


Medicine Hat Public School Division

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DIVISION COUNCIL OF SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Date and Time: Thursday, March 12, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual via TEAMS

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Call to Order** Chair, Michelle Millington, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. **Treaty Land Acknowledgement**

Cody Edwards, Associate Superintendent Student Services, shared the Treaty Land Acknowledgement recorded by the students at [Crestwood School](#).

3. **Roll Call for Attendance**

Division Council Chair/Connaught School Chair	Michelle	Millington
Crescent Heights High School Chair	Karen	Saffran
Crestwood School Chair	Amy	Leprieur
Dr. Ken Sauer School Co-Chair	Cindy	Cotton
George Davison School	Gicela	Cardona
Medicine Hat Christian School Chair	Sandra	Youck
Medicine Hat High School Chair	Sandy	Wild
River Heights School Co-Chair	Karla	Tweten
Trustee Representative	Catherine	Wilson
Trustee	Gwendoline	Dirk
Trustee	Megan	Hilgendorf
Superintendent	Tracy	Hensel
Communications Coordinator	Lee	Krasilowez
Associate Superintendent, Student Services	Cody	Edwards
Executive Director	Carla	Carrier
A.T.A. Teacher Representative	Michael	Jerred
Principal Representative	Katrina	Corbett
Division Psychologist	Claire	Petersen
Program Manager MyPlace & HUG	April	Welshman
Digital Wellness Coalition	Taneil	Zanidean
Recording Secretary	Joni	Treen

4. **Adoption of Minutes**

Michelle Millington, Division Council Chair, presented the minutes of the Division Council of School Councils' meeting held on [December 11, 2025](#) for adoption. A motion was made by Gicela Cardona to adopt the minutes, Karen Saffran second, all in favor.

5. **Screenagers**

April Welshman, Program Coordinator of MyPlace/ HUG Programs and Taneil Zanidean, Digital Wellness Coalition attended the meeting to present. In partnership with the Digital Wellness Coalition, MHPSD is hosting several screenings of the documentary ***Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age*** to our school communities beginning in September 2026. As the digital landscape continues to evolve, it is believed that evidence-based insights and engaging learning experiences can support students, parents, families, and educators in fostering healthy technology use. The division intends to have facilitated lessons connected to the film provided in our classrooms by our Success Coaches. Additionally, we will co-host a community screening event open to children, youth, and parents.

Screenagers is an online platform developed in 2018 with a series of films focused on digital wellness. Information is available on the Information Sheet as well as on Facebook and Instagram. Presenters expressed their desire to partner with School Councils to share this material in our schools and with our community.

Membership includes unlimited screenings to help empower youth to make independent decisions. The cost is \$900 USD for a 1-year membership including a license and curriculum. The price is reduced to \$750 USD per school if 5 or more schools subscribe.

School Councils could promote hosting screenings, but the screenings must be within schools. If interested, please refer to [Screenagers Information Sheet](#) and let Claire Petersen know Claire.Petersen@sd76.ab.ca.

For more information contact April.Welshman@sd76.ab.ca

[Presentation: Screenagers](#)

6. **Stakeholder Engagement and Education Plan Development**

Medicine Hat Public School Division and the Board of Trustees are continuing with the next four-year Education Plan development cycle and are seeking meaningful input from stakeholders.

Cody Edwards, Associate Superintendent Student Services provided background information on the Education Plan and the importance of gathering parent perspective. Each year we develop an Education Plan; this year we are embarking on a more robust feedback process. The engagement process will take place over the next month and will shape our vision, priorities and strategies over the next four years.

Cody shared a link to a survey where parents can provide feedback.

[Google Form Survey: Stakeholder Engagement/Share Your Input](#)

Cody provided a presentation on the Assurance Process, Alberta Education Outcomes, the Division's Universal Goals, the Annual Education Results Report and key information gathered to support this process.

7. School Literary Materials/Library Learning Materials

Carla Carrier, Executive Director, advised that these administrative procedures were updated or created to reflect mandates outlined in ministerial order (034-2025) effective January 1, 2026. Carla reviewed key updates with the group and noted that after reviewing all school library contents 13 titles were removed throughout the system.

Any request for reconsideration for library materials would initially go to the school principal.

There is an inventory of all titles available through the destiny system on the division website (waffle > Destiny Library System)

[714 AP 001: Library Learning Commons Services](#)

[714 AP 002: Selection of Library Learning Materials and School Literary Materials](#)

[714 AP 003: Challenged Literary School Materials](#)

[714 E 001: Request for Reconsideration of School Literary Materials](#)

8. Items for Discussion

Elementary Reporting

Executive Director, Carla Carrier, provided an update on the frequency of Elementary Reporting. Due to labour action earlier this year, it was decided to have two reporting periods instead of three. Following a staff committee review, a discussion with parents was recommended to gain their perspective. Overall participants felt that two formal reporting periods could suffice if there were deliberate ongoing communication with families such as digital, journals, conferences.

Carla offered 3 questions for council chairs to bring back to their councils:

1. If we maintain two report cards, what would the schools want or need to consider?
2. Do you feel you receive enough information about your child's progress throughout the year?
3. What forms of communication from teachers are most valuable to families?

Principals will share the feedback with Carla and a decision will be made by the end of this school year.

Class Size and Complexity

Superintendent, Tracy Hensel provided an update on government funding to support classroom complexity across the province. Our division received 2.4 million for 8 Complexity Teams to support grades K-6 over the next 14 months until June 2027. Teams

include 1 Teacher and 2 Educational Assistants. One of the challenges will be providing training for the Teams, as this was not included in the funding.

Further support for grades 7-12 is to be announced toward the end of this school year.

Safety Protocols

Superintendent Hensel spoke to the group about safety protocols, training, and collaboration with Medicine Hat Police and School Resource Officers and all the tools within our division that help keep our staff and students safe.

- Hour Zero Training
- Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Training – this is a shared protocol for the region of Alberta.
- Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO)
- Psst World – anonymous online reporting in all our middle and high schools.
- TEST – working with Kevin Cameron (North American Center for Trauma informed Practice)

School Amalgamation

Tracy Hensel, Superintendent, shared an overview of the school amalgamation process for both Southview and Webster Niblock schools. The ongoing focus is to support staff and students as they transition to new locations.

9. Items for Information

ASCA 2026 Symposium

Registration is open for the [ASCA 2026 Symposium](#) on Saturday, April 25, 2026. The ASCA 2026 Annual General Meeting (AGM) is Sunday, April 26, 2026. *Both events will be Hybrid with limited in-person participation.

The 2026 proposed Advocacy Resolutions are available for member review! [Meeting Documents 2026](#)

The Board of Trustees has offered to financially support school council chairs to attend this event. The event is also ASCE Grant eligible.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Joni.Treen@sd76.ab.ca

School Council Annual Reporting

This report is due on September 30 annually. If you are not planning to continue as Chair in the next school year, please work with your school principal to complete this report.

If your school makes use of the \$500 Engagement Grant you will have to report it as well.

Alberta School Council Engagement Grant

Upcoming Events:

- Paul Davis is presenting: "Accountability & Responsibility in a Digital World" at the [Medicine Hat College](#): on April 22 at 6:00 p.m. *Free admission for all parents!*
He is also presenting to students that are able to attend at Dr. Roy Wilson Learning Centre on April 23.
- Shelley Moore is virtually presenting ["Inclusion by Design: Parents, Schools and Student Success."](#) on April 28 at 6:00 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates:

- Thursday, May 7, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m. (In-Person)
@ MHPSD Central Office – Learning Centre

ADJOURNMENT 8:31 p.m.