eligibility requirements in the procedure are Provincial guidelines.

MHPSD

Coordinating Committee - Minutes

- An update to the procedures includes annual registration for a bus pass for those students that are eligible for transportation.
- Mid-day transportation for half day programs will not be provided.
- Schools of choice may be able to ride the bus if there is space available.
- Updates made to the application process for students with unique transportation requirements.

There were sections added to provide guidelines for: occasional riders; transportation schedules; bus zones/bus stops/route design; school bus rules and discipline; prohibited items on the bus; student, parent, carrier and bus driver responsibilities as well as an appeal process.

For a Program of Choice, such as French Immersion, the Province of Alberta funds city wide transportation through an agreement between, MHPSD, PRSD and the Francophone School.

6. AERR and 3YP

C. Sadlemyer provided an overview of the Annual Education Results Report and Education Plan.

Information was presented regarding format changes for this year's plan, the planning cycle and assurance highlights. There are some changes as diploma exams not written due to pandemic, and some prior requirements, such as class size, are no longer included.

Our Division showed significant gains across accountability pillar measures, notable 'Safe & Caring Schools', 'Education Quality' and 'School Improvement'.

The Division plans to focus in offering continued support through COVID-19 as well as student mental health, and community engagement.

7. Motion to Adjourn 2:09 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates: January 25, 2021, March 22, 2021 and May 17, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT