

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

Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 @ 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Join Zoom Meeting

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Call to Order** M. Davidson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. **Treaty Land Acknowledgement**

3. **Adoption of Minutes**

Adoption of the minutes of the Coordinating Committee meeting held on March 22, 2021.
[March 22, 2021 - CC Minutes](#) Motion to approve from B. Grisonich and second by J. Petersen.

4. **Items for Information**

M. Davidson extended a 'thank you' to all committee members for their time serving on this committee.

5. **Items for Discussion**

Teachers' Voice Updates

This Teachers' Voice meeting was rescheduled to May 20, 2021, due to a shortage of substitute teachers. The drafted summary was enclosed for review and discussion.
[Enclosure No. 1 – Teachers' Voice Summary](#)

The Committee had no comments on the document presented.

New K to 6 Draft Curriculum

A new drafted curriculum was presented on March 29, 2021. MHPSD Board has declined piloting the draft curriculum. There are concerns that by not piloting the curriculum our Division may have lost the opportunity to provide valuable feedback to the government.

J. Peters has held some Curriculum Coffeehouse discussions with Division teachers to gather feedback. Parents can provide feedback through Alberta Education directly. M.

MHPSD

Coordinating Committee Minutes

Davidson confirmed that there will be further opportunities for teachers to share feedback either in June or into the start of next year.

Currently 57 out of 61 Alberta School Boards are not piloting the new Curriculum. Over all the public has not supported this draft curriculum.

It was clarified that the Minister is planning to gather feedback from Divisions regardless of if they are participating in piloting the new curriculum. At this point the Education Minister is planning to go forward with the new curriculum.

New Hires

L. Cunningham advised that the Division has offered 27 term contracts to our existing substitutes and new graduates to ensure staff coverage during COVID-19. These staff are currently supporting schools due to the recent lockdown and will continue their contracts when schools return to 'in person learning'.

Covid Related Restrictions

A reminder of protocols to be followed while in MHPSD buildings. M. Davidson sent an email reminder to staff that if you can work from home, please do so.

Dr. Hinshaw recently offered a new masking protocol that is in line with our current practice. If you have a medical note to be exempt from wearing a mask, there will still be guidelines that you will have to follow. These guidelines are currently being established by HR team and will be shared with staff and families.

C. Freeman extended appreciation for the extra hours our contract tracing team has put in to help students and staff stay safe.

6. Policy & Procedure Updates

Communication Initiative

A new Communication Initiative has been drafted for the committee to review.

[Enclosure No. 2 – New Communication Initiative: Weekdays 'til 6](#)

This guideline was initiated by the Teachers' Voice Committee. The conversation began as being more mindful with a focus on wellness and fairness. J. Petersen and C. Scholly were part of the group that worked to develop these guidelines. Comments included:

- B. Grisonich prefers if conversations can be initiated, as in his opinion, an email is not urgent in comparison to a text or a phone call.
- R. Thomas had no concerns regarding the guideline and staff communication depends on the culture in the building. She appreciates the guideline including communication with families.
- C. Scott indicated that the communication guideline is helpful when it comes to outlining expectations. She noted there is a contradiction (page 1: What It Means bullet 2 – "*are asked not to email or text before and after 6*" then it states, "*Emails and texts are welcomed at any time...*"). It was suggested that the focus should be on response time vs. the time when the communication is sent.

- S. Stolz mentioned that the support staff have been very flexible and have been checking messages. She agreed that she considers an email as way less urgent than a text and phone call. Also, from a parent perspective, she feels families should be able to send communications outside of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

It was noted that this document will be updated and will circulate back through Coordinating Committee and the Board for further review.

Division Initiated Transfer of Professional Staff

Policy 520 was updated, and a new administrative procedure developed. The previous policy had the procedure within it and this portion was split out to be in line with other policy and procedures. Updates were also made to reference section 212 of the Education Act.

[520 - Division Initiated Transfer of Professional Staff](#)

[520 P 001 - Division Initiated Transfer of Professional Staff](#)

7. AMS Sports Institute

AMS is offering a Sports Institute beginning in the 2021-2022 School Year. Information can be found on their website [AMS Sports Institute](#).

J. Labossiere advised that 628 E 002 has been updated to include the fees. The Committee had no comments or concerns related to the update.

[Enclosure No. 3 – 628 E 002 Secondary Schools' Fee Schedule](#)

8. Budget 2021-2022 Spring Release

J. Labossiere provided an overview of the draft 2021-2022 budget. The Spring Release is built on best estimates available at the time. An update will be provided in the fall on actual student enrolment.

Our enrolment this year dropped by 319 students. Next year we are projecting an increase of 198 students. A 10-year projection based on provincial data was shared which indicates a trend of decline in enrolment. M. Davidson advised that transfer of staff due to enrolment and programming needs will be more necessary in the future if this trend occurs.

J. Labossiere reviewed the instructional grants and the new funding model. The new funding model will use weighted moving average (WMA) vs. enrolment (as at September 30). For the 2020-2021 school year the government held us harmless, however, our decline in enrolment will still affect our future funding using the new model.

The figures reflect a projected deficit of \$757,000 for 2021-22.

ADJOURNMENT 2:37 p.m.