

Sunnyside School Council Minutes of October 9, 2014

Attendees: Connie Adserballe, Pat Rivard, Esther Willms, Jill McIntyre, Andrea Klassen, Amy Hass, Corey Davis, Tara Vucurevich, Ledean Skiba, Tara Rasmussen, Alix Hirsche, Melissa Honess, Cindee, Jen Hendricks, Amanda Hudson, Amy Rombough

Call to Order 3:50 pm

1. Agenda
Addition of Religious Program under New Business - Motion to approve agenda moved by Jill, seconded by Alix, passed unanimously.
2. Approval of Minutes for October 9, 2014
Motion to approve minutes moved by Cindee, seconded by Alix, passed unanimously.
3. Principal's Report
 - a) A Fountas and Pinnell Reading Assessment has been completed. Grades 2 through 6 were assessed, at 30-40 minutes per child. Connie feels it is an excellent chance for the teachers to spend one on one time with the children and to identify the children that need help and the skills they need to work on. Grade 1 will be assessed in November, as they begin to develop reading skills. The children will be assessed throughout the year to ensure they are on track and then assessed again in March. Letters to parents will go home to explain the assessment. Overall it is a very positive experience.
 - b) The Grade 5/6 class trip to Waterton took place earlier this week on Oct 6 – 8th. They participated in the Waterton Ecosystem Investigator Camp. The entire class had an excellent trip and it was a fantastic opportunity for the class. They came home tired but happy.
 - c) Criminal Record Checks – these need to be done yearly. They are a bit of a hassle, but a very important step and in the best interest of the children.
 - d) Grade 3 students will participate in the new SLA (Student Learning Assessments) being piloted. SLA are replacing PATs. SLA are administered at the beginning of the school year, unlike the PATs.
 - e) Connie attended a Palliser Literacy Symposium held Sept 28, 29 & 30th.
 - f) Jill, Mona and Carol will attend a conference in Calgary focused on K-2
 - g) Rena will be back on Wed after Thanksgiving. They have had lots of help while she's been away.
 - h) There has been a change in after school bussing procedure. The change has made a big difference in the time it takes to get the busses out of the school yard. Some students are looking at over 1 hour bus rides to get to and from school. Connie is in touch with Dave Shaw, Palliser Transportation Services Supervisor, weekly and he is looking into bussing solutions. If more families were to need bussing then possibly a third bus would be added to reduce travel times.
4. School Board Report – Esther Willms and Pat Rivard
Palliser principals and vice-principles recently worked on 3 year action plans, focusing on literacy. Dale Backlin, Palliser Associate Superintendent, met with a delegation from China to promote Palliser schools to Chinese exchange students. Palliser Board is promoting its schools internationally. Foreign students can attend a Palliser school at a fee of \$20,000 per school year. Sunnyside families interested in hosting families from China can contact Connie. The students would most likely be high school students. Families would get paid \$750/month and would be responsible for meals and care etc. of the student.

Jason Kwaze was appointed to the school technologist position.

An election will be held in 2015 to fill the trusteeship position for Ward 1, Subdivision 4, the area surrounding and including the communities of Picture Butte and Iron Springs vacated by a resignation.

The Board of Trustees has given approval for the creation of an Early Learning Program located in the Palliser office building in north Lethbridge. The ELP will focus on literacy skills and draw students from north Lethbridge. The program is in the initial stages of development, no definite plans are in place. Strong concerns were raised by parents regarding the effect of a Palliser ELP in north Lethbridge on enrollment in Sunnyside's ELP. Pat Rivard assured parents that Palliser wants to promote Sunnyside and not take ELP students from Sunnyside. Pat and Esther will take these concerns back to the board. It was noted that another 20 students enrolled in Sunnyside's ELP program would be enough for an afternoon ELP program.

5. Old Business

Playground Update

The committee is looking for more bodies to help out on the committee. Currently they have Monica Chapman, Melissa Honess, Corey Davis, Alix Hirsche and Ken Van Cleave. They need a parent not currently involved with multiple school council committees to step up and take the reins to oversee this committee.

Meet the teacher Night – Wed, Sept 10

It was a great evening and was well attended.

Homecoming SockHop – Fri, Sept 19

There was a fantastic turnout and the students had a ball. Next year the committee is going to start planning in June so when school is back in September it's not such a rush to get it organized.

6. New Business

Barn Dance Class Projects

The barn dance committee would like to incorporate the students into the barn dance. They would like to have the classes make projects that relate to the curriculum that will be auctioned off during the barn dance. For example: grade 1 class could start seeds and the plants then could be put into baskets and auctioned off. Connie suggested that during the week leading up to the barn dance projects could be showcased in the gym and exhibited for the parents and community to come in and see what will be up for auction.

Parking

Concern was voiced over the congestion that is happening in the parking lot and the lack of space to park safely and pick up kids. Connie will talk with Dave Shaw from Palliser and Darren Stocker, Palliser Facility Services Supervisor, to see what solutions are available.

Preschool Expansion

This was covered in the School Board Report above.

Operation Christmas Child

This is in the works and planning is underway. Notices are going home next week. A date for packing will be early November to have boxes ready by mid November

Religious Program

The religious program has been put on hold. A letter will be sent home and there will be more discussion at the next parent council meeting.

7. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 5:20 p.m. moved by Melissa, seconded by Cindee, passed unanimously.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 13 , 2014 at 3:45pm