

LCHS School Council Report, 2019-2020 School Year

LCHS school council met 10 times in school year 2018-2019: October 2, September 12 (the Annual General Meeting), November 6, December 4, January 8, February 4, March 4, April 15 (Executive only), May 6, and June 3 (the last three electronically via Google Meet). Our officers for the year were Emily Meetsma (chair), Kirstin Baker (vice-chair through November), Rick Salt (vice-chair December onwards), Lisa Smith (treasurer), Volita Johnson (secretary), and Audrey Jackson (Parent Association casino coordinator).

Although we typically have 3 standing committees, we folded the Show'n'Shine/Vocational Showcase committee once we heard from LCCHS administration that an event wasn't feasible this year, and we folded the AFTERGrad Committee (substance-free celebration) when we realized that Covid-related restrictions would make any celebrations difficult. Instead we focused our grad celebration efforts through the Parent Grad Banquet Planning Committee, which of course had to re-consider their plans and develop multiple different scenarios for the event.

Every meeting we heard from the LCCHS Principal, Student Services team, and Student Council on student activities, opportunities, initiatives, and concerns. As usual, LCCHS administration sought School Council input on the registration process, preparation for high school, and grad celebrations. School Council also provided feedback on abrupt staffing changes that occurred during the year, the school and division response to funding changes, and the draft "Parents and Guardians as Partners in Education." When gathering restrictions related to Covid impacted education, we decided to continue to meet online, supporting school staff and providing parent feedback during unprecedented times. We appreciate the dedication of all staff!

Through Board highlights, in-person visits from our trustees, and other communication we kept informed about the work being done at Black Gold Regional School Division and provided input on the division school year calendar. We also worked with the division to set up the new Black Gold Google account and establish it as a resource for future councils. The Council of School Communities was a great time to interact with trustees and other staff, parents, and students and consider some important decisions for the division and our school.

Our regular order of business also includes hearing from the Leduc Community Drug Action Coalition, as that body has historic ties to our committee and as we share their desire to reduce substance abuse and mitigate its effects. Finally, we receive regular written updates from the Alberta School Councils Association, and one member attended their virtual annual general meeting.

Continuing our advocacy for third party supports who help students, we wrote an additional letter to the City of Leduc reminding them of the important role Constable Muz plays in our school and civic community. We also held a meet-and-greet event where we invited all Leduc junior high and senior high schools to hear Dianne Butler (Black Gold Director of Student Services), Jennie McLester (AHS Youth Addictions Counsellor), and Neil Muz (SRO for Leduc)

describe their roles in supporting students. We were impressed with the work done by these groups and individuals and we are grateful that Black Gold invests in a team approach utilizing a variety of resources to help students.

We continue to seek means to increase communication between School Council and LCHS parents. As with many school councils, our number of attendees remains small. However, we hope that monthly reports in school newsletters; posts on the school's website, Facebook, and Twitter accounts; and School Messenger invitations keep parents informed and engaged.

Finally, our School Council does not handle any financial matters.

Emily Meetsma,

School Council Chair