

École Secondaire Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School

“Committed to excellence in teaching and learning”

School Council Minutes for Monday, April 24, 2017

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm by Brad Vonkeman with the recognition statement:

We acknowledge that we are on Treaty Six territory to the North of the Red Deer River and Treaty Seven territory to the South of the Red Deer River.

We acknowledge and give thanks to all the many First Nations, Metis and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

1.0 Agenda Review - agenda was reviewed and accepted with the addition of Student Voice Assembly under New Business.

2.0 Minutes of the March 20, 2017 meeting were presented for approval and were adopted.

3.0 Correspondence file was circulated.

4.0 Reports:

4.1 Leadership Report - Jade Weber was unavailable because of basketball practice tonight, but sent her Leadership news. Soccer Intramurals are still in the works currently and will be starting in the next few weeks and dodgeball will follow. Thurber Idol was a success and our Thurber Life Team may be planning a nerf war tournament. Thank you so much and sorry for being disorganized with the meetings.

4.2 School Report - Dan Lower introduced Kirsten DeZutter - our Grade 11 Learning Assistance Teacher. Kirsten shared that it has been a really great experience taking on this role. She has enjoyed building capacity with students and teachers. The team aspect is great, we are in one office and it is a great opportunity to collaborate and discuss strategies. We have a Learning Support Team for each of our grades, this is one more way to offer what we believe is the best support for the students. Students are starting to advocate for themselves. Kirsten shared that the registration process has really helped their team and would love to see that start even earlier. The LAT's help in many ways, they may help students to find reading material that would be at their level, peer grouping students to help them out, help teachers modify resources and modify the material that is provided, assignments, quizzes, oral exams, just offer different strategies. With registration, we have even done research into career counselling. What does a typical week look like? Every day is different, even though you are well planned, many factors alter your day depending on the students who come in the door. Today a student needed emotional support and so you drop what you are doing and help with that. We do meet weekly with the LST team to go over student referrals. Kirsten thanked Mason Lantz for helping in flex sessions as a peer tutor. Kirsten misses teaching but hopes that she is impacting students on a grander scale with this new role.

Dan shared that April 12th was a successful Grade 8 orientation in the afternoon with tours of the school. A parent orientation was in the evening with self-guided tours. Feedback from teachers was that the students were well behaved.

Registration time is happening now. We have begun the process with our feeder middle schools, as well as students that are choosing LTCHS. We are having a tough time getting parents of Grade 9 students come in and be present for registration. We still another week to go.

Projected enrollment for next year shows a 78 student increase. We expect 468 grade 9's - 444 this year, with the hope of a 1786 total student population. We should be able to maintain the staffing numbers that we have this year.

Yvonne Pack said the orientation wasn't enough time to see everything, but appreciated the private tour of the football locker room.

Dan gave an update on plans for the Canada 150th & LTCHS 75th celebration. We will hold our celebration on June 21st (last day of classes) We will have our four periods in the morning, then have a school assembly with video vignettes about what it means to be a Canadian, native dancers, time capsule, create a thumbprint mosaic in the shape of the maple leaf (this will be displayed in the main hallway), BBQ and cake outside, maybe an aerial photo of the school. If anyone would like to sit on the planning committee, please let Dan Lower know.

Dan asked if there are any items that we can take to our upcoming Admin retreat - any areas for improvement? Feedback discussion: sometimes homework isn't always available when a student goes away and so the student falls behind, more consistency in PowerSchool with regards to updates on grades, etc., comments on where the student is at. Dan has asked all departments to come up with a way to show mastery of a subject. With curriculum redesign could there be something for financial literacy - life skills, taxes, how to buy a house, how can we improve so we can get into real life things. While this should be a parent's job, some students aren't getting this training, or the students won't listen to their parents. Kirsten DeZutter shared that financial literacy was in past curriculums, now it is found in lower level Math or IB Math, so it is a very select population that is getting this information. Kirsten shared that we implemented Core 9 this year and felt this was a great opportunity to get financial literacy back into the curriculum - but after first semester, unfortunately, the grade 9's weren't mature enough or ready for this information.

Dan shared that the Alberta School Council Parent of Distinction award has been awarded to Brad Vonkeman. Congratulations!

Lisa Delver shared that she liked the connections program for her Grade 9 student. Was very pleased to be included in the registration process. Dan shared that one of the things that we might look at in the new year is having every Grade 9 have the same day for connections.

4.3 ASCA Report - Brad Vonkeman shared that the AGM and conference is this weekend. Robert & Yvonne Pack as well as Brad will be attending. Elections will be held at the AGM. We were cut 10% in the budget. Mental Health Awareness week is May 1 -7th. LTCHS will be having a "Hats on for Mental Health" on Wednesday, May 3rd. If you know a student that would like to be on the Minister's Student Advisory council - applications are still available.

4.4 City Wide Council Report - Jennifer Harman shared that while there was no meeting, she would like to remind more parents to come out to the May 9th meeting at West Park Elementary. Brian St. Germain will be presenting on residential schools.

4.5 City Wide Student Advisory Council - Mason Lantz shared that this meeting was more student led. We discussed community involvement in the schools. Mason shared the positive things at LTCHS: our school's initiatives, getting into the community, family atmosphere, leadership team dedicated to that. Mason shared that they had a great conversation with the Board of Trustees. The municipal election is in October. Trustees asked that students talk to their parents and encourage them to vote. We learnt a lot about how Central Office works. Our superintendent is the only one hired by the Trustees. Mason asked if on our upcoming satisfaction surveys, we could ask students what they think would be the most effective way of getting them involved in the community and then having that as part of flex sessions.

5.0 New Business - Student Voice Assembly- Mason Lantz shared that the Public School Boards' Spring General Assembly - students voice program is in Red Deer on Saturday, June 3, 2017 at the Sheraton. This is the last year that our Board of Trustees will be a part of this organization, so let's get as many students there as we can. Send student names to Della Ruston.

6.0 Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm

Final meeting is May 29, 2017 at 7pm in the Learning Commons.