

Sherwood Heights School Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 22, 2019

In Attendance:

Parents: Dawn Libbey, Chad Banman, Jacquie Surgenor, Debbie Klita, Dean Johnson, Mark Gannon, Dawn Zapotoski, David Babowal, Brandy Morrison, Kimberly Johnson, Jackie Caldwell, Ashley Frayn (Chair), Heidi Gehmlich, Amy Churchill, Melanie Ryzuk, Colleen Belohorec

Staff: Katie Oszip, Paul Pallister, Kris Reid

School Trustee: Trina Boymook (Board Chair)

1. Welcome and Introduction: Paul Pallister

2. Approval of Agenda and Review and Approval of Minutes: Ashley Frayn - review of September Minutes deferred to November School Council Meeting

3. New Business:

- a) Parent communication Platforms: should School Council host a Facebook page separate and apart from the school?
 - Parents support the idea of the School Council administering a Facebook page for parents to share information – students will not be permitted to participate on page
- b) Review of Awards Night Ceremony; what worked /what didn't?
 - 800 people attended the awards ceremony, 40 more watched Facebook stream live
 - 300 students were to receive awards - attendance by award recipients: 75% of Grade 7s and 8s, 52% of Grade 9s
 - Had to move to Haythorne for a bigger gym – grateful to them for assisting – hope to find another venue for next year, likely still without a ticket cost
- c) Request for member at large Volunteer for the SCETF parental survey on Vaping (handout)
 - Alberta School Councils Association is organizing a survey on vaping to provide feedback to the Alberta Government regarding some proposed legislative changes (Alcohol and Tobacco Reduction Act) – need a parent to sign up to submit responses on behalf of our Parent Council
 - Vaping has been an issue at Sherwood Heights – school is concerned that some parents may not be up to speed about vaping and the risks – parents support having an information session on vaping, either at a Parent Council meeting or separately
 - Parents generally are concerned about being out of the loop with what is developing for youths around drugs, alcohol, sex, etc. – any information that can be disseminated would ideally be shared at a meeting but also be shared in other ways to reach a larger audience
 - “PEP Talks” will be shared through schools this year – PEP (“Parents Empowering Parents”) supports parents with kids struggling with substance use – we can ask them if vaping could be a topic of a future PEP Talk

- AHS has short videos on a variety of topics related to substance use that could be helpful to parents who want to be prepared to discuss these issues with their kids – i.e. Caregiver Series: <https://www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca/>
- TeenMentalHealth.org is a website with good resources for parents
- DARE program is part of Grade 7 Health classes
- Parent Council Facebook page can be used to share information, and the school will look at info sessions and other ways to get information out as well

d) Fundraising:

- School did a 'soft launch' of the Save-on-Foods (Wye Road) fundraiser late last spring – to participate, original receipts from Save-on can be dropped off at the School Office - over \$10,000 in receipts received to date, resulting in a \$500 payment to the school – money will be spent on Phys. Ed equipment to add to options for DPA, in accordance with recommendation from School Council last year
- new Elk Island Fundraising Policy (handout) – policy intended to ensure there is consensus between groups wanting to fundraise and the school, and to reduce risks/costs – this Fall, policy was changed to encompass any and all fundraising done within the school (previously exempted 3rd party groups) – need to bring idea forward to the Principal with a clearly stated purpose, must focus on reducing program costs and the Principal must oversee accounting of fundraisers
- Logos, Quebec trip, band, Phys. Ed and Grade 9 Farewell typically organize fundraisers at Sherwood Heights, as well as the school's canteen – groups will now need to consult and seek approval before proceeding with fundraisers – fundraising cannot be used to reduce an individual students costs (all funds raised will reduce overall costs, vs. reducing costs for individual students based on level of participation) – also allows Principal to coordinate fundraisers across programs to make sure everyone has opportunities that don't compete and fit within the school community's priorities
- Logos Program does fundraising across three schools – will need to provide accounting to the three Principals to ensure proper oversight
- Most fundraising will need to have funds held by the school – for those who have their own accounts, like the Band Parents' Association, a detailed accounting will need to be provided to the Principal
- Parents can contact the school's Business Manager if they want to make arrangements to pay for some school fees over time rather than at the beginning of the school year
- If program costs (such as band trips) do not get covered by fundraising and fees paid by parents, the funds come from the school budget which could have an impact on resources available for educational activities

4. Staff Appreciation: Open discussion

- Discussion on how to show appreciation for staff deferred to next agenda
- October is challenging for teachers, so all parents are encouraged to send appreciation emails to staff (cc Paul)
- there are a total of 40 staff in the building

5. Information Reports

a) COSC (Committee of School Councils in Elk Island): Jacquie Surgenor

- Jacquie is honoured to have been chosen as Chair again this year - Krista Scott is Vice Chair (children at Fultonvale and Strathcona Christian Academy) and Lesley Bowman is Secretary (children at Pine Street)
- excellent turnout for the Mix and Mingle and 29 parents attended the meeting
- Board Chair Trina Boymook shared information about the Blue Ribbon Panel and specifically about the 2 recommendations relating to K-12 education. Alberta School Boards Association has put out further information as one of the recommendations is based on misleading information. Trustees will have further information to share with school councils.
- discussed Choice in Education and what that meant to parents - great input was shared
- Chair Trina Boymook shared some of the updates and changes that are in effect now that the Education Act has been passed. Two items of concern were addressed:
 - Residency – residency will remain with the parent and not the student in terms of boundaries
 - Age of Access – the age of access will remain the same, rather than being raised as was originally proposed in the Education Act (age of access is how old students can access public education).

