

Beacon Hill Public School Parent Council

November 25, 2014

In Attendance: Selena Klapp, Jenny Ridley, Andrea Popejoy, Shelley Kellington, Waleed Najmeddine, Kelly Shiner, Solange Maher, Superintendent Doug Nicholls

Meeting called to order at 6:02pm by Kelly Shiner

Kindergarten Class Tour:

- Use carpet to organize activities, working daily with calendars and number charts. May activity/learning centers such as sand table, lego table, writing/pattern table, playdoh table.

Approval of Agenda: Andrea approves, Selena seconds

Approval of October minutes: Selena approves, Kelly seconds

FNMI Report:

- Dallas Arcand came in and preformed a hoop dance, organized by Lana Hill, was enjoyed by everyone
- There will be an announcement upcoming in regards to the Paul Marten Foundation which is a FNMI entrepreneurial program, FMPSD very excited

Networks report:

- Selena and Andrea attended, and were asked to discuss and bring back feedback on the new calendar, reports cards and the potential for grade configuration.
- **Calendar:**
 - A Kindergarten parent expressed they would prefer no Fridays
 - Some agreed that they like that the public and catholic district had most of the same days off
 - Educators feel there is no difference in kids from a teaching perspective with now full Fridays
 - Calendar is always available to parents via website/weekly beacon, so no confusion about days off/on, and teachers always remind parents/students
- **Report cards:**
 - Most liked the 1-4 way of reporting
 - Wording and format still needs some work to make it parent friendly, although much more parent friendly than previous
 - Easy to read and understand, but it lacks the personal touch, in terms of comments from the teachers
 - The report cards made it clear as to where the student needs improvement but not clear on where they excelled

- Doug Nicholls was happy to hear the feedback about the report cards and was glad it was better received than last years, appreciates the feedback
- **Grade Configuration** (Taking grades 7-8 out of Elementary)
 - This will be a board level decision but want to hear how people feel about
 - Discussion has been happening for a while, Catholic switched years back but the Public district had not been interested in the switch at that time
 - -Ecole MacTavish has been approved to be a Grade 7-12 school in 2017 and will bring enrollment concerns to schools north
 - There have been some families that have switched to the catholic board because of 7-8 being moved out, no proof but the numbers suggest that according to the board
 - The Public board will be looking into this in January
 - The board would like to have input from councils and parents
 - This would be done in a gradual process and according to the guidelines from Alberta education
 - Composite High school has 25 million in moderation, and the current enrollment is low, so adding grades 7 and 8 makes sense

Teacher Report: Shelley Kellington:

- Mrs. Kellington took a course in Edmonton , ColarMix was an app that was shown and discussed at the course, Mrs. Kellington showed the way it works and how it is a great tool for teaching
- Telegrami was another app that was presented and it is something the students can use to make presentations, these apps were an example of how we need to move forward with technology and teaching the students new things, but creating a balance as well
- There were some talks about Teacher requests but none had been sent across by the time of the meeting.

Principal's Report: Waleed Najmeddine:

1. **Strategic Education Plan/Annual Education Results Report (SEP/AERR):**
 - "Growth plan" presented to the board of trustees on Dec 1, all day and all schools will be presenting
 - School council members welcome to attend
 - Put the report on the school website for everyone to see easily
2. **Report Card format:**
 - Pros and Cons, spoke about during networks discussion
3. **Technology:**
 - Look into getting access for school council members so that they are able to upload meeting minutes
 - Parents Plus purchased 30 laptops for the school
 - Mrs.Kellington and Mrs.Blancette took the iPad training and will be sharing what they learned with colleagues
4. **Communication:**
 - Think we should attach the link to our website in the weekly beacon to the school council meeting minutes

- Possibility that a school council table be open to parents to come and see and talk during PTI's
- Include a topic discussion in the meeting reminders to encourage parents to attend monthly school council meetings Ex. Grade configuration

5. Learning through the Arts:

- Royal Conservatory of Music Artists working with students to enhance curricular outcomes
- Creating a storyline for a new video game, film a trailer and create a poster board
- The artists come every year for a week

6. Important Dates:

- Thursday November 27; Vista Ridge Ski day (grade 4-6)
- Friday November 28: Professional Learning day (No classes)
- Nov 28-29: St. Marthas Madness Floor hockey tournament (grade 5-6)
- Monday December 1: Author Tyler Enfield visit at 1pm
- Friday December 5: Vista Ridge Ski day (grades 4-8)
- Friday December 5: Walter and Gladys Hill School grand opening at 10am
- Monday December 15: Grade 8 attends "No Regrets" workshop at Keyano
- Wednesday December 17: Christmas concert at 6:30pm
- Friday December 19: Professional Learning Day (no classes)
- Monday January 5: Classes resume

Questions and Discussions:

- Turkey day will be on December 16th
- Still trying to figure out getting recycle bins for the school through the municipality, may have to present to city council
- Parents Plus still need older boy and men's items for the Christmas Bazaar on December 3rd
- Thank you to Superintendent Doug Nicholls for attending our meeting
- Congratulations to Waleed Najmeddine for completion of his masters degree

Meeting Adjourned at 7:25pm

Next Meeting date: January 20th at 6pm