

Beacon Hill Public School Parent Council

January 20, 2015

In Attendance: Selena Klapp, Jenny Ridley, Andrea Popejoy, Shelley Kellington, Rhonda Blanchette, Kelly Shiner, Udaya De Silva, Shauna Clarke

Meeting called to order at 6:10pm by Kelly Shiner

Grade 5 Class Tour:

- LA, Science and Health taught in the grade 5 classroom by Mrs. Blanchette, viewed LA materials used in the classroom-Café/Daily three/book boxes at the students reading level, Using stations with different activities for Science

Approval of Agenda: Selena approves, Jenny seconds

Approval of October minutes: Andrea approves, Selena seconds

Networks report:

- Selena, Andrea, Lana, Waleed and Jenny attended the Special networks meeting , special topics were discussed, Next network meeting Feb 2 from 7-9pm
- **Calendar:**
 - School starts before labour day and ends late June, ends late because Alberta education sets the dates for diploma exams
- **Report cards:**
 - Overall everyone at the meeting though they were improved, wording on report cards was brought up to district, as well as some people felt percentages would be better for grade 4 up
- **Grade Configuration** (Taking grades 7-8 out of Elementary)
 - Dr. Clark and Greely Road parents/staff are split 50-50 on Grade 7-8 moving to Comp, Ecole Mactavish will become 7-12, possibly in 2017, Composite High school will follow suit and be 7-12
 - Options for Grade 7-8 are more advanced and there are more of them than in an elementary school
- **Diploma Exams:**
 - Most people were in favor of changing the diploma exams from 50% as it is currently to 30%

Teacher Report: Shelley Kellington/Rhonda Blanchette:

- Rhonda would like to request 20 Hokki chairs in three sizes, approximate cost \$2000-\$3000
- Provided some information on a Life Coach that comes highly recommended for putting on parent seminars, suggested parents plus to pay for parenting sessions for the school, the life coach is available for day or evening sessions, and her seminars have a large range in topics

Principal's Report: Waleed Najmeddine:

1. Growth Plan

- Annual Education Results Report/School Education Plan (AERR/SEP) 2015-17 was presented to FMPSD Board of Trustees on December 1, and was received very well. Thanks to all staff members and parents who contributed to development of the plan. Accountability Pillar results continue to be very strong, and have been posted in the school foyer.

2. Lockdown drill

- Second lockdown drill of 2014-15 carried out on January 8. Students and staff were only notified in advance of the date, not the exact time. All doors were found to be locked and students extremely quiet. Very impressive performance. For the next drill there will be no advance warning.

3. APPLE Schools

- Due to budget constraints, APPLE Schools is no longer able to provide free apples to any Fort McMurray schools effective January 2015. Some parents, however, have already donated about one-half of the funds required to continue providing apples for the remainder of the school year. This issue will be brought to our next staff meeting to develop a long-term plan going forward into 2015-16

4. "Power Skating" program

- In collaboration with our Solange Maher, Keyano Huskies hockey team, and Frank Lacroix Arena, we have put together a weekly skating program for Beacon Hill Students. This program will be available to up to 40 students and will run every Tuesday afternoon from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. from Feb. 3 – Mar. 24. There is no charge to register, and skates/helmets will be provided as needed. Students interested must get parent permission and teacher approval to ensure academics are not affected. Good behaviour record is also a factor. Notice and permission forms to be sent the week of Jan. 26.
- Parents Plus committee are asked to consider possibility of covering cost of ice time @ \$100 per week.

5. Technology

- Teachers received advice from ATA to be careful re: "friending" students/parents on personal Facebook pages to avoid blurring appropriate boundaries, remain professional. Parents are asked to not be offended if teachers "un-friend" students or parents. Parents/students are encouraged to "Like" the school's Facebook page, and to make use of teachers' school website pages.

- New projector/screen/audio system installed in the school gym. Minor adjustments to screen and audio still pending. Should be complete before February.
- New laptops are on order (30)

6. Communication

- Brief survey to be sent home to parents re: preferred methods of communication with teachers and the principal
- School Council is encouraged to set up an information table at upcoming PTI's, school events to increase involvement of more parents

7. Important dates

- Tue. Jan. 27 - Internet Safety/Child Exploitation workshop for parents @ District office 7 p.m.
- Wed. Jan. 28 - Grade 9 Student for a Day @ Composite High School (Gr 8)
- Thu. Jan. 29 - Beacon Hill School Winter Carnival
- Fri. Jan. 30 - District-wide Professional Learning day (no classes)
- Mon. Feb. 2 - FMPSD Board visits Beacon Hill School @ 1 p.m.
- Wed. Feb. 4 - Vista Ridge ski day (gr. 4-8)
- Thu. Feb. 5 - Justin Slade Youth Foundation workshop (Gr. 8)
- Feb. 10&11 - Parent Teacher Interviews @ 5-8 p.m.
- Wed. Feb. 11 - Homophobic Bullying workshop @ District office 7-9 p.m.
- Fri. Feb. 13 - Professional Learning day (no classes)
- Sun. Feb. 15 - National Flag Day of Canada (50th anniversary)
- Mon. Feb. 16 - Family Day (no school)
- Wed. Feb. 18 - Beacon Hill School Spotlight on Education @ District office
- Thu. Feb. 19 - Beacon Hill School Science Fair

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15pm

Next Meeting date: February 17th at 6pm