

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

DIVISION COUNCIL OF SCHOOL COUNCIL – MEETING MINUTES
Date and Time: Thursday, January 13, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM

1. **Call to Order** (Chair) Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Roll Call for Attendance** (Chair)

Crestwood School & Hub School Chair	Heidi	Mack
Dr. Ken Sauer School Chair	JJ	Kimber
George Davison School Chair	Karen	Johnson
Medicine Hat Christian School Chair	Jenna	Brost
Medicine Hat High School Chair	Rebeca	Rothfus
River Heights School Co - Chair	Karla	Tweten
Southview School Co - Chair	Emily	Nakamura
Vincent Massey School Chair	Ammy	Blenner-Hassett
Division Council Co-Chair	Chelsey	Cowan
Division Council Co-Chair, Elm Street Chair	Joni	Hunter
Board Representative	Catherine	Wilson
Superintendent	Mark	Davidson
ATA Parent Representative	Darcy	Nielson
Communications Coordinator	Lee	Krasilowez
Associate Superintendent	Tracy	Hensel

3. **Adoption of Minutes** (Chair)

Presentation and adoption of the Minutes of the Division Council of School Council Meeting held on [October 14, 2021](#).

4. **Treaty Land Acknowledgement** (Chair)

5. **Alberta School Council Association** (Chair)

The [ASCA Annual Conference](#) will be held in person on April 22 and 23, 2022 in Edmonton, followed by a hybrid Annual General Meeting on April 24, 2022.

There was discussion about attending previous conferences.

[Resolutions and Preparing for AGM](#)

If you plan on representing your school council at the AGM there is some information on voting, terms and proposed resolutions.

A Trustee will be involved and attend the Conference.

The Board has agreed to sponsor 2 representatives to attend the conference. If you are interested email Mhpsd.chair@sd76.ab.ca.

6. Policy and Procedure (M. Davidson)

The Board recommended and recently approved a newly drafted Policy for staff mirroring an existing Policy 612, for students. [Policy 503: Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments](#) Mark reviewed the policy with the group.

7. Items for Discussion

Alberta Education has offered a \$500 grant for school councils to increase engagement.

Covid-19 Update

Our response to COVID-19 and the impact of the pandemic on staff and students.

- Increase in staff shortages, some staff taking on different roles, professional development and meetings have been limited.
- Government providing masks and rapid tests.
- Our School Plan has been updated.
- Fieldtrips within cohorts are permitted.
- No fans at sporting events or activities.

Quarter System Review

Teachers, staff and students from various disciplines have been asked for their input to assist the Board with their decision to either continue with the quarter system or return to semester system.

Mark explained the difference between the two systems. Survey results showed that teachers overall preferred the semester system and students/parents preferred the quarter system. There are benefits and downfalls to both systems. A recommendation will be brought forth to the Board for formal approval at their regular meeting on January 25, 2022.

Following the Board's decision, a draft Division Calendar for 2022-2023 will be shared.

Student Trustee / Student Voice

In December Mr. Davidson met with our two high schools and Coulee Collegiate to provide proposed options for developing a Student Senate or Student Trustee. Delegates volunteered to form a working committee. The working committee will share their policy and plan with the Board in February.

8. Items for Information

The Hub and Pathways

The Hub and Pathways are relocating to a newly renovated space on South Railway Street. The Hub operates out of Southview school and the Pathways Program is in the Y location (across from Time Hortons). The Y Location will now house the Alternative Suspension Program.

Mark also shared that local partnership meetings are in progress for the creation of a high school Hub.

Alternative Suspension Program (T. Hensel)

The YMCA has received funding to support an Alternative Suspension Program in Medicine Hat. This program supports students ages 12-17 in a YMCA facility. The YMCA Alternative Suspension Program's goal is to reduce future suspensions and disciplinary sanctions by offering participants an opportunity to turn their time away from school into a positive experience that encourages person growth, the development of social skills and autonomy.

Tracy explained the structure and benefits of the program and the potential positive impact that this could have on our students.

[Enclosure: Alternative Suspension Presentation](#)

EA and Teacher Substitutes (M. Davidson)

The Division currently has 70-80 substitutes that are actively working and are looking to recruit approximately 20-30 more.

The HR Team is looking at recruiting out of the Medicine Hat College graduating students.

Trustee Comments (C. Wilson)

The new Board is working well together and are attending schools and events.

Other

Our Division provides literacy support through the addition of nine (FTE) teachers funded partly by Alberta Education (400K) and more so from our Division's operational reserves. Alberta Education spent \$4M to develop a resource to offer online tutoring across the province.

Trustee School Allocations

Mrs. Yvonne Sissons	Connaught School, Dr. Ken Sauer School, Vincent Massey School
Mr. Pat Grisonich	Alexandra Middle School, Southview School, Medicine Hat High School
Mr. Rick Massini	Crestwood School, Dr. Roy Wilson Learning Centre, Elm Street School, George Davison School
Ms. Deborah Forbes	Crescent Heights High School, Webster Niblock School, Medicine Hat Christian School
Ms. Catherine Wilson	River Heights School, Ross Glen School, Herald School, The Hub School

Future Meeting Dates:

- 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 Motion to Adjourn 8:20 p.m.

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