

## School Council Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm by Scott Sherman

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

### Trustee Report – John Evans

- No new Footnotes released since last meeting
- Last board meeting
  - o Board did self-evaluation
    - Done once/year
  - o Ensuring that they are doing everything that they are supposed to be doing under the education act, accomplishing goals, responsible governance
- Potential changes to the elections act coming
  - o Municipal elections requiring candidates to run under a political banner
  - o Trustee advocating against trustees running under a political party
    - Responsible for best interests of students, not a political party
- Just received funding manual
  - o Really no new provincial funding other than for enrollment growth
    - This will not benefit us
  - o Our fixed costs for utilities, heating, etc are increasing by the same amount whether we have 100 or 200 students enrolled, but we are not receiving any additional funding because we are not seeing enrollment growth
  - o Advocating that carbon tax money should come back to the division, or don't charge school divisions tax on utilities
- COSC won ASCA award for meeting with RJ Sigurdson
- Rural funding module
  - o Division lost rural funding for Okotoks since last census because they now have just over 30000 people (now in 30000-100000 population bracket)
    - Lost out on 1.7 million dollars
- Federal government announced funding for dual credit (high school/university courses)
  - o School divisions had been paying out of pocket to offer these

### Admin Report – Faye Holt

- Gathering new data before the end of April
  - o Student intellectual engagement survey
- Going to be using a new K-4 common reading assessment program for student assessment before introducing more complex text
  - o Sparkle program
    - Covered by School Funding Association
    - Jill Alexander getting this organized
  - o Now that school is using decodables for reading with younger grades
  - o K-3 is using UFLI for early reading

- Given trial kit by Pearson for next step after UFLI for upper grades, grade 4 and up (Reading Bug)
    - Received kit 1 for free
    - May look into purchasing kits 2 and 3
- School has received extra nutrition grant money
  - Looking at ways to use this extra money
  - Have started a 'breakfast a la carte' program for students who want breakfast when they get to school
  - Leadership project for grades 7-8 kids running it
  - Hope to decrease behavioural issues due to hunger with kids not eating breakfast at home or hungry when they get to school after long bus ride
- PD day at the end of March
  - Focus on trauma informed practice and building healthy brains
- Continue to work on new Science curriculum
- New Social curriculum next year
- Only PAT for grade 6 this year is Social
- Upcoming events
  - See calendar emailed out
- Grade 5-8 working on 'wax museum' project
  - Research and dress up as historical figure
- Today grade 5-8 went to Fieldhouse in High River to play badminton with Cayley
- Astrodome coming to Blackie School

Parent question about extra support for band kids who are struggling, have asked teacher in the past, no help was given.

- Band is a mandatory course but there are no extra supports in place for struggling kids
- Faye will have a meeting/discussion with Dylan Weist in regards to this
- No way to help with EAs, etc because of lack of specialized knowledge and they are already tasked with supporting students needing extra supports in literacy and numeracy
- Band class has had frequent substitute teachers lately, not helping situation
- Another parent suggested bringing in grade 12 band students that need volunteer hours for peer tutoring

#### School Needs

- Funding may be needed for field trips coming up (Heritage Park/Zoo)
- Swimming in Vulcan on the last day of school, discussed with Funding Association

#### Extracurriculars

- Badminton
  - Only two boys interested in tournament
    - Weighing whether it is worth going, need to send a teacher and hire a sub for the day, may need two staff to go with as there are two different locations

- Track and Field
  - o Supplies that the school currently has are not great
    - Have some but will need to purchase more if wanting to do track and field

#### Pioneer Ranch Camp Update

- Camp at the end of May
- \$1400 raised from bottle drive
- Concession and other fundraising going well
- Upcoming Texas donuts will also go towards camp

#### Science Olympics

- Grade 7-8 project going well
  - o Remote controlled autonomous vehicle, amphibious
  - o Bought remote controlled vehicle to harvest parts
- Grade 5-6 raccoon-proof garbage can project
  - o 3D printing stuff now, design done
- Due May 25

Next school council meeting, the 'Friends of Foothills' are attending.

Next meeting May 21, 2024 at 6:30pm.

Meeting adjourned 7:53pm.