


**Medicine Hat Public School Division**

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**COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Members:**

|                 |                                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Doug Ashmore    | Val Browne                        |
| Lyle Cunningham | Mark Davidson                     |
| Carolyn Freeman | Sue Withers (for Boris Grisonich) |
| Tracy Hensel    | Jerry Labossiere                  |
| Jan Petersen    | Corey Sadlemyer                   |
| Cheryl Scholly  | Sharon Stolz                      |
| Richelle Thomas |                                   |

**Missing:** Parent Representative, Jason Peters

**Date and Time:** Monday, September 28, 2020 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Grant Henderson Learning Centre

CALL TO ORDER (1:00 p.m.)

**POLICY / PROCEDURE REVISION**

C. Sadlemyer provided some background on a new policy or administrative procedure for School Team / Mascot Naming. Inspired by Medicine Hat High School's decision to change their team name and Principal Grisonich inquiring about a process to follow. Realizing that we had not yet established any guidelines, this document was developed.

Currently we have a Policy 210: School and Facility Naming so this document would be an addition of a policy *or* administrative procedure to include the naming of a team or mascot. Policy 210.2 School Team / Mascot Naming; the Board would have final approval on the mascot, team name, logo or colour as submitted by the school Principal. If this is developed as an administrative procedure 210 P 001 School Team / Mascot Naming; the Superintendent would have final approval.

C. Sadlemyer left the meeting.

**COVID UPDATE**
**1. Transportation**

Medicine Hat Public School Division is adhering to Board Policy 804 – Transportation of Students as strict protocols are in place to limit exposure to Covid-19. Prior to this year, if there was room on the bus, the Division accommodated some riders despite not being funded.

This year due to Covid-19 we are following protocols; the number of riders reduced to about 44, the bus must be loaded from back to front, there must be a seating plan, attendance taken, all riders must be masked, and cleaning is mandated between each transported group. A registration process was necessary.

Robert Olson, Transportation Coordinator coordinated this process with extra assistance from a retired Transportation Coordinator, Val Miller. By mid-September all the appeals had been reviewed and fewer than 100 students were declined transportation.

The Division has never registered students for buses in the past, however, going forward this process will be coupled with registration for schools. The guidelines to be eligible for transportation are outlined in AP [804 P 001 - Transportation of Students](#)

## **2. Federal Funding: \$2.5 million to support Covid-19**

The Division centrally retained approximately \$900 thousand of these funds to support expenses for personal protective equipment, purchases of extra technology, and additional staffing. An estimated \$400-\$600 thousand was spent in sanitizing equipment, including a wand sanitizer for each school. There are additional anticipated costs for extra cleaning on buses as well.

The remaining \$1.6 million has been allocated to schools mostly to fund additional staff and extra personal protective equipment.

## **3. Budget Update**

Provincial government appears to be considering an alternative funding model during Covid-19. Currently they use a weighted moving average over 3 years, then if there is a decrease they claw back the funding 50% first year then 30% the second year and then 20% the last. The same is true for increases. They could suspend weighted moving average and just fund systems based on prior years enrolment.

MHPSD enrolment has decreased by approximately 300 students most accounted for through transfers, relocation, or plans to postpone enrollment in Kindergarten. There is some concern over the approximately 70 students that have moved away from formal schooling and cannot be traced to any programming. Systems all over the Province have students that are simply 'not enrolled'.

## **4. School Re-Entry**

M. Davidson encouraged a discussion on how school re-entry is going. The common theme was that teachers are exhausted and have less time to be one on one with students. There are constant changes and challenges with non-traditional classrooms and teaching. On a positive note there is a lot of staff recognizably supporting each other and the students are doing great wearing masks and following protocols.

There were comments regarding a wish for a November break, shortage of support staff, and lots of staff movement. There were also some requests that will be addressed for sanitizer inside classrooms and cleaning of expensive CTS equipment.

### Scope & Sequence

Edmonton Public created a scope and sequence for math, language arts, science and social studies for the year. Our Division was to begin this process in September, however, with the creation of the HUB and students potentially moving from face to face to online and back, a common pathway to curriculum became more emergent. Teachers have been asked to follow this sequence until we are out of the current implications of Covid-19 (2 years estimate).

