

**Beacon Hill Public School Parent Council**

**February 17, 2015**

**In Attendance:** Waleed Najmeddine, Selena Klapp, Jenny Ridley, Shelley Kellington, Rhonda Blanchette, Kelly Shiner, Doug Nicholls-Superintendent, Linda Mywaart-Trustee, Jeff Thompson-Trustee, Solange Maher, Alisha McDonald, L.Anderson, Michelle Bechtel, Joan Mercer, Shauna Clark, Debby Perreault, Todd Hewlett, Chris Hewlett, Connie Bickford

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm by Kelly Shiner

**Approval of Agenda:** Selena approves, Jenny seconds

**Approval of October minutes:** Kelly approves, Selena seconds

**FMNI Report-Alisha McDonald:**

- Alisha is going to make a FMNI corner in the library and upgrade/replace the current books
- Aboriginal week in May, working with Dr.Clark for resources, will be held May 19-22, to coincide with Metis Festival at the Metis local on May 22
- Alisha has been networking to get some Elders to come in
- Drummers are booked and will present the Tuesday or Wednesday that week

**Networks report:**

- Lorna Spargo presented a motion to ASCA to change the \$300 per parent allocated to attend to \$600 per school. It was planned to be voted on Feb 18
- Sports program to be re-branded, no longer called the edge. The district is holding a contest to rename. Changing the name so that it will appeal to everyone and not sound so elite.
- The cost of the sports program will cost less, \$2250 next year rather than the \$4500 approx. it cost previously.
- Calendar was talked about at networks, as well as grade configuration

**Teacher Report: Shelley Kellington/Rhonda Blanchette:**

- Hokki chairs have been ordered and will be delivered when they are available
- No new requests
- Alisha on behalf of the ATA gave a website (<http://www.bettereducationtogether.com/>) which will allow parents/staff to voice their concerns about budget cuts/concerns directly to the MLA's

**Principal's Report: Waleed Najmeddine:**

**1. Tell Them From Me Survey results (Done last year as well)**

Elementary (gr. 4-6): "positive sense of belonging", "moderate or high levels of anxiety", and "students with positive relationships/friends they can trust" presented lower than Canadian norms

Secondary (gr. 7-8): "moderate or high levels of anxiety", "moderate to high levels of depression", and "aspirations of finishing high school" presented lower than Canadian norms

Feb 13 PLF, staff collaborated to discuss results and develop strategies on improvement

## **2. PAT/SLA Pilot**

- Gr. 3 Student Learning Assessment (SLA) will continue with 2015-16 as another pilot year
- Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT) will continue for grades 6 and 9 as usual. (Grade 6 will be in mid May)

## **3. George Decker Memorial**

- Organizing committee decision to host memorial at Dr. Clark School Saturday March 7 at 1 p.m.
- Concerns that Beacon Hill School will not be large enough to accommodate all visitors due to size of gym and available parking
- Setting up Friday evening people are welcome to come and help

## **4. Science Fair February 18**

- Viewing of displays will be in the morning and judging will be after lunch break
- Regional Science Fair March 27-28 Syncrude Sport and Wellness Centre

## **5. "Power Skating" program**

- In collaboration with Keyano Huskies hockey team, and Frank Lacroix Arena, we have put together a weekly skating program for Beacon Hill Students. The program runs every Tuesday afternoon from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. until Mar. 24. It has proven to be very popular with approx. 35 students in gr. K-8 registered. Keyano Huskies coach Nate Bedford, along with approx. 10 hockey players, is running the program. Mrs. Blanchette is supervising on behalf of the school.
- Frank Lacroix Arena will only charge rental if another group wishes to book at the same time. Thanks to Parents Plus for committing up to \$600 to cover arena rental (as needed basis).

## **6. Technology**

- New projector/screen/audio system installed in the school gym. Minor adjustments to microphone levels, video wireless and cable connection still pending
- New laptops still on order (30)
- Cell phone policy proposed revision, more parent involved than previous

## **7. Communication Survey**

- Brief survey was sent home to parents re: preferred methods of communication with teachers and the principal. Approx. 80 responses with overall positive feedback offered. Very few suggestions on ways to improve communication
- Majority responded they like student agenda, notes/letters home, teacher emails, Weekly Beacon. 17 liked Facebook page, only 1 liked Twitter

## **8. Volunteer request**

- Construction paper cutting- Asking for volunteers to come in and cut the large sheets down to a usable size

