

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SCHOOL COUNCILS

Mark Davidson	Tonielle (CHHS)
Ammy Blenner-Hassett	Chelsey Cowan (Connaught/CHHS)
Rick Massini	Mike Fleiger
Lee Krasilowez	Deborah Forbes
Rebecca Rothfus (MHHS)	Carolyn Freeman
Taneill Selinger (RH)	Shannon Welsch (Crestwood)
Elizabeth Gebhardt (RG)	
Becky (RG)	
Gina Miller (AMS)	
Jennifer Stang (Connaught)	
Val (ATA)	
Ammy Blenner- Hassett (VM)	

Thursday, October 1, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

Central Office - Grant Henderson Learning Centre

1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

-Mark Davidson called the meeting to order at 7:35pm. The meeting was broadcast live over zoom as well with 6 people attending virtually.

-Introductions of name and which school/position represented were made live and virtually.

2. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

M. Davidson: Election of Chair

-Position of Chair was vacated in June by the outgoing Chair Bob Burgess. Mark asked council representatives for a volunteer to fill the position. Rebecca Rothfus asked if the position can be filled by two cochair instead. Mark agreed. Rebecca then put her name forward. Chelsea Cowan was then asked to be her cochair. Chelsea agreed. Motion put forward for Rebecca and Chelsea to cochair DCOSC for this year. All in favor. Motion carried.

Rebecca Rothfus: Appointment of Recording Secretary

-Taneill Selinger put her name forward as secretary. All in favour.
Motion carried.

Representative for Coordinating Committee (4 More meetings 1-3:00 p.m.)

-Coordinating Committee is a policy/rule related committee. It is where policy is created and amended. Representatives come from CUPE, ATA, COSC, Trustees, School Board, Teachers (elementary and high school), and school administration (elementary and high school)

-Meetings occur 4-5 times per year from 1- 3pm in the afternoon 1-2 weeks prior to the DCOSC meetings. Next one is the beginning of November.

-It is important to have a parent perspective.

-No one put their name forward at the meeting. Rebecca then suggested that we put the call out to all schools and councils to find a volunteer before the next Coordinating Committee meeting.

-ACTION POINT - JONI EMAIL ALL SCHOOL PRINCIPALS TO BRING THIS TO COUNCIL CHAIR'S ATTENTION

3. ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCIL ASSOCIATION

M. Davidson: ASCA General Meeting & Feedback on Resolutions

The [Alberta School Council Association](#) will host a VIRTUAL Regular General Meeting on Saturday, October 17, 2020 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm for consideration of the 2020 Proposed Advocacy Resolutions [<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/download/files/107705>] and other business deemed essential by the Board. REGISTER by using the link above.

The final draft Agenda and Order Paper will be posted by end of day Tuesday, October 6th, 2020.

*Please explore the ASCA webpage for resources, workshops, enews etc. Here is a link to update [Current School Council Contact Information](#)

-ACTION POINT - JONI SEND ALL DCOSC A PACKAGE WITH THE RESOLUTIONS. ADD A GOOGLE DOC ASKING FOR THOUGHTS, IMPRESSIONS, QUESTIONS. MUST RESPOND PRIOR TO THE OCT. 17TH MEETING.

-Rick Massini shared that he would like as many DCOSC reps to attend this meeting as possible. ASCA gives a good sense of how schools across the province are doing and is invaluable as a liaison between parents and the governing body of the province.

-Carolyn shared that ASCA's website is a really great resource for councils and associations. Has many free resources, webinars, and webcasts.

4. COVID UPDATE

M. Davidson:

Transportation

Adhering to Policy 804 - Transportation of Students to try to limit riders to approximately 44 due to pandemic. The guidelines to be eligible for transportation are outlined in AP [804 P 001 - Transportation of Students](#)

- Quite a few exceptions came from the province prior to school starting. Registration, attendance, COVID symptom procedures, assigned seats, buss passes, etc.
- Over 2000 students ride the busses in our district everyday.
- It is funded provincially (2.4 km +). Under 2.4 km not funded. Prior to this year it was 1.2 km+, so that meant apx. 100 students did not qualify. Families needed to fill out an application to qualify and then there was an appeal process if necessary.
- Our district spends apx. \$100,000 per bus per year. Goal is no more than 44 students per bus.
- Robert Olsen has had a lot of challenges to deal with.
- Bus registration will happen with school registration this year to lighten the load prior to school starting.
- Deborah Forbes noted that we are one of the few school districts that provide FREE bussing for students. Will provide it without fees until it interferes in classroom funding.

Federal Funding

The Division retained 1.1 million to support potential central expenses such as PPE, plexiglass partitions, substitute teachers, educational assistants and additional caretaking.

1.4 million has been allocated to schools based on categories such as staffing, custodial, and PPE requests. Also for things such as manipulative cleaning bags.

- We spend \$23/week per classroom on hand sanitizer [that's \$670,000 annually] and is outside of funding.
- District uses lower alcohol sanitizer with moisturizer for elementary students and higher alcohol no moisturizer for middle school and high schools.
- Received a grant from the city of MH for \$55,000
- Hired a fulltime counsellor for the Hub.
- Pathfinding for Community. Alyssa Lindsey. Mental Health supports.

M. Davidson:

School Re-Entry

Discussion on how school re-entry has gone thus far.

