

Lethbridge School Division

Community Engagement Committee

NOTES



Date: Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023

Meeting started at 7 p.m.

1. Town Hall

Committee Chair Kristina Larkin explained the Division explored questions for the Town Hall, along with a new structure, based on recommendations from the Community Engagement Committee. The goal is to gather feedback from the elementary, middle and high schools levels. Supt. Mike Nightingale added the new format will be helpful for the Division for strategic planning purposes. The topic of the Thoughtstream process was also discussed, in terms of the relevance of the technology to the success of the evening. The online survey that is released after Town Hall is the primary source for feedback but the Thoughtstream is a way for Town Hall participants to see their sentiments shared in real time on screens inside the gym. Larkin mentioned there is value in having that live data being relayed back to their during the event. She added the Division should also consider exploring options for accessibility for Town Hall, including translation services and assistance with transportation.

2. ARAO Survey

Supt. Milke Nightingale reviewed the questions that were asked of the public last year for the Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Survey. He added the data collected through the survey was utilized in June as the Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Policy and Procedure Committee in the developed procedures for Policy 103.1 - Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression. He added the Division has received questions about the survey data, and mentioned data from the 1,200-plus responses have been shared with the committee but have not been made public. The process of putting together the public report has been tricky, and the Division did explore the possibility of working with an outside company to complete the work. Financial and time restraints did not make this possible. The committee has now grouped all of the feedback into themes, and a draft version of a public report has been created, which also includes a summarization of responses that did not necessarily tie into the questions. The public report also includes a section that outlines where the survey themes impacted the procedures. Nightingale added the hope is to end up with a good product that is representative of the themes from the survey. A question was also asked about how parents can provide feedback on procedure development in the future. Larkin added the Board is very interested in policy, along with who has input at every stage of the process, and added that is something the Board can clarify going forward. She mentioned in the future, when surveys are released, the Division should also be clear on how the data collected will be used.



3. Technology Survey

Nightingale passed out copies of a draft survey, and mentioned the committee was the first to see the draft. Questions were compiled by Sydnie Erlendson, Family Support Worker in the Division's Digital Wellness department. Erlendson put together a number of options for potential questions, with a mix of questions based on scales, along with open-ended questions. As for the purpose of the survey, Larkin mentioned the Board needs a more comprehensive picture as to how people are feeling and what schools are doing in terms of technology use inside their buildings.

The committee also discussed the need to differentiate what exact technology angle the survey will tackle.

Nightingale added the goal now to is get initial reactions to the list of potential questions, and to hear what the Board has to say about the survey. He mentioned the Division is still not 100-per-cent sure what it is looking for in the survey at the moment. He added the Community Engagement Committee will receive an email copy of the survey, once the Division is further along in the process, before the survey goes out to the public.

4. ICE Scholarship

Nightingale read a report from Christine Lee, who mentioned sponsorship request letters have been sent out and \$2,000 has been pledged as of today. Sponsorship may be down this year, as the ESport Championship is also hitting some of same sponsors. The Division does have a very healthy balance in the Scholarship account. The date for the scholarship showcase is March 20 at Chinook High School. The Division will need to approach administrators in January to get student/staff innovation displays for the event.

The question was asked if the Division is considering revolving the location of the event. It was relayed that the Chinook Media Centre is an ideal location for the event, and for other schools to be considered, gym space would be an issue, due to booking constraints due to sports tournaments, games and practices.

The committee must also decide on timelines for the start of the scholarship application process, along with deadlines and dates for judging and student recognition.

5. Division Annual Assurance Results Report

A question was asked as to whether parents would have an opportunity to provide feedback to the Board regarding the AARR that was released in November. It was noted the annual Town Hall, held in February each year, would be the opportunity for members to provide feedback to the Board on topics such as the results found in the AARR.