



MINUTES

District Council of School Councils

DATE: Thursday, May 9, 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 called the meeting to order at 7:01

Introductions / In Attendance: Bob Burgess Chair/MHHS, Karen Johnson (George Davison), Heather Emerson (George Davison), Karen Saffron (Connaught/CHHS), Taneill Selinger (River Heights), Katie Alberts (River Heights), Rebeca Rothfus (AMS MHHS), Wes King-Hunter (Administrator Representative), Chelsey Cowan (Connaught), Tanya Buckshaw (Herald), Nathan Gale (Teacher Representative), Joanne Pitman (Central Office)

2. SCHOOL CALENDAR 2020-2021 DRAFT

2 calendars were put forth through the Teacher's Voice App; Draft A – March Break and Draft B – Easter Break. Feedback was that most people would rather have Draft B – Easter Break, although that creates a strain on high school students with diploma exams starting immediately after the break.

Multi-year plan (possibly 4 years) will be brought up as a policy option.

3. CURRICULUM UPDATE

Joanne Pitman says that the new curriculum is ready but on hold due to the provincial election and upcoming budget changes. Curriculum was outlined by Joanne who will provide the slides explaining the changes and direction it is going. New curriculum is designed to develop conceptual understanding.

Field testing is the next step and will last typically one year. The original commitment was 48 months with a review for adjustments.

At this point everything is up in the air as the budget may be a concern.

4. ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCIL CONFERENCE & AGM

Tanya Buckshaw (Herald), Karen Saffron (Connaught/CHHS), Chelsey Cowan (Connaught) attended and reported back. Tanya shared that it was a great experience and way to connect with people across the province. Bob recommends someone from every council attend and to put it in their council's budget if possible (\$1000 approx.).

Takeaways from discussion on ASCA Conference & AGM:

- Succession Planning: Having principals from the schools attend the Conference or having ASCA come down to present items so there is continuity when council members change. Also having policy/procedure binders for each role and event that can be handed to successors.
- Having a mini conference in Medicine Hat so that council members could attend sessions without the cost. Everyone should poll their respective councils for which sessions would be most beneficial.

5. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Deborah Forbes was attending on behalf of Carolyn Freeman. She will take the ASCA Mini Conference suggestion to the Board to promote the idea.

6. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Joanne Pitman, on behalf of Mark Davidson, says the new government has shifted the timeline as they don't know what the budget will be or if the new curriculum will be given the green light. The school district is being careful with spending and budgets until they know where things will be.

Enrollment continues to be excellent and typically a budget would have been submitted by now. They don't know if more students will equal more funding yet.

7. POLICY UPDATES AND REVISIONS

Policy 616 Student Assessment was updated along with the Administrative Procedure 616 P 001 Assessment and Reporting. This connects to province wide research with the key change to be aligned with administrative procedure. By the end of September we should get to review the school assessment plan as a council. Questions to ask are "What does ongoing communication look like?" and "What can parents expect / rely on year to year?"

Additional changes to new report card language may come but they are waiting for the budget.

Videos will be released with kids and teachers speaking about the new report methods.

Assignments will have specific outcomes to show why the mark is given.

One goal is the child is able to self-assess and know what they need to do, why they are learning the piece, and where to go from that point.

8. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Bob Burgess motioned to adjourn at 8:33pm. Seconded by Chelsey Cowan.