There were comments about lack of time for recovery learning. It was reiterated that teachers should adapt learning pace to class needs.

Discussion about how we ensure we are connecting with disengaged students that may be falling behind; students choosing to be at home due to mental health or just by choice.

### Chromebooks

As of half way through week three of school the Division has successfully delivered all devices. An estimated 1800 of 2500 Chromebooks were sold, which is higher than anticipated.

### Quarter System

There was some feedback expressed about the quarter system; having 2 core classes is tough on students; teachers have been identifying different ways to break up the day. It was decided that an example of teaching quarter system well, such as Catholic Central, would potentially be helpful for those who would appreciate some guidance. M. Davidson plans to follow up on this.

M. Davidson will have a conversation with the Administrators to look for solutions for technical support for using Google Classroom; supporting teachers and staff that are experiencing fatigue.

## **5. Wellness, Mental Health and Community Supports**

T. Hensel provided an overview of wellness supports emphasizing connection is so important. She is currently overseeing the Success Coaches (HUG /MyPlace) and Wellness Teams. The goal is to provide universal supports among schools.

- Division hired a Classroom Support Teacher exclusively for The Hub;
- Division supports provided by Nick Paquin and Carla Thorogood;
- Wellness Teams in every school;
- Social Emotional Learning.

1. Success Coaches – Prevention and Promotion Tier I supports.
2. Family School Liaison Workers (FSLW); provide Tier II and III supports. Each FSLW has one or two schools they work in.
3. Health & Wellness Champions; Health Champions serve students in the Division and Wellness Champions serve adults.
4. Counsellors.

Claire Petersen, April Welshman and Tracy Hensel have been working together with FSLWs and Success Coaches to encourage universal supports in schools.

The Provincial government met with Alberta Health Services, the City of Medicine Hat, Canadian Mental Health, and School Divisions; some of their goals are:

- making sure messaging going out to the community is about hope and resilience;
- to build awareness about existing supports in the community;
- short, medium and long-term strategies on how to access and provide support to families.

MHCBE invited Kevin Cameron to work with School Divisions and the Community to support a collective understanding of how to assess and intervene, reducing anxiety within the community.

## **6. Substitute Teachers**

L. Cunningham advised that there have not been significant sub shortages to date. The Division is planning to be proactive and prepare for a potential sub shortage by creating a pool of non-certificated subs. If a teacher is required to self-isolate, that is not ill, the teacher could be present on screen to assist a non-certificated substitute in the classroom. Human Resources plans to post this opportunity soon.

The Division plans to minimize the amount of meetings, professional development, etc. during school hours so that we are not tying up substitute staff.

Human resources have recently hired 6 substitute teachers to work exclusively at the Hub School due to the unique virtual environment.

The Division has recalled all the Educational Assistants that had been layed off due to Covid-19; there were eight that decided to not return to the position.

### **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

#### **1. Print Centre**

New printers are planned to be installed in all Division schools by the end of October. By not upgrading equipment and operating the Print Centre the Division has reduced costs by about 2/3. The Print Centre will be closed once printers are all installed in schools.

The OHS guideline for paper handling: to be stored for 72 hours before use. Mark has reached out to AHS to see if this may be relaxed/changed.

Clarification on paper use; it is not intended that we don't use any paper but use it when it specifically fits student need. Mark will discuss the use of paper in schools with the Admin team.

#### **2. Richard E. Taylor Science Centre**

There was a plaque with Dr. Taylor's name and a small photo in the previous science wing at Medicine Hat High School. During the modernization, the plaque could not be removed without damaging it, so it was disposed of.

Dr. Taylor was from Medicine Hat and went on to win a Nobel Prize for physics and became a professor at Berkeley University.

The Board requested to have the new science wing at Medicine Hat High School renamed the Richard E. Taylor Science Centre.

### **MOTION TO AJOURN (2:50 p.m.)**

Future Meeting Dates:

November 30, 2020, January 25, 2021, March 22, 2021, May 17, 2021