One month in and no school closures. Understand the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Alberta Education have put a lot of restrictions in place. It's hard but necessary. Central Office is working hard to soften the blow and keep schools operating as normal as possible. Since school started have adjusted class cohort size, taught clarity on use of paper [see above note], as well as constantly changing and loosening restrictions. Have to remain vigilant on mask wearing and rules surrounding masks. OH+S tested 3 schools and all three had improvements to make.

-They understand everyone is tired. Hard to be "on" all the time. Stress is exhausting. Change is hard. Hard for teachers/admin/ parents/ and students. Students are doing remarkably well though. Families have been gracious.

-Athletics - we are having mini leagues. Worked really hard to get that together. Not many divisions are doing that.

Wellness, Mental Health and Community Supports

- Wellness supports
- Both high schools were staffed to help accommodate extra work with online / in class learning
- Can we still have fun during a pandemic?

-Sarah, the school divisions Wellness Support, came back from maternity leave early. She is trying to get better benefits for staff if they are home sick. There has been lots of time off. School district is doing its best working with staff to teach at the Hub/ take time off/ ect. when sick.

-470 students are enrolled in the Hub. Kindergarten - gr. 9. High School students are doing virtual school through their own school if they can't attend in person. All high school students have been moved to a quarter system, hopefully temporarily. Have been some challenges. Not all students are attending all the time. Sometimes only 1/2 a class is in attendance in person. More are still tuning in virtually than previously, but it is challenging for teachers.

-1200 and 1300 students at our high schools.

- -discussed the possibility of clubs restarting and allowing for adjustment of a timetable for students outside of classroom cohorts to meet.

Substitute Teachers

Current shortages - discussion on non-certificated subs

Recalling EA layoffs

Release time for teachers

-substitute teachers- not catastrophic yet, but getting worse. Short on substitutes most days. Some have not activated as they are receiving CERB.

Parent Feedback

-quarter system is a struggle for many older students. C

-Masks have not been an issue

-Expressed thank you for clarity and communication from the school division. All questions answered timely. Digestible. Emails are clear. All scenarios were communicated well.

-Discussed having a parent rep from the Hub come join in these meetings

-ACTION POINT - JONI - CAN YOU EMAIL THE ADMIN AT THE HUB TO FIND A VOLUNTEER PARENT REP FOR DCOSC FOR THE NEXT MEETING?

5. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

M. Davidson: Print Centre

New printers are being provided to all schools (estimated end of October).

The OHS guideline for paper handling: to be stored for 72 hours before use. Mark has reached out to AHS to see if this may be relaxed/changed. Sanitize before and after handling papers instead is ok.

Richard E. Taylor Science Centre

There was a plaque with Dr. Taylors' name and a small photo in the previous science wing at Medicine Hat High School. During the modernization, the plaque could not be removed without damaging it, so it was disposed of.

Dr. Taylor was from Medicine Hat and went on to win a Nobel Prize for physics and became a professor at Berkeley University.

The Board requested to have the new science wing at Medicine Hat High School renamed the Richard E. Taylor Science Centre. (Photos below!)

-When the skywalks at Hat High were tore down and the north wing removed, the science wing was removed as well. This new science wing is new.

-Richard Taylor discovered quarks and subatomic particles. He won the Nobel Prize in 1990.



6. COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

Chair: School Councils from each school are to submit an Annual Report. If your school has not submitted a report, please do so as the deadline was September 30. [Template](#) is on the MHPSD website.
-Not all reports are in yet. Please get them in ASAP

7. POLICY UPDATES AND REVISIONS

M. Davidson: **Policy 210: School and Facility Naming**
It is recommended to provide the addition of a policy or administrative procedure to include the naming of a team or mascot.
Policy 210.2 School Team / Mascot Naming or AP 210 P 001 School Team / Mascot Naming
-Boris Grisonich, the principal of Hat High led this discussion, change, and push for policy to be put in place. Hat High's team names will be amended.
-Corey - especially with orange shirt day being yesterday, and the truth and reconciliation regarding residential schools, we need to be vigilant and respectful of our team/mascot names. It is important for our division. Not an easy or straightforward policy or decision. We didn't have a policy in place previously.
-Carolyn - thanked Deborah Forbes for her pioneer work 15+ years ago when she contacted Mohawk chiefs in Ontario and Quebec regarding Hat High's team names.

8. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

C. Freeman: Thank you parents for all your patience and hard work in the schools. Any questions or concerns feel free to contact your school trustee rep.

9. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

M. Davidson: Will vote for DCOSC Operating Procedures at maybe next meeting.

-ACTION POINT - JONI SET UP MEETING WITH MARK, CAROLYN, REBECCA, AND CHELSEA TO EDIT AND RADIFY OPERATING PROCEDURES.

-Will also look at changing when we elect chair/cochairs/secretary. Spring would work better to gain momentum in the fall.

Rick Massini:

- Really encouraged councils to get more involved provincially in ASCA. Would love to see a greater partnership and collaboration with school councils and the board. Current Education Minister and Premier have really paid attention to ASCA lately. They have even attended district meetings and school council meetings.
- Chelsea suggested that we find a way for parents to offer more feedback in the future. More two way communication.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Thursday, January 14, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 25, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

ASCA Annual Conference: April 23 to 25, 2021 @ the Delta Marriot Edmonton South

Thursday, May 13, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

ACTION POINT - THERE IS A LONG TIME UNTIL JANUARY. WOULD LIKE TO ADD IN ONE MORE MEETING PRIOR TO THE NEXT ONE.

-Motion to adjourn - Amy Blenner-Hassett. Seconded by Gina Miller. Motion carried.