

Blackie School Council Meeting  
March 15, 2023

Meeting called to order by Lana Poulsen at 6:28pm

In Attendance:

John Evans, Chase Ellis, Lana, Natalie, Janelle, Tamara F, Yvonne

Trustee Report – John Evans

- FSD chosen to have UofC Psychology students intern within schools
- Foothills Communities Flourishing Award to be open for nominations on website shortly
- Budget released last week
  - o Increase in transportation funding
  - o Decrease in distance to school to be eligible for bus funding, potentially need more routes and drivers to accommodate this
- Footnotes printout handed out
- Rural Education Symposium in Edmonton last weekend attended by John
  - o Many examples of innovative ideas for rural schools presented (outpatient pediatric centre, optometry clinic by other rural schools, etc)
- Trustees had tour of Blackie school on Monday
- Presentation from Highwood High
  - o Expo coming up in May
  - o Grade 7/8s can see options available

Admin Report – Chase Ellis

- Thank you to Yvonne and Carmen for attending staff meeting on Tuesday on behalf of the Fundraising Committee to present ideas
- Today and tomorrow someone from High River Heat to be teaching Lacrosse to grades 1-8 during PE
- Kindergarten screening March 29
- Student numbers update
  - o Since Chase has been at Blackie school, student numbers have increased from 99 to 129 kids
  - o Upper two classes projected to be sizable next year
  - o Need to be mindful of physical space within the school
  - o Potential for room being used as CTS space/before and after school care right now to be moved into current JK room, freeing up that larger class room for the large 7/8 class next year
- March 31 – Easter Egg Hunt, hopefully outside, followed by an Easter celebration and a movie
- Easter break is two weeks this year
  - o Mixed reception, hard for working parents, this taken into consideration in next year's calendar
- April 17 – Chuckwagon driver Jordan coming to school

- April 18 – JK screening
- April 20 – badminton tournament
- April 27/28 – Student led conferences
  - o Child leads family through learning tasks that they have been working on throughout the year
  - o May be multiple families in at once
- Chase's recent employment announcement
  - o Has accepted position at another school, as previously announced
  - o Next week FSD exec team will be developing a leadership profile for the position, will reach out to school council and teachers for input

#### School Needs/School Council Projects

- Nothing new brought forward

#### Update on Blackie School Apparel

- Eran has ordered all staff and Grade 8 hoodies as well as all t-shirts being provided free of charge to students
- Online form has been sent for all other students to order a hoodie if they wish, this order will be placed after responses are collected

#### Pioneer Ranch Camp

- Primarily funded through student fundraising
- May be some families that need extra support TBD

#### ASCA registration

- Blackie school council email created by Natalie in order to provide for generic login info for ASCA website access
  - o [blackieschoolcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:blackieschoolcouncil@gmail.com)
  - o Email login info sent to Scott as well
  - o Email is the username for the ASCA website and the password for ASCA website can be given out to those who request access
- John looked into if we can spend \$500 grant on ASCA conference registration costs
  - o Answer was 'no'

#### The 'Blackie School Community' Facebook Group

- Chase had followed up with Amy about taking on job of managing this for the school, she seemed hesitant
- Further follow up needed with FSD communication
- Lana volunteered to be set up as admin if possible

#### Other new business brought forward

- (Yvonne) Discussion about plans for band program next year
  - o Band not popular with some students, some students pretending to be sick to get out of band, etc

- Question about possibility of allowing other instruments to be played
  - Chase: school policies say instruments need to be brass or woodwind (no guitars, etc)
- Admin and band teacher feel like the negativity towards the band program at Blackie School is a cultural issue within this school being passed down from older students
  - Chase has had discussions with admin at Cayley School with same program, same music, same band teacher who hasn't had the same issues at Cayley
  - The feeling is that younger grades at the school generally are more positive about the program than grade 7/8s right now and they are hoping the culture slowly changes over the next few years as those students move up
- Suggestion about not being so strict about instrument numbers and ratios to allow more students to play their instrument of first choice instead of being forced to play another
- Suggestion about focussing on making band class more fun for students right now in order to gain the developmental benefits of music/band at this age level and focussing less on developing technically strong future musicians due to the fact that most of the kids will not continue on in band

Meeting Adjourned at 7:07pm.

Next meeting scheduled for April 19 at 6:30pm