## 9. Important dates

- Wed. Feb. 18 - Beacon Hill School Spotlight on Education @ District office
- Thu. Feb. 19 - Beacon Hill School Science Fair
- Feb. 23-27 - Teachers' Convention break (no school)
- Thu. Mar. 5 - Vista Ridge Tubing day gr. 2-3
- Sat. Mar. 7 - George Decker Memorial @ Dr. Clark School 1:00 p.m.
- Sun. Mar. 8 - Daylight Savings Time begins (clocks ahead 1 hour)
- Mar. 9-13 - Junior High Exams; Open Minds program (gr. 2) @ Heritage Park; TOC Appreciation Week
- Fri. Mar. 13 - Professional Learning Day (no classes)

### **Grade Configuration:**

- **Superintendent Doug Nicholls**
  - Every January, the school board has a strategic planning session, and this is how the topic of grade reconfiguration came up.
  - Ecole MacTavish has been approved to become a Grade 7-12 school (currently a grade 7-9 school) and will happen in 2017 or in 2018. This is based on the need in the Timberlea area because of the population growth
  - Westwood High school possibly change to a grade 7-12 at the same time as Ecole MacTavish
  - There are smaller Jr Highs on the south side of town, Greely Road only has 27 students and because of that they were not able to have a basketball team and were not able to be part of the tournaments although it was held at Greely Road
  - Public district is not growing as well as Catholic and the belief is because there are more opportunities for courses and better facilities offered for the Jr High grades
  - Doug Nicholls as well as some of the trustees have been to Greely/Dr.Clark and Beacon Hill to discuss and explain the idea of grade configuration
  - The Islamic school has Grade 7-12 in Composite High School and the feedback is positive from parents, the same concerns that are being brought up here were the same as the Islamic school parents
  - Programming for options, and edge opportunities are better and more diverse than the K-8 schools can offer
  - The Public School Board decides overall what will happen, when and what the next steps will be
  - Trustees will bring all the information gathered and present to the board and they will vote, a decision is hoped to be made in April. March 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm there will be a Special networks meeting at the district office and the Grade Configuration will be discussed (as well as other topics, must RSVP to council member so that they can give the number of people attending to district)
- **Questions/Concerns:**
  - If the Grade configuration goes forward, will Beacon Hill and Greely Road be sustainable because of the lower enrollment numbers?
    - The school board will have to look at the numbers to make a decision, this would be a separate issue to look at and would be discussed, but there would be a possibility of the two schools combining

- How will the gym time at Comp work, it is currently an issue for some, worried about additional students coming in, because of the small space
  - This is something that will have to be looked at and determined with staff once a decision is made
- 20-24 Million dollars has been allocated for upgrade to Comp, most that have been to date have been internal, the plan now is to bring more light into the school and remodeling classrooms etc. The overall footprint of the school will stay the same. The completion of the upgrade is TBD.
  - As construction continues, there will be minimal disruption to the students, and bigger things will be done throughout the summer
  - Some parents feel that the construction should be completed before going forward with the grade configuration
- Concerns with the grade 7-8 children being exposed to bad influences at an earlier age
- Some concerns with taking away the choice of sending their children to a K-8 school, some parents feel that this is an important part of why they have chose to stay in the public district, because Catholic does not have this option.
- Bussing: How will bussing work if this goes forward?
  - Parents concerned that grade 7-8 would be bussing on the transit with Grade12,
  - Bussing will be addressed once a decision has been made, and yellow bus might be an option instead of transit
- Teachers and staff at Beacon Hill have questions and concerns and Doug Nicholls will meet with them to discuss
- KEY NOTES:
  - Biggest concerns from parents: taking away the choice to decide, the bussing, and if the options/courses offered at a High School have more benefits to the students over the smaller schools abilities to allow them more time to grow academic and emotionally.
  - This has been brought up in years previously, so not a new topic for the board to discuss. They are well aware of the areas of concern.
  - Decision will be made end of April, could be in place is approved as soon as 2015-2016 school year
  - The school board votes on the issue and they have the final say, so the more they hear from parents is important to their vote on the topic
  - March 30<sup>th</sup> 2015 at 5:30pm at district office will be a special networks meeting, and this topic will be discussed, contact school council if you want to attend (everyone can attend)
  - Parents can email the trustees with their questions and concerns.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:05pm**

**Next Meeting date: March 24th at 6pm**