

# Regional School Council

Monday February 1, 2016



## In Attendance:

Lori Hodges, Dave Fender, Kirby Dietz, Brad Toone, Martha Ratcliffe, Darryl Seguin, Bill Forster, Cathie Harris, Amanda Vandenberg, Lisa Gillingham, John McKee, Danny Roberts, Carmelle Steel, Sara Brobbel, LaShauna Smith

VC Pincher Creek: Tara Robertson, Lisa Dupuis, Shannon Scherger

VC Nanton: Timmi Shorr, Cassandra Graves, Lori Lively, Audrey Kluin

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

- Welcome Nanton and Pincher Creek via videoconference.

### 2. High School Redesign & Flexibility Projects Update:

- Unlocking schools to from the Carnegie model of 25 hours / credit;
- More flexible learning opportunities;
- Variety of projects: credit recovery, flexible schedules, students exploring opportunities that they normally wouldn't have.

### 3. Library Commons

- Chad Kuzyk sent regrets.
- Principals Sharing:
  - Bill Forster - F.P. Walshe  
Learning Commons is an Alberta Education policy. Transforming the "library" to full Learning Commons; becoming the learning hub for the school. Whole classes can work together, maker spaces-ex: robotics, exploration. 4-5 years ago a discussion was had between Mr. Forster and the librarian. A white wall was painted on a whole wall where students could work collaboratively on math or other subjects. More students were welcomed into the "library" to have meetings, studying in groups. Learning Commons Committee is being formed at F.P. Walshe to discuss what that will look like at the new building. Bookcases on wheels will help to make private areas and flexible learning spaces. Separate spaces within the Learning Commons will be established with portable furniture placement.
  - Kirby Dietze - Willow Creek  
A student could come to the Learning Commons and use the 3D printer to show what he/she learned in Physics or other subjects. Reader's theatres projects are taking place in this space. Non-fiction, graphic novels, and fiction books available. Where learning can happen and how to learn in different ways other than paper and pencil- robotics, 3D printing, Lego. The "library" is no longer a place where you have to be quiet at all times. Lots of collaboration and creation takes place in the Learning Commons.

**Question:** will the Learning Commons be open longer than a regular school day? Mr. Seguin explained that if it is a shared facility with the community library, it might be open later. Mr. Dietze explained that contractual hours are beyond his control. Lunch hours are definitely used in this space. Community libraries are also moving in this direction so a student could go there to continue their learning.

- Stavelly School- Community library and school shared. Library is open later so this can be used for learning outside of school hours.
- Matthew Halton High School- 3 days per week, ½ time librarian... How will this be accommodated for a Learning Commons? Mr. Seguin commented that the other staff can definitely use the Learning Commons at other times as a whole class and still have the same opportunities. Site decision on staffing. No additional funding was attached to this from Alberta Learning. IMR funding, school budgets, friends of the school societies, furniture and equipment change may assist in this. A philosophical change instead of financial. Fortunately, there has been a lot of movement in the right direction and principals are stating that they have become creative. LRSD schools are moving in the right direction.

- AB Daley School- furniture has been purchased by the friends of AB Daley. Going slower, and finding out where to start and go. Looking at multiple ideas, with community support.

#### 4. Reginal Council Student Leadership

*S. Scherger*

- 2-5 students, grades 7-12. Meet a minimum of 3x per year. Purpose to develop leadership qualities. Students have a voice to the Board of Trustees about Policy and Procedures. Have met once this school year. Transportation has been a hiccup. The Chair and Vice Chair this year are students. Planning a pink shirt day- viral across the division. Hosting Talent Show in Fort Macleod for the division.
- Last year a Leadership Conference was held at Matthew Halton High School; doing it again April 15 at Willow Creek Composite High. Purpose- develop divisional culture and personal growth. Dialog about who comes and not. Looking at grade 6's coming. Self-growth and leadership. Mr. Dietze stated that WCCH is booked. Chris Koch will be coming to talk. Chris was born with no arms or legs and has a successful life despite his challenges. Discussion about other sessions.

#### **Questions:**

- Grade 6's to attend? Definitely a confident booster; last year students from other school came and now are active with Student Council this year. Flyers will be distributed.
- Is the Talent Show happening? Subcommittee will be meeting again but as far as Mrs. Scherger is concerned, it will be happening again this year. Lori Hodges – email for dates.

#### 5. Alberta School Council Association- April 22-24/2016

- Resolutions and feedback deadline. Website? Parent Council- how to vote? \$500.00 for 1 parent to go to this conference. A lot of good learning. Proxy votes can be sent if no one is going. Paperless...proposed resolutions- below the deadline calendar.

#### 6. Typing vs. Writing

- Stavely- no cursive writing, and typing tutorials. Writing is important- signing name requires a signature.
- Cathy Harris- there is a place for cursive writing as there is more creativity.
- Pincher Creek- some university classes will not let students use a keyboard. Students are struggling.
- Kirby Dietze- 2 out of 35 students chose to hand write their diploma exam instead of using the computer. As a teacher, it doesn't matter how the assignment is handed in, teachers need to make sure that they have learned the outcomes not how it is done.
- Darryl Seguin- this topic, writing vs keyboarding is debated a lot. Keyboarding without Tears- costly but not too sure the exact cost.
- Nanton- used both- Handwriting without Tears and Keyboarding without Tears. Used once a week.

#### 7. Questions

School Council - School Act. Admin Procedure. Annually. Look at that admin procedure- make sure it's aligned with the School Act. Shannon Scherger not too sure if we need to look at that policy.

#### 8. Draw-

JT Foster-  
Isabelle Sellon-

#### 9. Nanton- loves the VC; Pincher Creek- likes it too.

**Next Meeting; April 11, 2016**