



**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL COUNCILS (COSC)
MEETING HELD AT THE CENTRE FOR EDUCATION, STONY PLAIN,
ALBERTA ON 24 November 2011**

ATTENDANCE:

School Councils

Blueberry School
École Broxton Park School
Duffield School
Forest Green School
Greystone Centennial Middle School
École Meridian Heights School
Seba Beach School
Stony Plain Central School
Wabamun School
Woodhaven Middle School

Board of Trustees

Trustee Goebel

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.

2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Leighann Wolkowski that the Agenda be approved as presented. Seconded by Arlene Fieldhouse. **CARRIED**

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 27 October 2011

Moved by Tammy Suteau that the Minutes of 27 October 2011 be approved as presented. Seconded by Rhonda Schumm. **CARRIED**

OLD BUSINESS

5. PARENT SEMINARS (Rhonda Schumm)

Blueberry School – Leighann Woldoski

- February 13, Tourette & Umbrella Autism Disorder
- March 12, Suicide Prevention

Blueberry will open up one session to the public. Leighann will advise by email which session will be opened up.

Woodhaven Middle School

- January 31, Hold onto Your Kids - Gabor Mate

High Park School

- February 1, Hold onto Your Kids - Gabor Mate

6. EMAIL ACCOUNTS (Kelly Wilkins)

- A few schools have set up email accounts. Hopefully by January, all schools will have emails set up.
- There was discussion about School Council websites. Chairs were encouraged to review their School Council webpage and provide useful information pertinent to their school council to their Principal who would in turn forward it along to Paula Whebby.

7. SPONSORSHIP RECOGNITION (Kelly Wilkins)

PSD has Administrative Procedure 153 (Advertising Materials in Schools) that addresses advertising materials being used in schools, but nothing specific to corporate donations. The question was asked if schools could recognize donations with a plaque. It was also asked if sports uniforms could have business logos on them if money was specifically donated for sports uniforms. Kelly indicated that perhaps it is time to create an Administrative Procedure addressing business sponsorship. COSC members were asked for their opinions regarding this kind of support and request for appropriate advertising recognition. There was unanimous interest expressed to allow for appropriate advertising (i.e. business logo on donated team uniforms). We have some responsibility back to sponsors and community members in appreciation of their donations. In these times of tight resources, we need to be thankful for everything we get, even if minimal. As PSD does with Administrative Procedures, we would want schools to work with Division Office for some consistency.

NEW BUSINESS

8. BOARD REPORT (Irene Goebel)

- Alberta Education reinstated some funding. PSD had taken money from reserves to avoid laying off teachers. Part of the reinstated money is going toward training Learning Coaches to assist in integration of students with special needs.
- After three successful three-year cycles of AISI (2000-2009), AISI is now in its fourth cycle, 2009-2012. The focus of Parkland School Division 's AISI Project is the development of critical thinking as a means of improving student achievement and engagement in grades K - 12. AISI money was cut in half this year but has recently been reinstated.
- Received notice from Alberta Education that Memorial Composite High School will be demolished. Date has not been determined.
- Vandalism Report was presented to the Board on November 8, 2011. Some schools appear to have more incidents but the reporting process also includes accidental breakage of windows, defective mechanical, faulty toilets, etc. Data doesn't reflect just "vandalism".
- Student Advisory Committee (SAC) last met on November 8, 2011. SAC meetings provide Trustees an opportunity to hear the voices of students. Students were asked how education has changed and what they would like improved.
- Trustees attend the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Conference in Edmonton on November 21 & 22.
- System Review – Phase III Stakeholder Consultation was held at Brookwood School on November 17, 2011. Parents, staff, students and community stakeholders provided input on the challenge of accommodating the increasing number of students and the lack of classroom space in Spruce Grove.
- *Our Children, Our Future: Getting It Right*, an initiative the Minister of Education has been implemented to get public input on the proposed Education Act. A Community Consultation will be held in Edmonton on November 26. Along with invitations to School Councils, PSD was invited to send 9 representatives. Parents across Alberta were also invited to participate in a teleconference with the Minister on Tuesday, November 29.

9. POTENTIAL TOPIC FOR JANUARY COSC MEETING

- George Couros, Division Principal, Innovative Teaching and Learning will do a presentation on Digital Citizenship / Digital Footprint. Rhonda encouraged chairs to speak to their council to see if they had any specific questions for Mr. Couros.
- First viewing of resolutions from the ASCA.

10. CONVERSATION WITH THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

- Education Minister Thomas Lukaszuk attended the ASCA Board of Directors meeting on November 19. The Minister spoke about the Education Act. The ASCA Board is excited that Albertans can be involved in process.

DISCUSSION

11. OPPORTUNITY FOR A RESOLUTION

Deadline to submit resolutions to ASCA is in December. Last year Keephills School Council put a resolution on the floor regarding bus stops in dangerous areas of a highway (around curves). They were forced to remove signage they had erected because it wasn't an approved provincial highway sign. The resolution was denied because it was thought to be a transportation issue, not an education issue. Rhonda indicated that if Keephills wants to bring the resolution forward again, COSC can do so on their behalf. Wording of resolution will have to change with emphasis on student safety. It is the belief that Transportation needs to develop a universal recognized sign denoting "high risk" areas for bus stops. Rhonda will check with Sharon Topping to see if they would like to bring forward the same resolution.

12. SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

School Councils were requested to prepare questions that they would like addressed at COSC meetings. Due to time constraints, questions submitted will be addressed over the course of this year's COSC meetings. The following topics were discussed:

- Frequency of School Council meetings
- Building parent contact lists/email addresses
- Encouraging better participation at School Council meetings
- New report card

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm