

# ÉCOLE DICKINSFIELD SCHOOL COUNCIL

Location: Online Via Google Meet

Date: May 8, 2025

Call to Order: 6:00pm

**Attendees:** Jessica Abraham      Leannah Robertson  
Megan Langpap      France Cayer  
Tara Fawcett (late 6:02pm)  
Chelsea Wallis (late 6:40pm)

## Minutes

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### Welcome & introductions

**Facilitator :** Megan Langpap

We do have a quorum.

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### ASCA GM highlights

**Facilitator :** Jessica Abraham

- All basic House keeping items passed
- School Bus motion was defeated because of being in Alberta and the weather
- Funding motion was approved for specialists teachers 73%
- Mandatory reporting .defeated at 55% .lots of back and forth on this although good
- Amendments
- Discontinue Mandatory time testing K-3 86.3% carried forward, manor amendments
- Online safety lots of back and forth and confusion not carried forward 60%
- Resolutions at beginning of meeting then the budget at the end.

- Speaker was Dr. Robin - Talk lots about Like housing knowledge braided into life. Talked about how to handle kids when there needing not putting them in solitude and having time in's rather then outs and building connection.
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**Agenda Item:** Principals Report

**Presenter:** Leannah Robinson

- **Recent Highlights:**

- Alien In Line Skating Residency supported by DFFA
- Last round PTI end of march beginning of April
- M&M meats fund raiser First weekend of April
- Badminton tournament
- Floor Hockey tournament
- Spring Break
- ECDP Open House was postponed and then rescheduled for April 24 & 25 about 10 families showed up
  - Little less then last year
- Kindergarten open house tonight about 5 families came before meeting started
  - Open house are not as well attended as they were in the past, they are all on the same night making it hard to get to more then one school, not lots of families in our catch met area
- Student Advisory Council- 2 kids from Mme France's class to discuss things with the trustees. Last session as about bullying.
- April 5 regional science Fair - Good Participation
- High Schools open house Thursday May 1.
- Spring dance - same night May 1 but still well attended without our grade 6's
  - Open houses were also all held on the same night.
- Boys floor hockey tournament - silver medal
- Spring photos May 5
- Red dress Day May 5
- School Council Employee recognition banquet. Why Mr. Hayward is not present. 5 staff being recognized
- Thelma Haniford custodian 30 something years
- Concourd Dauratoir- April 22 Speaking
  - Public Speaking event
  - I think they will do it again next year
  - Mme Jennys parents donated all the prizes
- April 25- Student Vote for federal election.They Voted NDP,
  - Did they vote what they thought would win or what they wanted?
  - In class they did research and platforms
  - They kinda vote based on their gut

- **Upcoming Events:**

- Education Plan presentation at district office on Wednesday
- DFFA Meeting coming up
- May 28 First PAT and first time the kids will write according to the new English curriculum
- Lots of field trips coming
- Water park day June 16
- Grade 6 farewell June 18
- Kindergarden grad June 19
- Talent show June 20

- There is also some ??? Events in June but those are yet to be announced
- AWARD ceremony June 25

- **Our School Survey -In March**

- AEA survey in the fall and the spring .. touch or go the last few years
- We like to use the fall data from Alberta survey to inform part of our education plan and we would like to use the spring data as well and have that as a comparison however the government has not released the spring data
- When we get spring data will we tweak our plan? Probably not a crazy lots but it will be reflected in fall 2025.
- Also grade 4-6 do the "Our School" survey that is in particular to our school
- Calling attention to the ones that informed our plan in the trend report where we are down
  - Sense of belonging- nov 2024 61% down to 57% in March 2025- Canadian norm was 72%
  - Positive Relationships - nov 2024 73% down to 69% in March 2025- Canadian norm was 80% down 4%
  - Interest and motivation in school - down 13% to 49% in March 2025- Canadian norm was 78%
  - Anxiety (felling less anxious) -went up
  - Self regulation - went up 4%
  - Students having Eudaimonia (Self motivation and initiative) 63% -Canadian norm was 80%
    - Seems like Canadian norm might be a bit high wondering why? Maybe new curriculum and less confidence? Less likely interestedNo hope whats the point?
  - This is why we are keeping our goals the same as last year
  - Red flags 61 grade 4's, 55 of grade 5's and 63 of our grade 6's
  - A couple of the classes have had difficult years with the change over in staff and people being away on leave, we know when there is not consistency the kids loose their motivation
  - Tara -Seems like some of that data has not changed much and making note of the big changes that are high are good. Curious why our numbers are that mush lower then the rest of Canada.
  - Fort McMurray is a bit of a bubble we are a different city compared to other cities in Canada.

- **Reflex Math Data**

- Starting fluency at beginning of the year at 31.1% has gone up to 61%
- Reflex is basic Math facts, one of the basics does not fix all numeracy problems but does help

- **Alberta numeracy screener**

- Kindergarten 38% at risk, Grade 1 44% at risk, Grade 2 37% at risk, Grade 3 19% at risk
- First year kindergarten was tested like this
- Typical of the development arc that progresses
- Unique with our school is in French Immersion and that majority of our students are writing this in French in there second language
- Not concerning that the numbers are high in Grade 1 and Kindergarten. We want to see the numbers going down by Grade 3.
- Kids are learning concepts in there second language and are improving.
- English and French data are separated we take the data overall. Could you compare to another English school to see how much the French affects the data.
- Can compare to FMPSD over all but in some ares we are higher and in other lower so it is hard to say because we are truly unique.

- **Elk Island Div 2 Math Assessment ( Our district has adopted it out Sherwood park, No Alberta Screener)**

- Write it in French for French Immersion and English
  - Grade 4 37% at risk, Grade 5 71% at risk, Grade 6 46% at risk
  - Anomaly For Grade 5, We are still digging and hence why we are keeping the numeracy goal
  - We were stunned by this Grade 5 cohort last year at risk, Looking deeply as to why
  - Also these are our kids who were in ECDP -1 during covid learning the foundations of numeracy and French.
  - Could that be a possibility why? It could be
  - Do the report cards align with this data? No just the screening because this is our fall data.
  - They will be screened again in the next few weeks, hoping and confident this data has erratically improved
  - They are coming of of summer holidays and we share with you because it does drive our plans
  - Meant to be a Diagnostic test to help teachers plan ..Ideally this will improve

- **Education Plan**

- [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jco3WIY4Ftq21tLHs9omu-TQ-\\_mHYyCe1C8--Y7jXgA/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jco3WIY4Ftq21tLHs9omu-TQ-_mHYyCe1C8--Y7jXgA/edit?usp=sharing)

- Using this Data We didn't feel this was a good time to switch Goals, More work to be done
- Keeping School Goals - School Culture Goals and Numeracy Goals and tweak our strategies to bolster goals
  - 74% students participate in school wide events- Thats where we are going to get them and improve their sense of belonging, anxiety, safety, how they feel about school and are motivated
  - Teacher practice and student learning are going to stay the same
  - Changing Strategies - During PLF Teachers have been learning Circle of Security Parenting program & weave them in with what we've learned about Restorative Practices - Use those to guide our school culture goals. Focus on opportunities to review those and infuse them into our classrooms. Have learned lots about it but have not transferred yet to the students
    - What is Restorative Practices? Branch of the same ideology in which you build connection and a sense of agency and building confidence and worth in students so students are seen and heard and have voice and choice
    - We've been learning about that in our PLF and being presented with different situations that could happen. Things that we do in our school culture that are potentially the best restorative practices. Punishment versus restorative practices that teach a lesson. A way of being rather than a consequence base. Proactive base so that it doesn't get to that point. Getting to know your kids and respecting each
  - Continue the qualitative tracking of office referrals - We did try a behaviour referral form, it is a lot of work on teachers. Mr Hayward and Ms. Robinson have a very good sense who is coming to the office, how often and why they are coming to the office.
    - Do you track that? Yes we do, but not concrete number. Wee seeing the same behaviours and the same types of things. Most things are during lower supervision times like recess and lunch eating times. And we notice that there are large number of boys that are coming than girls. A lot of the time for more hands on behaviour. Thats all information. Makes us wonder how are we teaching in our classrooms that this energy is

not being released. How are we teaching our students to interact with each other both here and in societies appropriately.

