

DIVISION COUNCIL OF SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time: Thursday, March 10, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Call to Order** Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **Roll Call for Attendance**

Crescent Heights High School	Courtney	Scott
Crescent Heights High School	Karen	Saffran
Crestwood School & Hub Representative	Heidi	Mack
Dr. Ken Sauer School	JJ	Kimber
Elm Street School & Division Council Co-Chair	Joni	Hunter
Medicine Hat Christian School	Jenna	Brost
Medicine Hat High School	Rebeca	Rothfus
River Heights School	Karla	Tweten
Vincent Massey School	Laine	Nash
Recording Secretary	Joni	Treen
Board Representative	Catherine	Wilson
ATA Parent Representative	Darcy	Nielson
Principal Representative	Todd	Samuelson
Communications Coordinator	Lee	Krasilowez

Presenting:

Associate Superintendent: Student Services	Tracy	Hensel
Division Health & Wellness Manager	Sarah	Scahill
Alberta Health Services, Health Promotion Coordinator	Desirea	Agar
Med Hat College, Director of Community Engagement	Jennifer	Kerslake

3. **Adoption of Minutes**

Presentation and adoption of the Minutes of the Division Council of School Council Meeting held on [January 13, 2021](#). Motion by Karen Saffran to adopt the minutes, Rebeca Rothfus second.

4. **Treaty Land Acknowledgement**

5. **Nutrition Presentation**

Tracey Hensel, Associate Superintendent of Student Services introduced Sarah Scahill, Health & Wellness Manager for the Division and Desirea Agar, Health Promotion

Coordinator for Alberta Health Services. These 3 ladies work with our School Comprehensive Health Teams. March is nutrition month, so this presentation was focused on the relationship between nutrition and academic achievement.

- Food, mood, learning;
- breakfast improves short term cognition, math scores, memory and creativity, physical endurance;
- nutrition can affect the ability to learn and academic success (attentiveness, absenteeism, tardiness, hyperactivity, aggression, social withdrawal, social skills).

Tracy Hensel spoke of Division policy [642 – Healthy Nutritional Choices](#) which outlines that nutritious foods should be the primary choices available in schools. It is important that we model good food choices.

Nutrition funds from Alberta Education combined with support from the Breakfast Club of Canada and the Root Cellar help our students access breakfast and lunch programs.

Desirea Agar shared some survey results on Special Lunch Purchasing Factors that included MHPSD and other school Divisions on how to offer healthier food choices in schools.

Discussion included: ensuring parents are aware of the nutrition program operating in our schools, the importance of not limiting access to the program, and enthusiasm to have parent volunteers back in schools to assist in food preparation.

Desirea shared resources (below) as well as her email address to assist with any questions about nutrition, physical activity, or mental health. desirea.agar@ahs.ca

<https://schools.healthiertogether.ca/en/>

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/nutrition/if-nfs-healthy-fundraising.pdf>

6. Presentation on Student Senate

Mark Davidson introduced the working committee of teachers for this project: Georgia Bull, Ricky Hildebrand and Jen Karpiuk. This trio presented their process and work completed to develop a Student Senate.

The selection of students, grades 10 to 12, would be either recommended by staff or by self-nomination with a focus on ensuring proper representation of the student body. The school-based senates would collect information from the student body to share with the Board as well as provide feedback to the Board as requested.

Discussion included possible mentorship from the Board, proper preparation for Board Meetings and concerns on participation.

The Board is looking forward to having student input and promoting student leadership roles. Policy 200: Role of The Board of Trustees will be updated to include seeking student representation from schools.

[Enclosure No. 1 - Presentation](#)

7. ASCA Conference and AGM

The agenda for the [Alberta School Council Conference and Annual General Meeting](#) is available online. The conference will be held virtually on April 22, 23 & 24. [Online Registration](#) deadline in April 15, 2022.

Catherine Wilson, Board Chair, advised the group that the Board has agreed to sponsor a council member from each school to attend, as it is a virtual format. Reimbursement forms should be submitted to joni.treen@sd76.ab.ca. If you need a form please let Joni Treen know.

There were comments about the conference being very informative.

8. Policy and Procedure

Mark Davidson reviewed changes to Policy 202.4: Trustee Remuneration and Expenses. Updates aligned the policy with the Alberta School Boards Association, the ASBA recently updated rates for trustee attendance at meetings and other professional obligations. There were no comments on the revisions.

[Enclosure No. 2: Policy 202.4 Trustee Remuneration and Expenses](#)

9. Items for Discussion

Meeting Format

Vote button will be distributed to decide on the format for the May 12 meeting (via zoom or in-person at central office).

For next year, we will have our October organizational meeting in-person and decide at that meeting the preferred format for the remainder of the school year.

Engagement Grant

School Councils received a \$500 grant from Alberta Education to increase parent engagement.

Jennifer Kerslake, Director of Community Engagement for the Medicine Hat College, joined the meeting to present to the group on opportunities that could come from partnering with the Beej Project (Brandon Niwa Legacy Fund).

Would councils be interested in pooling grant money together to support parenting sessions for emotional wellness through the Beej Project? Check out the Beej project: www.mhc.ab.ca/beejproject

Councils should stay tuned for more information on this opportunity.

Budget

Mark Davidson, Superintendent, provided an overview to the group on potential grants and funding, however, no details will be confirmed until end of March. There is expected to be some increases to grants: 4.6% transportation, 1% operations, 1% infrastructure and renewal.

- It was announced that school jurisdictions that lost enrollment will be 'held harmless' (provided the same funding as 2019/2020 enrollment).
 - MHPSD will not receive the 1% increases as this would surpass the amount we receive under 'hold harmless'.
 - Funding will be provided for the roll out of the new curriculum, over 3-year period.
 - An expected \$300,000 in support of well-being.
 - ATA and TEBA are currently negotiating central and local table items which could impact reserves / budget.
 - Board operating reserves are at about 3%, which is about 3-month operating costs.
- Budget planning is difficult until we receive specifics from government.

10. Items for Information

Registration

Reminder to parents that registration is now available for 2022-2023 school year. This provides us with important guidance to properly staff our schools. A natural decline in enrollment is expected this year.

Friends of Education Awards

Nominations are available for this year's Friends of Education Awards. The deadline to submit nomination is March 31, 2022. [Policy 902: Friends of Education Awards](#)

Policy 546 COVID-19 Harm Reduction Policy

The Board has decided to rescind this policy.

Access to Email Accounts

Lee Krasilowez advised the group that there is a shortcut available to access email on school websites or visit office.com.

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:

- ASCA Annual Conference: April 22 to 24, 2022
- Thursday, May 12, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT 8:58 p.m.

School Council Parking Lot Conversations

Division Council Chairs would like to create an opportunity for sharing ideas, processes and build relationships.