

École Secondaire Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School

“Committed to excellence in teaching and learning”

School Council Minutes for Monday, October 24, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:04pm by Brad Vonkeman. Introductions were made around the table.

1.0 Agenda Review - agenda was reviewed.

2.0 Minutes of the September 26, 2016 meeting were presented for approval and were adopted.

3.0 Correspondence was circulated.

4.0 Dan Lower introduced Brian Plastow our new Grade 12 Vice-Principal. Brian shared that he has taught here for 14 years. He is the Vice-Principal in charge of Grad and the first grad list went up on Thursday. This is Brian's very first School Council meeting.

5.0 Dianne Macaulay shared the three goals for Red Deer Public School District. Equity, Literacy & Completion. Equity is a top priority in the district. Fair and inclusive education for all students. Equity is messy - that is why it is not as simple as equal. Equity allows every student to achieve their full potential. We need to communicate with the community why we do what we do. Dianne asked us to keep these questions in mind: what are we doing at LTCHS?, what would we like to do, but can't? and how can we help?

Dan shared that we have tried to level the playing field with things like our breakfast program. We are currently lobbying to get it going 5 days a week. Currently we offer it 3 days a week and snacks 2 days a week. We would like to have more volunteers. We will get the sign-up sheet on our website. We also have a Thurber trading post, where students have access to school supplies, clothing, etc. We are trying to remove barriers to graduation with what was our Cinderella project. This has morphed into banquet tickets, gowns or rentals, grad fees, and has been renamed our Grad Equity fund. We have also added a counsellor to our staff to try and take care of the needs of our students.

Dianne is a representative for Healthy Schools and was made aware of a neat idea in Erskine where all the healthy food is free.

We are designated a level 1 ESL school. We have a very large population of ESL students. We have put Learning Assistance Teachers in place to support our students and support our teachers to help these students. Dan has hired a full time arabic speaking EA, as well, C.A.R.E. is a good support for us.

Dianne mentioned that in speaking with our two MLA's we haven't heard anything about funding that is coming our way.

6.0 Reports:

Leadership Report - Jade Weber shared that Week of Wicked is happening - Halloween themed treats and activities for students this week. SPCA was in last week, floor hockey starting in November. These are shared on their facebook page.

School Report - Dan invited everyone to our Nov 8th Remembrance Day ceremony. This is a multi-media presentation beginning at 1:00pm. Public is welcome to attend.

Dan Lower shared the 2015-16 LTCHS Ed Results Report. Dan would like School Council feedback as this report needs to be submitted to Central Services by November 25th.

Dan gave an overview of the accountability pillar report. Each year we have seen improvement. Dan shared our three year high school completion results.

Dan shared the District Goal of Literacy. We have seen over the past years, students coming to us with lower rates of acceptable and standards of excellence. We have implemented a Core 9 course to help boost up Math and English skills. In addition to this, students also take a full course of English and Math in their grade 9 year. This year we have started a goal of 100% success for all students. We have also instituted inflexible flex to help students catch up on their work.

District Goal of Equity - Dan shared the Alberta Education performance measures. We are looking at expanding our breakfast program and have created an equity committee which will meet this Thursday.

Dan shared the District Goal of High School Completion and Transitions. We are steadily increasing in these results. Students are staying into their fourth year to help them complete High School.

Suspension rates - 101 suspensions last year for three or more days. The number of individuals involved in that number is 80.

Dan would like to expand our Connections into Grade 10 by updating MyBlueprint profiles started last year, and monitoring the success of students after each semester. This way we can monitor students long before their graduation year.

In our Throughline outcomes we have continued to increase. We have hired two new Learning Assistance teachers to join teams consisting of a Vice-Principal, Counsellor and Learning Assistance teacher for each grade.

A suggestion was made for a microwave in the Learning Commons. Dan would welcome any microwave donations.

ASCA Report - Brad Vonkeman shared that the Association has elected a new president. Allison Pike out of Lethbridge has taken on the role of President. They have redone the School Council resource guide. You can now find it online at their website. They also run webinar Wednesdays. The association also has awards that they give out - last year the Parent of Distinction award went to John & Shelley-Anne Goulet. The Annual report is available on line as well.

The Online Provincial Curriculum survey will run from Oct 18 - Nov 18/16. You can do the survey online or you can join on Wednesday at the District office from 5-7pm. Please let your voice be heard. Lindsay Thurber also has three teachers that are going up to the meetings in Edmonton to take part in these curriculum working groups.

City Wide Council Report - Jen Harman shared that her and Theresa went to the meeting at Annie L. Gaetz School. There was a presentation from Larry Hartel and a tour of the newly renovated school. The election of officers was held. Lisa Mace is the Chair and Janine Tweedle is the Vice-Chair. There was a presentation from the Literacy coordinator - there is a link on the district website. The Board talked about the new school in Inglewood and that it is ahead of schedule. Cam Pizzey was just named Principal of the school in Inglewood. Next meeting is November 22nd at Fairview.

7.0 New Business - no new business

8.0 Equity Committee - The Equity Committee will meet on Thursday, Oct 27th in the conference room at Lindsay Thurber at noon.

9.0 Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm. Next meeting is November 28th.