- We will continue to teach explicit teaching behaviour expectations
- Concentrate rebuilding school pride identity and community, daily routines and structures. More things like flea Fridays and Spirit weeks. Were pretty good at some of these the one thing we have fallen short on is our assemblies. One thing they've noticed about assemblies is that because they are less frequent the kids behaviour has ramped up. Feed back particularly from teachers. But staff has discussed that if they don't practice it they won't know how to behave.
  - Do you have a scheduled one regularly, Like mass at Catholic school? Last 5 years all over the map. At first because of Covid you could not assemble. Tried to re introduce assemblies and leadership roles but were met with lots of staff burnout. Leadership team planned them for a long time. Then a class took over once a month with not great feed back. Then a change in leadership, then a strike. Theres lots of reasons and they should be student led. They don't want to see James or Leannah up there every time. To what end? we want to build leaders and initiative. Haven't found the best way yet. Hopefully a more solid plan for next year.
  - You could just have non profit come in and speak about ABC and then its done. October Fire prevention month just have the fire department come in. Just make it simple.
  - Dickensfield seems to always need lots of structure but want to build capacity for teachers and students to do more and there doesn't have to be huge rule. Don't need to do leader in me every time and have a video ready. Maybe sometimes but not everytime. Kids start to tune it out if its too structured. Keep it simple.
- Want to reestablish Student Council and light house. More student voice. Have something meaningful for them to be involved in.
- Continue with our action teams and staff leadership sign up
- French immersion- Very Important as that is what is keeping our school afloat as far as numbers go, its important for us to build on that.
  - Concours d'oratoire, Étoile de français , La Semaine de Fracophonie,
  - By June 2026 goals for student belonging will increase form 57% to 62% and Interest and Motivation will increase from 49% to 55%.
- Numeracy Goal - We Took out our PAT data as the kids have not written PAT since 2023 and it did not make sense to use data that old to guide for 2025-2026 year goals cause that cohort is long gone.
  - We did include this one form our fall Alberta Assurance framework .. only 58% of our students reported liking math.
  - We are going to continue with Reflex and Frax, resource planning, numeracy year planning creation. We want provide pd on how to deliver just in time support, which is brief focused instruction on prior concepts when new ones build directly on them.
  - We want more for intervention for numeracy to learning sprints or just in time supports small stints of numeracy intervention.

- Shannon numeracy coordinator math games fun routines things we want to put in on a daily basis so they can start to see math in context.
  - Building stamina in problem solving
  - Ultimately by June 2026 Alberta Screener and Elk Island Assessment Average of at risk kids will decrease from 43% down to 35% all together.
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- Is Expanding the leadership groups going back to the leader in me stuff that we had? We thought for the last 5 years we wanted to re invigorate the leader in me. We were a lighthouse school but now we don't feel like a light house school. Honestly if we try to get that status again with the current way we are functioning we would not get it that status again. Do we want to bring the leadership groups back again? YES, trying to re invigorate that. Have to revision what that would look like at our school cause we were not going to get back to the leadership groups of 2018. That would be a multi year thing. It gave the kids more of a sense of pride because they were part of it was a whole not just in there classroom.
  - We still strong believe in those values of leader in me. We are at a place in our school and in our society that we don't have the person power to make it happen with the educational and political climate we are in. A full generation of kids that have now gone through Dickensfield have not had the same things the kids had when they became a lighthouse school.
  - Is that going to put more on the teachers to have to coordinate something school wide? This is always where we end up. We need the person power. Cant just start leadership groups with no one to run them. Back then we had a bigger school so we had more teachers
  - Was it all teachers or was it parent involvement as well? Some parent involvement for the most part it was teachers.
  - It isn't leader in me and we don't do that official light house path then what are some other more practical approaches? Other school Micro society. Im not sure its wise to try to implement something else. We might get a little further along with trying to start small kinda like what you said about the assemblies and we just start leadership groups doesn't need to be anything fancy just a random group. In the past they just has a birthdate group where kids made birthday cards. Very simple.
  - If you are invigorating the school kids council put out a call this year and see who would want to be a kids council then have a meeting with them in September and see what groups they might like to see pick 5 then start with 5. They can champion them. Start small keep it simple. Small things done consistently
  - Kids will keep you on your toes. I know if I started a student council tomorrow and the kids enjoyed it and I started to slack off on the meeting they would be asking about it they would be excited.
  - The thing I liked about the leader in me stuff is that it put a lot of responsibility on kids. They had to be accountable.
  - How many of the teachers that were around when you did have leadership groups are still around? How did they incorporate it into their data to day and still have it run through there class? There are still some but it is a blessing and a curse. People are tired teaching has changed and this school has changed. Those staff are ready to pass it on.

