

601-1st Avenue SW, Medicine Hat, AB T1A 4Y7 | Phone 403.528.6701 | Fax 403.529.5339 | www.mhpsd.ca

### COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

Members: Doug Ashmore Shelagh Barnes

Val Browne Lyle Cunningham
Mark Davidson Carolyn Freeman

Andy Fune Tracy Hensel

Jerry Labossiere Andrew McFetridge

Jan Petersen Aaron Myradon Joanne Pitman - absent Corey Sadlemyer

Cheryl Scholly Sharon Stolz

**Date and Time:** Monday, May 27, 2019 1:30 to 3:30

**Location:** Central Office - Grant Henderson Learning Centre

### 1. POLICY REVIEW AND UPDATES

M. Davidson discussed that an annual review of Policy is as directed by the Board or Administration.

Policies to be reviewed are: Policy 600 Student Roles and Responsibilities / Student Conduct, Policy 612 Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments and Policy 632 School Discipline. The Committee did not recommend any updates to these Policies. C. Freeman noted that Policy 614 does not require annual review as indicated in section 2. *all future revisions of Policy 614 shall be in accordance with our existing Policy amendment procedures*.

- M. Davidson advised the Committee that it is expected that Administration will work with Alberta Education over the Summer to have necessary Policy amendments to the Board in the Fall reflecting any changes to the Education Act.
- 528 Discrimination, Harassment, Violence and Bullying. L. Cunningham explained updates to this Policy and Procedure are due to recent updates in legislation. The changes are minor but now the policy and procedure include the words "discrimination", "violence" and "bullying" as well as the definitions for both.
- T. Hensel recommend rescinding procedure 600 P 001 Homebound Students as the process is dated. If there is a circumstance where a student cannot attend school the Behavior Team and/ or a Family School Liaison Worker can assist the student by either bringing school work to them and / or providing technology in some cases.

The focus is to keep the student connected to their school community and attending school with supports provided as necessary by the Behaviour Support Team or a Family School Liaison Worker.

It was decided that this procedure will be rescinded.

### BUDGET 2019-2020

J. Labossiere provided the group an update on the Budget. Alberta's blue-ribbon panel is reviewing changes; however, they have not yet made any decisions. Budgets are to be submitted by end of June 2019 taking into consideration the Classroom Improvement Fund, Nutrition Programs, Enrollment growth and Centrally negotiated Wage Settlements.

The Alberta Teachers' Association has settled at the Central Table with some requested increases including administrative allowance, dental coverage (from 85% to 100%), vision care (from 2% to full coverage), and maternity leave (17 to 52 weeks).

Discussion ensued regarding the new Education Budget and the potential outcomes. M. Davidson voiced concerns over the potential loss in services that we are currently providing to our student body. The impact will be more evident in the fall.

# 3. TEACHERS' VOICE UPDATE

There were positive comments on the development on the Teachers' Voice Committee.

The committee has increased communication and is solution focused. V. Browne suggested keeping the school representatives the same for next year.

M. Davidson commented that in most cases the topics are student focused and suggestions from this committee have been brought forward to the Board for consideration. There was a fourth meeting held this school year at the request of the committee representatives.

## 4. BOARD FOUNDATIONAL STATEMENTS

The Board has approved the Foundational Statements and has directed Administration to build a plan to share the implementation process internally and then externally.

## 5. VAPING IN SCHOOLS

There is no Bylaw in effect for the City making vaping difficult to deal with at the School level. M. Davidson advised that a Fair Notice Letter is being sent out to secondary families stating that the Medicine Hat Public School Division forbids vaping on school grounds. Vaping materials will be confiscated if used at school or on school grounds.

The importance of prevention and promotion beginning with elementary students (grades 4-6) was discussed.

V. Browne shared that the Alberta Tobacco Institute is a good resource that includes information on prevention and includes vaping.

## 6. FUTURE MEETINGS

Coordinating Committee will resume in October 2019.