



**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL COUNCILS (COSC)
MEETING HELD AT THE PARKLAND SCHOOL DIVISION CENTRE
FOR EDUCATION IN STONY PLAIN, ALBERTA ON 18 NOVEMBER 2010**

ATTENDANCE:

School Councils

Blueberry School
Brookwood School
École Broxton Park School
École Meridian Heights School
Memorial Composite High School
Millgrove School
Parkland Village School
Spruce Grove Composite High School

Board of Trustees

Trustee Kilduff, Trustee

Administration

Kelly Wilkins, Associate Superintendent

Recording Secretary

Darlene Smith, Executive Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of Chair, Connie McKenna, the meeting was called to order by Rhonda Schumm at 7:05 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Jo-Ann Robutka that the Agenda be approved as presented.
CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 21 OCTOBER 2010

Moved by Jessie Boyd, that the Minutes of 21 October 2010 be approved as presented.
CARRIED

4. COSC COMMUNICATION – Rhonda Schumm

Broxton Park recently hosted a COSC parent workshop which was very successful with 35 parents attending. Although a message was emailed to school council chairs and principals, it appears the word did not get out effectively. Rhonda feels there needs to be a better system for wide spread communication. The following ideas were suggested

- Advertise in the **free** Community Events section of the Reporter/Examiner
- Distribute multiple posters to schools
- Ensure schools are receiving information early enough so they can include it in their monthly newsletter
- Request information be posted on PSD public website and individual school's websites

Paula Whebby, Website Coordinator will be invited to March 17 meeting to discuss COSC's presence on public website and address the following items:

- Can COSC have its own page on public website, accessible through the School Council page?
- Will each school website have a school council page?
- Will there be a guideline developed of what School Councils can add to their individual school council page?

Dorcas suggested the people check other school jurisdiction's COSC presence, and bring that information to the March 17 meeting to help in determining what might be possible for inclusion in PSD's website.

5. FEEDBACK TO TRUSTEE QUESTIONS - Dorcas Kilduff

Representatives shared what their School Council had done in response to Dorcas Kilduff's email requesting input/advice from its stakeholders with respect to questions asked in The E4 Framework booklet. Dorcas requested that all responses/ideas be forwarded to her so she could in turn give them to the Board of Trustees. From this information, the Board will be able to ascertain what our community/stakeholders believe so they can represent them through Inspiring Action on Education which will provide an opportunity for all Albertans to connect with Alberta Education's vision for the policy directions, legislative change and transformational shifts that will occur over the upcoming months and years.

6. BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT – Dorcas Kilduff

Following the election, Trustees went on school tours, visiting 22 school sites in four days. It was extremely beneficial for Trustees to see each school facility, including its strengths and weaknesses in terms of structure. This will assist Trustees in long range capital planning.

The Board has also been very busy attending PSD's new board orientation, committee and Board meetings, Public School Boards Association of Alberta's University and the Alberta School Boards' Association's New Trustee Orientation.

Parkland School Division has hired a consultant, Hugh Skinner from Stantec Consulting, who will take us through the process of gathering information about PSD – its facilities, its enrolment numbers, its current attendance boundaries, transportation, etc. to assist us as PSD goes through an extensive boundary review. He will lead us through the entire consultative process with stakeholders.

PSD will be absolutely transparent about the process. Superintendent, Tim Monds, will make every effort to attend, at least once, every school's school council meeting to share information about the review. Kelly Wilkins will send out information to parents, via the schools and school councils. PSD's website will provide timely information and updates.

In an effort to garner stakeholder and community input, PSD will even share the priorities that will factor into the review process, ie: overcrowding at schools and ensuring viability of programming for schools.

These pieces won't have equal footing, but the notion at the front end is that they will be talked about.

The Board of Trustees will be receiving all data collected by Hugh Skinner on 16 December 2010 that will not be about solutions, but a foundation to start from.

Trustee Kilduff requested that School Councils let the Board and Senior Administration do their work through appropriate channels. School Councils are encouraged to be advocates rather than lobbyists as they try to support PSD's request for two new schools. Trustees and stakeholders need to be on the same page and engage political partners to help us. Each School Council's job is paramount – to share information to parents at each school.

7. CONFIRMATION OF SUGGESTED MEETING DATES (Rhonda Schumm)
April 12 and May 19

We will determine which alternate dates can replace the April and May meetings as they fall on long weekends, etc.

8. PARENT WORKSHOPS – Rhonda Schumm

Blueberry School Council will host a Parent Seminar on 10 January 2011. The topic will be Internet Safety and Security. Details will be confirmed. RSVP's will be required by 05 Jan. 2011.

9. FURTHER DISCUSSION - FUTURE ROLE OF SCHOOL COUNCILS
(Rhonda Schumm, ASCA)

Rhonda offered to accept any feedback or comments on the Future Roles of School Councils discussion paper. The document is meant to assist School Councils in knowing their mandate and roles, not necessarily to increase involvement. One comment that Rhonda received was to put the document in more user-friendly language. Discussion was held regarding the Skills Bank. The idea was to develop the Skills Bank at the school level. Some caution was expressed regarding the commitment that may be involved through the regulations. ASCA will assist Councils with a variety of workshops. School Councils were encouraged to access these free workshops and invite Trustees to attend.

COSC has chosen to post unapproved minutes in order to have access to the minutes sooner than the upcoming meeting.

The 20 January 2011 meeting will be held at the Centre for Education.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.