- Still start small and do on a small scale Wondering if there could be a way for those teachers to teach new teachers how to incorporate something like that into their day to day and glean from their wisdom like a buddy system? But still don't want to get caught up into what Dickinsfield was start something new.
- It would be really cool to give the kids a choice. Give them 10 options of clubs that maybe your team say these things are reasonable and practical. Maybe then kids can be involved and then there is ownership and fresh eyes.
- A full generation of kids that have now gone through Dickinsfield have not had the same things the kids had when they became a lighthouse school. Because of Covid. Its a bit sad.

- **Parent Hand Book**

- We've read feed back and we can make those changes, they just haven't been made
- Even from the last time it was revised it could be revised again things are changing so quickly
- When possible keep referring to that thing, there is so much good information. If James can keep referring to it in his emails peak of the week and teachers are using it too. That in it self creates consistency.
- I didn't know it existed and Ive been here for a while ( 9 years).
- Right now it is not accessible, its 5 clicks, its google doc. And if you don't have google docs on your phone your not opening it. There is an accessibility issue for sure. There are better ways to share that into to parents.
- Correct me if I'm wrong we talked about putting some of things back about encouraging literacy
- More like activities and stuff but just to encourage it more
- We go back to there are lots of families that give feed back saying you communicate too much, I am not doing homework, do not send that home. We are trying to balance that as well. We don't want to be too structured. We do want to encourage it but not make people feel...
- We struggle with both sides in this 2025
- Just giving information and states to help encourage so they know what would be helpful for there kids. Some parents just know and don't know what to do.
- Do you think you could hand out a hard copy to new parents?
- Yes we could send it out via messenger not as a google doc as a pdf
- Even reminding people on social or not even the whole thing printing out sections as reminders of theres lots of calls to the office about certain things.
- Pushed from district to tell parents where to direct your calls.

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**Agenda Item:** DFFA Update

**Presenter:** Chelsea Wallis

- April 4 - Staff appreciation luncheon
- April 5 & 6 - M&M shopping day fundraiser days. If you shop at M&M those days and say you are with Dickinsfield school a percentage of your purchase will come back to the school. Did Well
- May 1 Spring Dance - Rushed a bit and grade 6 open house same night. But the kids that came had a blast.
- Garden Smiles fundraiser coming this spring. They will be here Friday and Saturday to get picked up
- Freezies on Sports Day

- Next DFFA meeting is Thursday May 14
  - AGM June 11
  - Casino Monday & Tuesday, June 16 & 17 and more discussions around volunteering for that.
    - Advertising for volunteers share percentage of DFFA funds this one fundraiser brings in, and everything it pays for.
    - Also what DFFA pays for versus what the school budget pays for.
  - Vacancies- Secretary, Fundraising Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator
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**Agenda Item:** Open Floor/ Questions and Answers

**Presenter:** Megan Langpap

- **Is there a plan? To help bring up the French immersion enrolment?**
    - We are constantly talking about that
    - marketing program, We've done a video for that.
    - District could help, it is a Division program and we feel like we need help
    - 65% ok kids are French Immersion keeping our school afloat
    - There are one 15 kids enrolled right now for ECDP/ Kindergarten class for English
    - If we don't have the numbers in early learning then what do you do in grade one it ensures a split
    - We can accept kids for French Immersion in Grade 1.
    - Are you allowed to poach families from other schools and recruit them to our school? Not really because they all want the kids as well. All in competition with each other.
    - They used to have free bussing for French Immersion kids.
    - Its a national language the government should be helping it should be up to admin at Dickinsfield to keep it alive
    - Learning another language reduces dementia
    - Usually has lower class sizes.
    - Used to have an alumni event Bring over successes from Mctavish to talk about there experience
    - Further discussion on how to help enrolment
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**Agenda Item:** Confirm Next Meeting Date:  
Thursday, June 12, 2025 @ 6pm

**Presenter:** Tara Fawcett

## Other Information

Meeting Adjourned 7:30

ADD On

- Renos for This summer are being cancelled. They are going to