

Blackie School Council Meeting – November 21, 2023

Called to order by Scott Sherman at 6:30pm.

In attendance: Scott, John, Faye, Natalie, Amy, Lana, Sarah

Role of school council review – Scott

Trustee Report – John Evans

- He attended Remembrance Day ceremony at Cayley this year (all schools had them at the same day and time)
 - o A member of the legion came out to Blackie
- He attended ASBA general meeting
 - o Vertical farm initiative at Oilfields won an award
 - Won \$3000 towards initiative
 - o Minister of Education came to talk to them
 - Focus on:
 - Building and modernizing schools
 - Kids with special needs and ESL
 - Curriculum advancements
 - Utilities costs and insurance costs for schools
 - Open to talking about transportation
 - John brought the point up that there should be differences in funding for rural schools in regards to transportation
 - What works for city schools is different than what works for rural schools, need to treat them different
- MLA breakfast with area MLAs in division, this morning
- Board of trustee's briefings are sent to MLAs each month with issues of focus

Admin Report – Faye

- School leadership report
- Alberta Ed Assurance survey results from last year
 - o Parents generally saw improvements in all categories
 - o Some years have had poor survey participation that have skewed the results negative (only 7 responses one year)
- Divisional and school based learning
 - o Blackie's focus on the science of reading
- November 27 – divisional PD day for all teachers at Oilfields
 - o Focus on literacy
- Calendar of Events review (see emails sent out from school)

Parent Question: Has any progress been made on having Dog Tails in the school? (kids read to dogs)

Answer: Having conversations about the program with dog business owner, looking into rules about having dogs in the school that are not trained working dogs for special needs (might not be allowed), still looking into this

School Needs and School Council Projects

- Cargill Cares
 - o High River branch reached out about donating money
 - o Donated \$1000 to grade 7/8 camp
- There may be a need for more 3D printers for CTF
 - o Can reach out to Orica potentially?

Parent Question: What are the rules about parents transporting kids for field trips during school hours to potentially save on bus costs for a small group? Is this allowed? Same insurance requirements as for sports?

Answer: Faye to look into this.

Extracurricular Activities/In-School Activities

- Grades 1-4 curling in March
- Admin is looking into arena for January-February skating during school time
- Can borrow snowshoes from division office (pending snow)
- Can sled at Hill Park
 - o Has been approved in one direction

Calgary Jazz Orchestra

- January start
 - o There was a delay because it was originally booked for the same day as Skills
- They will come out and work with the band teacher, play kids pieces, work with the kids
- Working on grant for this, it will be about \$3000, don't know how much grant would cover
- Cayley may join as well

Christmas Concert Update

- Each class except 7/8s performing 2 songs
- Maybe have 7/8s in charge of Christmas market/bake sale
 - o Working on details

Christmas Hampers

- Donations being collected
- Spearheaded by April

Christmas Train on December 11 during school hours

- Lions providing hot chocolate and maybe hotdogs (will let the school know)

Parent Question: Are we receiving yearbooks from last year? Parents had agreed to pay individually for them at a previous year's council meeting discussing increasing costs of yearbooks.

Answer: Faye thought our school was not doing yearbooks. There were no yearbooks ordered for our school last year.

Suggestion: It may be worth adding a question if there is a future parent survey being sent out if parents would like a yearbook, if they are willing to cover the cost, etc.

Parent Question: Has the school ever worked with the Ag society (they have grants, etc)?

Answer: Only in regards to the arena use, as far as anyone is aware.

Exercise equipment

- Equipment was partially removed on north side of the school due to an injury last year
- The county will pay to install this equipment at hill park
- Need to communicate with community association because they need to formally write a letter to the county asking for the equipment to be installed at Hill Park
 - o They have so far not answered any communication, Scott may have to attend one of their meetings
 - o Amy volunteered to write letter if needed
 - Scott thinks it would probably be more appropriate if this letter comes from the community association instead of school council

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15pm

Next meeting is Tuesday January 16, 2024 at 6:30pm