

Senator Joyce Fairbairn School Council Meeting

February 28, 2023 – 7:00 pm (At SJF)

Attendance: April Banack, Shannon Pratte, Shannon Francis, Fiona Kirby, Stephanie Beekman, Colleen Geisbrecht, Craig Dejong, Craig Whitehead, Kaylee Low

1. **Welcome:** Started @ 7:02 pm with introductions

2. **Reports:**

a. **Admin-** (Craig Dejong)

Report on Valentines dance: High participation, had about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the kids attend. They did not charge admission. The DJ was good and had appropriate music and would use 'Sounds Unlimited' again. 1.5 hours was a good amount of time. -Once kids left the dance they couldn't come back in order to keep the venue secure. They did a good job of keeping phones out of the dance, this was an effort to avoid pictures or videos being taken of other kids. Appreciation was expressed by the parents at this meeting. Group discussion about the benefits of having no phones at the school. Admin has noticed that generally there is a hyper level of communication b/w child and parent and that has increased since COVID. Kids can flourish without the phones.

-Short & Sweet Dessert Concert - March 7th two sittings, @ 6:30 & 7:30 pm, put on by the fine arts. There is a musical ensemble from the band, and the foods students bring desserts. Lots of student participation.

b. **Division-**

Town Hall mtg- kids (of all ages) were asking for no cellphones.

-At the last admin meeting, snapchat is blocked on the network. Craig Dejong suggested to block Tik Tok but didn't get traction.

-Feedback from town hall meeting can be found on the division website.

→ If you have feedback re: the policies due March 1st

(Kaylee can forward email if interested)

501.2 Eligibility for Early Childhood Services

503.5 Student Activities

607.3 Instructional Resources

Information from Criag Whitehead, trustee:

-No meeting since January (due to the town hall event).

-Hired a digital wellness person and now hiring a family support worker. Trying to develop situations where we use technology the right way in schools, assist in addiction prevention. Starting with grade 6 and developing lessons to be taught.

(Kaylee will pass along some resources that may help as they develop plans)

-Policies 160+ in our division, most divisions have only 30 and the rest of procedures.

Trying to narrow that down. Tonight they passed one on inclusive education. They sent one back on expulsions and extensions. They need to incorporate the legal act. -

Superintendent has announced retirement. Someone hired from outside to help with the process of choosing the candidate. They will develop an interview strategy based on feedback from parents/ staff/ support staff etc. This is an important change that the board is taking seriously. Hope to have someone hired by the end of June. This can be an intense process.

-This Thursday and Friday having a board retreat and they will discuss town hall, mission and vision, and review the feedback. They had almost 1300 responses.
-The budget announced a number of things. Won't happen right away but we will see an increase budget by 34% for bussing.
Bussing for kids K-6, 1 km and for Gr. 7-9, 2 km. A letter to parents will come out.

-Student Conference- had 12 pages of information from students. Had a good discussion, like a kids 'town hall' type meeting.
-First basketball championship here at SJF! Craig attended that game.
-Teachers Convention last week.

3. Old Business:

a. Account Balance

We were at \$731.22

- \$104.27 food and balloons for staff appreciation lunch
- \$42 coffee for staff appreciation

\$584.95 Remaining

b. Speaker this Spring?

Kaylee emailed Caroline Buzanko (From Calgary, Registered Psychologist)
<https://drcarolinebuzanko.com/speaking/>

Her email:

I have reduced fees for schools, which is \$500 for 2 hours (or \$250/hr) plus travel.

Given the driving time etc. I'd only be able to come out if it was a 2-hour session. So \$750 then for two hours plus the travel. Otherwise I could do a video session for an hour for \$250.

-Suggestion to do the last period to kids, then a parent session right after, an hour to each.
School could split the cost.
-Kaylee will follow up and get back to the school council as soon as she hears back.
We will try to make a final decision in the next couple of weeks.

4. New Business: None

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 21st @ 7:00 pm

Adjournment: @ 7:39