She also mentioned changes with regulations that have been in the media:

- School Fees – Ministerial approval is no longer required for school fees, but the Board is working on a policy relating to how school fees will be handled in EIPS. The Board currently approves the fee schedule and they want to ensure there is a process which provides assurance to the Minister and to parents.
- Transportation Fees – Boards can not charge more than it costs them to provide transportation. If costs are greater than the funding they receive, then they can charge the difference only.

b) Band Parents Report: no report

- It was mentioned that Band Parents Association has not been able to find a parent to coordinate the hot lunches on Mondays (there is a parent willing to do the on-line portion) – it is a lot of work to do setup and distribute lunches day-of – Band Parents Association meeting soon to discuss options – parents interested in helping can contact them

c) Logos Report: Melanie

- Chapel -_First Chapel was held Oct 15th in the drama room. Chapel was led by RIZN from Celebration Church. Had a band was very well received by students. Trying to arrange for former students to come in and talk about their mission experiences for our next chapel – still working on dates to suit everyone, likely in November.
- Crossroads Christian Club - Meets every Thursday at lunch time in room 106 - kickoff activity "Pop in for a Pop" over 50 students attended - has settled into a core group of about 15 -20 students with Pastor Clint Pigeau from Trinity Baptist every Thursday at lunch.
- Operation Christmas Child - Boxes are available in room 106, due back by November 4.
- Alternative Halloween Activity -_RIZN from Celebration Church will be doing an Alternative Halloween Activity (fear factor, games, and rock band) for ALL students interested.
- Bless The Staff -_Baking and maybe boxes of coffee this Friday October 25
- Upcoming Fundraiser - Nitza's Pizza fundraiser November 6-27, coupons handed out December 2
- Prayer Box -_Approximately once a month, a number of Logos parents meet to pray for our school, staff, students and families – there is a "prayer box" in the school office so

that if anyone (staff, students, parents, or anyone else) would like prayer for a need in their life, they can fill in a slip and deposit in the box so prayer can take place at the next meeting - can also send prayer requests to prayer@elkislandlogos.ca

- Membership Forms - Being sent home to parents within the next week.

d) French Immersion Report: no report

e) Principal's Report: Paul Pallister

- School Education Plan: - school goals are not changing – strategies are being adjusted to incorporate feedback – hope for robust School Council, ensure there are good community links to support student wellbeing, reading period added to promote literacy, Core Plus program for Grade 7s is off to a great start
- Accountability Pillar,
 - Parental Response Survey (Grade 7 families, completed in Jan/Feb each year) – Sherwood Heights results looked very good with upward trend over three years
 - Students PAT results – school is performing at 'acceptable' level (not exceeding expectations – don't have high number of students achieving excellence)
- Update on Rec fit / Core Plus
 - Rec Fit options were added to help alleviate pressures on the gym and other fitness areas in the school by students who had daily phys ed and other rec options
 - challenging to schedule and book activities as this is the first year for the three streams of Rec Fit - hearing from parents some concern that students who chose Rec Fit Option C haven't gone on activities so far - those field trips will start soon and if not enough activities can be fit in, there will be refunds to parents - field trip info sent out for Grade 9s today - Grade 8s hopefully will receive field trip information tomorrow, and Grade 7s by the end of the week
 - new system has not resulted in students having more time in the gym, but class sizes are smaller which makes gym use work better and increases the amount of quality time in the gym (i.e. fewer kids in a class means each student gets more time on the court for sports like badminton)
 - Parent Volunteers will be needed for Rabbit Hill ski field trips
 - Core Plus for Grade 7s – great feedback from students thus far – considering whether it could be expanded to other grades in future years – hands on, creative, project based augmentation of core courses to engage kids and support learning
- Upcoming Parent /Teacher nights – November 26 4-6:30pm and November 28 5-7:30pm - will use booking system – teachers will contact parents if they particularly want parents to come in to talk , then the rest of the slots will be open for all parents to sign up – will accommodate parents meeting with teachers at other times if slots fill up
- Read-In Week – authors did sessions that were well received by students
- Boys and Girls Club will be coming into the school on Fridays starting November 1st, with activities for students at lunchtime

f) Trustee's Report –

- Budget is expected to be tabled on October 24th – the Board will meet the following week to assess the impact to our assumptions – The Board has sent a budget working

session on November 14th and have added another meeting on November 28th to approve the budget to meet the November 30 deadline

- Retreat held on September 17 and 18 – discussed School Fee process and priorities for upcoming year for the Board (advocacy and engagement, education funding to continue to provide excellence in anticipated increasingly difficult financial times, and managing urban enrolment I in both Fort Saskatchewan and Sherwood Park)
- Results Review for Sherwood Heights is November 22nd, 9-11:30am, at FR Haythorne – parents are welcome to attend (parents who want to attend results review can advise Paul, who will likely try to organize a meeting ahead of time to discuss)

Next meeting is November 19th – 7: 00 PM, School Library

Future Meeting dates: January 28, February 25, March 24, April 28 and May 19 – 7:00 PM, School Library