



## Division School Council Meeting **MINUTES**

January 16, 2023

6:30 pm

Education Centre Board Room / Microsoft TEAMS

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6:30 – 7:00 - PARENT LEARNING SESSION:

### **Myths and Misconceptions – Newcomer Parental Involvement**

Carmen Carvalho, Lethbridge School Division English Second Language Lead Teacher, discussed positive practices to better support parental involvement of newcomer families. Barriers to involvement were reviewed and ideas generated as to how School Councils can promote inclusion and involvement of all parents.

Thank you Carmen for presenting!

Question: Are there Division contacts we can access for parent council for translators etc?

A- Yes, You can work with Saajan Sapkota ([Saajan.Sapkota@lethsd.ab.ca](mailto:Saajan.Sapkota@lethsd.ab.ca)) to discuss your needs and questions and book resources.

If anyone has further questions regarding this presentation or the ESL Lead Teacher's work you can contact Carmen by email [carmen.carvalho@lethsd.ab.ca](mailto:carmen.carvalho@lethsd.ab.ca)

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

1. Land Acknowledgement
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Approval of the Agenda  
Edna Asem and Tisha Elford approved the agenda as presented.
4. Approval of the Minutes of December 5, 2022  
Tisha Elford approved the minutes as presented.
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
  - a. Reminder – Expression of Interest for Blanket Ceremony due Jan 27
  - b. Parent Resources:
    - i. ERLC (Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium) –
      - Learning Opportunity on Social-Emotional Learning Grade 7-12 (free of charge) <https://erlc.ca/programs/details/?id=11627>
      - Learning Opportunity called Focus on the 90%. Information in link below. For parents. (free of charge) <https://learning-network.org/program/10184>

- ii. SAPDC (Southern Alberta Professional Development Consortium – Executive Director Rick Gilson)
  - A literacy focused “Learn and Go” document as well as a “Learn and Go” Supporting Social Media and Internet Awareness document were provided to the Division on Friday. On the Community Engagement website. They are on the Community Engagement website. [Parent Learning | Community Engagement \(schoolsites.ca\)](#). A numeracy document is forthcoming.
- iii. Shelley Passed out printed copies of the information above as well as information on the Stand for Education Roundtable hosted by the Local Teachers Association on January 19<sup>th</sup> 4:30-8:30 at the CWB Lounge in the Enmax Centre.

## 6. Trustee Report

- a. Community Conversations – Thursday, January 26 (6:30 – 8:00 p.m.) Boys & Girls Club Youth Centre (227 12B St. N) [Community Conversations | Community Engagement \(schoolsites.ca\)](#)
  - Trustee Genny Steed discussed the format and questions for our upcoming Town Hall event. Town Hall feedback helps the Board of Trustees and Executive council set their strategic priorities for the year ahead and we encourage all parents and students able to attend
  - 2023/2024 School Year Calendar has been approved and posted on the website. Question regarding when the multicultural Calendar will be available? Morag confirmed it would be available by June.

## 7. Alberta School Councils Association

- a. ASCA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Resolutions timelines.
  - Board election information for ASCA: <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/annual-general-meeting/board-election-information>
  - Resolution information and deadline date: <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/the-parent-voice>
  - Shelley will bring information on Proxy votes forms and instructions to March DSC meeting.
- b. ASCA contact information for School Council Chairs to access online ASCA resources that are password protected.
  - Having conversations with Garrett about setting up school emails that can be passed down through school councils to set up ASCA accounts.
  - Garrett will be sending more information soon.
  - Once accounts are set up ASCA is very open about sharing account passwords within your school so their resources are well used and easily accessible for student councils.

## 8. Committee Reports

### a. Policy Advisory Committee – no meeting in December, meeting this week on January 18<sup>th</sup> – Jamie Walburger

- There will be no meeting in February, Next meeting March 8<sup>th</sup>. Kristin will be sending policies to Student Council Chairs for feedback. All feedback is due by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

### b. Poverty Intervention – December 13 – Jamie Walburger/ Lindsey O'Brien

The last Poverty Intervention Committee (PIC) was held December 13, 2022. Some of the main highlights are as follows:

- Panago Pizza North graciously donated \$800 to the committee.
- CUPE 2843 also donated \$4000 to the committee, this donation alone will be enough to provide winter clothing to nearly an entire classroom of kids in the division!
- The committee broke off into smaller groups to discuss a variety of questions such as what the role of PIC is, what do we understand the intention of PIC and how are we accomplishing it etc.
- A common theme arose that many parents and staff in the division are not aware this committee exists and are not aware of the great work it does for the division. This created the follow up question for the next meeting: "In what way would info about PIC be most effectively shared with your community?"
- Last September, Lethbridge participated in a study to measure homelessness with 65 other communities; in Lethbridge, around 400 people are affected by homelessness, the shelter capacity is only 100, property tax is set to increase which will likely affect these numbers.
- Around 3 out of 20 students in a classroom are experiencing income-related poverty.
- 3 schools have accessed PIC funds so far, this year.
- WAM (Weekend and More) are emergency food hamper bags that were developed 3 years ago and are available throughout the division for families in need.
- AHS: discussed a 1-hour workshop available to kindergarten and grade 1 teachers called Food Explorers. It encourages food exploration and includes simple recipes children can prepare with their families to encourage trying new foods.
- Committee discussed ways to make hygiene products readily available in elementary schools (period pouches, donations of products to schools)
- Next meeting March 21, 2023

### c. Division Wellness – January 16 - Edna Asem/ Sara Bond

- Organizing Student forums with Administrators and Students to discuss wellness issues.
- Healthy Choices- Morag will be discussing changes with cafeteria menus.
- Morag has received a grant and will be hiring a Digital Wellness Teacher.
- Division is working with AHS to track the big spikes in absenteeism and reporting clusters of gastrointestinal or respiratory illnesses.

- d. Community Engagement – December 13 – Shelley Roest/ Cynthia Young
    - ICE Scholarship event on March 9<sup>th</sup>.
    - Communication Survey
    - Town Hall process and planning
9. Superintendent’s Report
- a. Town Hall – February 7<sup>th</sup> (6:30 – 8:30) Victoria Park High School gymnasium.
    - Encourage all parents to come and make a night out of it.
    - Feedback received is important to the Division and will shape the Board Priorities for the next year.
10. Roundtable Reports
- Reports are included with the agenda: an opportunity to highlight a very significant event or for questions from the representatives about information in a written report.
- Teacher Appreciation Week- Week of February 13<sup>th</sup>, consider organizing something small, use sign up genie to engage parents who would like to help but don’t know how.
11. Adjournment

**Division School Council 2022-2023 Meeting Dates:**

- February 7, 2023 Town Hall
- March 6, 2023
- April 3, 2023
- May 1, 2023
- June 5, 2023

**2022-23 Division School Council Representatives**

Chair	Shelley Roest
Vice Chair	Carrie Boschman
Recording Secretary	Kristin Solowoniuk
Policy Advisory Committee	Jamie Walburger and Alternative – Shelley Roest
Poverty Intervention Committee	Jamie Walburger and Alternative – Lindsay O’Brien
Division Wellness Committee	Edna Asem and Alternative - Sara Bond
Community Engagement Committee	Shelley Roest, Cynthia Young – ALL parents are welcome