

Lethbridge School Division

Community Engagement Committee

NOTES



Date: Thursday, Nov. 1, 2023

Meeting started at 7:02 p.m.

1. Committee Terms of Reference

Committee Chair Kristina Larkin opened discussion of the committee's Terms of Reference. Larkin read out the Terms of Reference and suggestions were made for possible revisions in the future. Communications Officer Garrett Simmons was tasked with examining one section under Specific Annual Objectives.

2. Community Engagement Website

Communications Officer Garrett Simmons gave a quick overview of the features and the purpose behind the Community Engagement website. The site is designed to be a one-stop-shop for information on current, past and future engagement projects the Division is engaged in. The website also houses surveys and survey results. Members of the public can also sign up for updates and receive email alerts when major items are added to the website. The Community Engagement website can be found here: [ENGAGEMENT](#).

3. ICE Scholarship

Christine Lee, the Division's Associate Superintendent, Business and Operations, gave a historical overview of the ICE scholarship and its corresponding celebration event, the ICE Awards Scholarship Breakfast. In the past, the Division hosted a breakfast event on Feb. 14, which featured a guest speaker. Lee added the event included sponsors as was primarily for an adult audience. The breakfast event was a lot of work for Division staff and did not net a significant amount of money to contribute to the Division's ICE scholarship fund. During COVID, the event shifted online, and featured a pre-recorded video presentation from a guest speaker. Last year, the Division shifted focus and created the 2023 ICE Awards Scholarship Showcase event, which was held March 9 at Chinook High School. Student displays were set up inside a hallway and a formal event was held inside the Media Centre, which featured a video that showcased innovation throughout the Division.

Discussion was held on what type of event the committee would like for 2024, and what changes could be made inside Chinook to help with the flow of the event, to help people more effectively navigate the student display tables. It was reported the showcase was a genuinely positive event for students, and that it might be nice to rotate locations for the showcase. Lee added she is examining the possibility of having Division vendors set up tables at the event as well.

The committee tasked Garrett Simmons with examining possible March, 2024 dates for the showcase, in co-ordination with schools and staff.

The committee also discussed the ICE scholarship itself, and the timelines involving the start of the application process and the date for the certificate presentations at the Education Centre. Garrett Simmons was also tasked with sending the ICE scholarship application form to committee members to receive feedback on the form.



4. Town Hall

The committee discussed the need to get the process started with the selection of potential topics and questions. Committee Chair Kristina Larkin read out a few suggestions from committee member Shelley Roest, who added she often hears from attendees that they would like the Division to hear what is happening at their level (elementary, middle, high school). The discussions that occur aren't always relevant to everyone at the table, as elementary parents and high school parents often have different concerns/needs/focus, she added.

Roest mentioned it would be great if the Board considered structuring Town Hall to get an accurate sense of what people are experiencing in schools.

Supt. Mike Nightingale suggested the possibility of instead of one of two broad questions, do we go with smaller groups and multiple questions instead? Does the Division look at picking more topics, which would require more facilitation, and look at the possibility of asking what the areas of interest are and what the Division wants feedback on?

Larkin added gathering feedback from multiple levels might be helpful if the process can be figured out, as some Town Hall questions do not necessarily apply to elementary, middle and/or high school.

Board Chair Allison Purcell suggested that next year, the Town Hall process should start in September, as the Board could solicit feedback from School Councils in terms of what type of Town Hall they would like. Questions could then be developed in October.

The February timeline of the event was also discussed, as Lee mentioned the February date was essential in order to collect feedback in time for the Board's Strategic Planning sessions March 7-8.

It was decided members of the Community Engagement committee would provide feedback on Town Hall 2024, via email, for the Board to examine on Nov. 15.

5. Technology in Schools Ad Hoc Committee

Nightingale mentioned he had spoken with Trustee Genny Steed and members of the Division's Digital Wellness team, Cason Machacek and Sydnie Erlendson, about the organization of a survey for students, staff and parents. The survey could include yes-and-no questions and open-ended questions regarding the benefits and negatives of technology in schools, along with potential solutions. He added the Division needs to find answers to questions like, Where do we need to education people more? and What are the technology hotspots? The Digital Wellness team will work with the Communications Officer to develop a skeleton for a survey.

6. Work Plan

The proposed workplan was moved to the next meeting.

Purcell mentioned a few topics worth considering for engagement included the concept of full-time Kindergarten in Lethbridge. Other topics included transportation and technology.

Committee members were encouraged to email Larkin with ideas for other potential topics.

Next meeting: Dec. 6, 7 p.m.