

Senator Joyce Fairbairn School Council Meeting

Held in the conference room at SJF

November 28, 2023

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

Attendance: Sharon Willms-Laing, Raj Mathur, Craig DeJong, Skye Curtis, Stephanie Beekman, Grayson Michel, Sara Bond, Fiona Kirkby, Kristina Larkin (Trustee)

1. Division School Council-

1. Board meeting (Oct 24) highlights document provided
2. Skye reported on parent learning about policies, questions about anti racism anti oppression policies, plan to formally request 2 more parents for committee
3. ASCA (Alberta School Council Association) Membership Discussion- Skye
 1. Have to decide if our school would like to have membership or not. Membership is free for the school as it's paid by the school division. Craig clarified that ASCA provides information for parents and supports operational practices of school council. Question raised about what would happen to funds if not put towards membership-unsure of exact fee or if money could be used for another purpose. Those present discussed this and agreed to maintain membership.
4. Digital wellness night at Yates went well
5. Elementary school surveys coming up; request for parents of Coalbanks students to include if students would continue in Spanish program if it moves locations.
6. Poverty Intervention committee: Consider trending issues and concerns for people/families living in poverty/financial strain – bring forward next meeting
7. Wellness coordinator- how to encourage more active transportation methods, eg scooter and skateboard racks. This may help mitigate potential increase in busing – see item 7 below.

2. Town Hall Info- Kristina

1. February 6, 2024- looking for parent involvement. Questions will be related to successes and ways to improve the school experience at elementary, middle school and high school levels. More specific topics will be discussed this year.

3. Book Club Interest-Skye
 1. Book club read "Glow Kids" last year. Skye willing to facilitate. Suggested potential titles: "Hold on to your Kids" by Gordon Neufeld, "Rest Play Grow" by Macnamara. "The Boy Who was Raised as a Dog" by Perry. "For the Sake of Our Youth" by Tessa Stuckey.
 2. Skye to draft email regarding interest, Craig to send out to parents.
4. Teacher Appreciation Day- Skye
 1. Tabled until next meeting
5. Extra-Curricular Update (Athletics and Fine Arts)- Raj
 1. Volleyball was successful and is now complete.
 2. Basketball ID camps complete and season started. League games start next week. Great opportunities to play for all levels of players.
6. Busing for 2024-25- Raj
 1. Currently 6 buses for SJF, all at capacity. Cold weather usually indicates how many students are actually taking bus; once determined available spaces are offered to students not currently eligible for the bus.
 2. Students being asked to show passes to ensure they are taking the correct bus (no friends or trips to the YMCA)
 3. Next school year (2024-2025) increased government funding for busing students grade 1-6 who live within 1km and grades 7-12 who live within 2 km (by driving distance). Will require more buses and drivers (could be up to 15 buses), and could make for longer times on bus for students.
7. Staffing Update-Sharon
 1. Interviewing for 2 EA positions.
 2. Staff currently preparing report cards, will be available December 8, Power School not accessible until then.
8. Alberta Education Assurance Measure Survey-Craig
 1. Will post PAT results and assurance survey results from grade 7 parents. Craig to consider ways to improve completion of survey by parents such as hosting school event that incorporates the survey.
9. Sharon's Update
 1. Glow in the Snow Fine Arts Festival December 14.
 1. Live performances, art etc
 2. \$7 entry, fundraiser for fine arts program
 2. SJF and Plaxton entered CBC Classroom Music Challenge together. Arranged by Kyle Harben. Top 10 to be announced Dec 6

3. Grade 6 math curriculum parent meeting last week. ~20 parents attended

Meeting Adjourned at 8:03pm