

District Council of School Councils

Minutes – Thursday, December 3, 2015

In Attendance: Lyle Cunningham, Carolyn Freeman, Terry Freeman, Elizabeth Gebhardt,
Amanda Kenny, Jennifer Lanctot, Shannon Nelson, Rebecca Rothfus, Terri Schmaltz,
Heather Smith-Schenkey, Ashley Williams

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Heather Smith-Schenkey.

2. City of Medicine Hat – School and Playground Zone Review

Craig Maunder and Randi Buchner from the City of Medicine Hat presented information regarding possible changes to some of Medicine Hat's School and Playground Zones. Due to changes in provincial legislation in 2014, the city has been reviewing current arrangements. Craig Maunder shared the criteria by which areas around playgrounds and schools are scored, leading to an assessment of the risk factors and safety measures in place. The areas with lower scores may be considered for a change from a ZONE, where there is signage and speed is restricted to 30 km/h, to an AREA, where signage is posted warning of children present and speed is restricted to 50 km/h. There are also proposed changes to the hours for playground and school zones, such as setting a concrete beginning and end time that will be in effect all year, rather than changing seasonally with sunset.

3. Presentation – Terry Freeman

- District Assessment Initiative

Terry Freeman presented to Council, developing understanding of the District's current focus on Assessment. He particularly focused on Formative Assessment (Assessment FOR Learning) and Summative Assessment (Assessment OF Learning). Formative Assessment is feedback in the midst of learning and in the moment, and in contrast, Summative Assessment is evaluative feedback after the learning. There was also brief discussion of Assessment AS Learning, which involves students reflecting on their own learning.

4. Trustee Comments: Carolyn Freeman

Mrs. Freeman reported that the survey for input on criteria for the Superintendent search has closed. The position will be posted soon. A representative from the DCSC will be included on the interviewing panel.

5. Superintendent's Report: Lyle Cunningham

- 2016-2017 Draft School Year Calendar

Mr. Cunningham presented the Draft Calendar for the 2016-2017 school year. He made note that there is some debate as to whether or not to have District PD days consistently on the third Friday of the month, or to tie them to long weekends. As well, there is mixed reaction to carrying the school year all the way to December 23. Council provided feedback and also asked questions regarding the school year start date. Mr. Cunningham explained the restrictions on the District to fit in a specific amount of school days in the year. He further clarified that each semester must carry a certain amount of school days, and the dates of semesters are dictated by diploma examination dates set provincially.

A question was posed to Mr. Cunningham regarding the recent issues with the Monarch Theatre and its impact on the District's work experience program. Mr. Cunningham stated that the incident and District work experience practices and policies were all reviewed and examined and the District is satisfied that District students were looked after appropriately. Mr. Cunningham also clarified that the District does not "place" students in work experience jobs; the students find jobs independently and then apply to earn work experience credits through the job.

Discussion was also initiated regarding the District's recent moratorium on international travel for school groups. There are five previously approved trips that have been put on hold indefinitely. Due to recent mass shootings in other countries, the decision was made with a primary focus on the safety of students, with additional concern as to liability and insurance. Students involved with the proposed trips are disappointed and families are concerned with getting refunds. Mr. Cunningham stated that the district is working with the travel companies and trying to find alternative opportunities for trips within Canada, as well as potential refunds, and so on.

6. Future Meeting Dates (tentative):

- January 20, 2016
- March 16, 2016

Wednesday, January 20th at 7:00 pm was determined to be acceptable for the next DCSC meeting.

7. Motion to Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm by Heather Smith-Schenkey.