



**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL COUNCILS (COSC)
MEETING HELD AT THE MILLGROVE SCHOOL IN SPRUCE GROVE,
ALBERTA ON 17 MARCH 2011**

ATTENDANCE:

School Councils

École Broxton Park School
Duffield School
Millgrove School
Keephills School
Greystone Centennial Middle School

Principal

Terry Caouette, Duffield School

Board of Trustees

Trustee Kilduff

Administration

Kelly Wilkins, Deputy Superintendent

Recording Secretary

Darlene Smith, Executive Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Rhonda Schumm, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
Principal, Terry Caouette welcomed everyone to Duffield School.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Toresa Regan that the Agenda be approved as presented.
CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 20 JANUARY 2011

Moved by Rhonda Schumm, that the Minutes of 20 January 2011 be approved as presented.
CARRIED

4. PSD Website – COSC Key Contact (Rhonda Schumm)

Should any member of COSC have information they would like posted on the PSD website, submit to Rhonda who will in turn, submit it to Web Producer, Paula Whebby.

5. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & PROXY VOTES (Rhonda Schumm)

The Alberta School Councils' Association Conference and AGM is being held on 17 April 2011. Registration deadline is April 7th. As of today, five schools are confirmed to attend the AGM. April 7th is deadline to submit proxy votes. Rhonda will connect with schools not sending a representative to have them complete a Proxy Voting Form and she will find out from ASCA how many schools' proxies one person can carry.

6. BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT– Trustee Dorcas Kilduff

- There will be no increase in fees for the 2011-2012 school year. Transportation fees for Kindergarten students attending on a full day basis, will be reduced in half.
- Budget – From PSD Board of Trustees’ point of view, the increase to base student funding (4.4%) has given PSD more money, but, on the other hand, they also took away some things: AISI will be reduced by 50%; transportation grants were reduced; the class size initiative was eliminated for grades 4-6. Overall PSD’s revenue is expected to increase by approximately \$200,000. On the expenditure side, the teacher salary increase of 4.4% will result in an estimated deficit of \$2 million. The Board is committed to making sure the last place the budget affects is at the classroom level. Alberta Education has directed Boards to use any reserves they have. Schools might have to use some of their reserves as well. Schools are working on budgets and hope to have primary budgets completed by April.
- Education Act is going to the legislature towards the end of the spring session. It will go through a couple of readings. No intention of passing it. It will go forward to the Fall session. Encourages school councils have a good read because it will be in effect for many years.
- Trustees asked if COSC would allow, on a rational basis, for one more Trustee to sit in on meetings. Members welcomed their attendance.
- Trustees were in Calgary, and attended exciting sessions on Labour Law.

7. SYSTEM REVIEW – Trustee Dorcas Kilduff

Based on public feedback received from System Review Phase 1; System Review Phase 2 Open Houses provided storyboards highlighting the purpose; Phase 2 process plan and schedule; System Review revised planning principles;

The following strategies were presented as possible ways to reduce overcrowding at schools with growing enrolments by:

- limiting cross boundary students
- optimizing space by creating additional internal spaces
- adding core portable classrooms if provincial funding is available, and the facility and site can accommodate the additional classrooms
- boundary changes

Any changes to school boundaries, for the 2011-2012 school year will be decided at the April Board meeting. The Board will be dealing with those situations that require immediate attention. Less critical situations (such as high school enrolments and schools in the west zone) will be considered in the future.

Trustee Dorcas Kilduff indicated that the Open Houses have been well presented, rolled out well, and gave stakeholders an opportunity to provide input through comment sheets. The Board has tried to be very transparent and engage the community in the decision making process.

8. KEEPHILLS RESOLUTION P11-01 – SCHOOL BUS STOP SAFETY (Sharon Topping)

Sharon thanked Rhonda Schumm for putting her in touch with Tracy at ASCA for assistance in wording the resolution regarding school bus stop safety. The following resolution was submitted to ASCA to be included in the April 17th AGM.

P11-01 School Bus Stop Safety

BECAUSE the community, parents, school councils, school boards, The Department of Education and The Department of Transportation have a mandate to ensure safe transportation to and from their schools for Alberta school students.

BECAUSE Alberta primary and secondary highways have increased traffic volume and increased heavy-hauler truck traffic.

BECAUSE all school bus stops place children at risk.

BECAUSE some school bus stops present higher risk due to reduced or obstructed visibility.

BECAUSE technology exists to place solar-powered, time-limited, remote-controlled flashing yellow warning lights is available.

WE REQUEST that these warning lights be placed at higher risk bus stops at the recommendation of the appropriate School Board.

Sponsored by Keephills School Council

If the resolution is passed by ASCA, Trustee Kilduff recommended that COSC provide Parkland County Manager, Pat Vincent, the resolution. The County would probably advocate to the government the importance of school bus stop signage on primary and secondary highways within the County.

9. ACTION ON CURRICULUM (Rhonda Schumm)

One of the elements of Inspiring Education is Action on Curriculum. CPAC (Curriculum Policy Advisory Committee) has been asked to get feedback on a few questions. One question that we can truly have input on is: Have we identified the "right" competencies that will contribute to the vision for an educated Albertan and for students living, learning and working in the 21st century?

The following competencies, based on a review of recognized national and international frameworks for learning in the 21st century, will especially contribute to the transformation of Alberta's education system. In this system, literacy and numeracy remain competencies of primary importance to all learning. Learners with strong literacy and numeracy skills acquire, create, connect and communicate meaning in a wide variety of contexts. In addition to literacy and numeracy, the following competencies are interrelated and could be expanded upon in the future:

- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Creativity and Innovation
- Social Responsibility and Cultural, Global and Environmental Awareness
- Communication
- Digital Literacy
- Lifelong Learning, Self-Direction and Personal Management
- Collaboration and Leadership.

Rhonda printed out sheets with explanations of the above competencies and encouraged members to review and comment on any or all.

10. PARENT WORKSHOPS:

- **Educational Technology** – 17 or 18 parents came to Forest Green School for presentation. Of those, about half were from the Forest Green School community. The presentation was very well received.
- **Future Topics/Locations** – Rhonda is working on perhaps having a mother/daughter workshop with Kelly Falardeau as the speaker. Kelly is a burn victim and the author of No Risk, No Rewards. She offers a session "Finding the Beauty Within" focused on self esteem. Rhonda will provide more details once finalized.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm

12. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING RESOLUTION DISCUSSION – BOARD PERSPECTIVE

Trustee Kilduff had informal conversation and discussion about the Resolutions going to the ASCA AGM.