

JV Clark School Council

January 5, 2021

Minutes

Call to order: 6:40

Present: Kerri Ellis, Teresa Samson, Sarah Paschuk, Terra Blanchard, Ian Spencer

School Staff: Nicholas Vienneau, Bryan Clubbe

Public: Sandy Washburn

Agenda Approved: moved by Kerri

Reports:

Principal Report:

- 1) **Staff Update:** New high school teacher (part time) has made it; training this week. Grade 3-4 teacher is here until June. Have to post EA position, currently held by TOC.
- 2) **Literacy Testing Results:** Grade 1-2 – Testing done in Sept/Nov/January – Most of the class is meeting expectations or higher. Only 3 students are not meeting.
Grade 3-4 – Nov. only had 3 meeting expectations, 6 not meeting expectations. Supports in place for teacher and students to help get these results up.
DART – results are good, doing quite well in the higher grades, another DART and School Wide Write will be done in the spring.
Literacy testing results – only tested high school students, not the full school. Plan for January is to get the full school tested in Elementary end. Principal wants to create reading groups for gr 1-6, kids work together reading together based on their reading level not on their age/grade. Introducing Reading Power and Writing Power to help with comprehension. Kids can work at their own level; teaching is the same. Makes it easier for teachers with reading and writing who have a wide range of levels in their classrooms. This will provide more consistency throughout the school. Elementary teachers are to start using this on January 18th. This program is supported at the Department Level and follows the BC Curriculum. This will be used in conjunction with PM Benchmark and ReadWell programs. As of grade 4-6 PM Benchmark is left behind but this will carry on, as it can be used up until grade 12.
- 3) **Bussing Issues:** Things seems to be calmer on the bus. Teachers rotated riding the bus for 3 weeks prior to the break. Bus Driver has put in his resignation, however, we are hopeful he will rescind this. Has been no other incidents, all kids ages 5+ must wear a mask. Principal is fine with rotating teachers for the remainder of the year to support this.
- 4) **Are teachers ready for online learning if needed:** Most teachers said with a little extra work they will be able to move online quickly.
- 5) **School Budget information – class supplies, take home materials etc.** – School is doing quite well. Just got a new photocopier so budget is slightly reduced. There is some budget you can rollover, however you cannot move budget line items.
- 6) **Other:**

- ➔ Homeschool – concern raised – hard to keep the kids caught up when the class is progressing. Kids will not be held back until grade 10 unless parents and administration are on board.
- ➔ Kindergarten and grade 1-2 teachers will both be going to Robert Service School in Dawson to do observations for a day.
- ➔ Principal is going to contact a colleague in Faro to see if they will come down and do training on the Read Well Program
- ➔ Principal has contacted the Department about changing ASPEN to be able to track attendance on high school end based on blocks.
- ➔ Student behaviour tracking procedure
 - Red – critical – phone call home right away
 - Yellow -cautionary– dealt with in house
 - Green – good behaviour – put on the wall and when reach a certain goal student/school will get rewarded
 - This will be for larger things – school will keep with pink slips (PBIS) for small things
- ➔ School Growth Plan – should School Council be involved? One on the website hasn't been update in a number of years. Ideally something set up by June so 2021/2022 can start with new plan
- ➔ Newsletter coming soon – will be put out monthly starting in January
- ➔ Issues with bathroom at high school end may consider taking the doors off – still privacy but teachers can then hear them, or lock them and they have to then use the Elementary end, which is not ideal
- ➔ Superintendent will be going on Paternity leave on January 11th – stepping in is Gord Miller

Guest Teacher – Outdoor Education – Came as an outdoor experiential education teacher – talked to Principal about continuing as full-time for half the year next year 2021-2022. Interested in doing the same thing (full-time for ½ the year in the spring). Feels we are scrambling a little bit with outdoor experiential education and that it helps to create a culture in the school. Thinks there's a lot of potential with this position, however when he arrived there was zero buy-in from teachers as well as high-school students. Ended up working more in elementary end, and still collaborating more with elementary end this year with music. Not sure if we will get the culture at the high school end now but focusing more on elementary end in the hope that this positive culture moves up through the grades. Work on a right of passage, camp-outs, experiences that the students work towards and know to expect at all grade levels. Plot out what skills we want students to have by the time they graduate, leadership, life, land skills etc. Be intentional and grow a school culture.

Library and Computer Lab – underutilized. Could be a more useful space (makerspace). Re-define the space to make it more of a learning common. Tools gifted from Department of Ed as a makerspace start-up. Sees his position as having the ability to help with creating this makerspace mentality.

Financial Report School council has money. Year-end Reports have been submitted. Saving Account has been opened, online banking has been set up and signing authority updated at the bank.

Correspondence

Community Concerns/Comments

- ➔ Concern raised over Custodian speaking to a student about not having/wearing indoor shoes
- ➔ What steps should a parent take if they feel their child may have a learning disability – first step is to speak to the Principal. An Educational Psychologist is coming in February – referrals can be made to them.

Old Business

- 1) **Reading night- January 14th 6:30** - Kerri, Ian and Terra can read. Don't let the kids pick the book so it can be limited for time. 30 min. is long enough
- 2) **Fundraiser-Fire Fighters Steak dinner** – made about \$900 after expenses. Suggestions given include:

50/50 draw, buy an item and sell tickets, pizza or lasagne dinner. Will be discussed further at next meeting

- 3) Dispute Resolution Policy** – No questions or concerns raised at staff meeting. Teachers were given the policy before Christmas and were given it again on Monday to read. Next step will be to e-mail it to superintendent and then School Council can sign it.

Action Item: Sarah – Will e-mail

Other:

Communication log: grade 1-2 teacher has started a communication log, however it seems she is the only teacher who has done this

School Council input on teacher hiring: superintendent has said this may be a possibility

New Business

- 1) Priority List of focuses/Changes for this year –**

a. Topics Suggested include:

- i. Literacy
- ii. Attendance
- iii. Teacher support/Encouragement
- iv. Scheduling – giving high school some different course options
- v. Cooking/Home Economics – perhaps wait for 2021/2022 for Tara McCauley's return
- vi. Establishing School based routines, positive student Behaviour/encouragement, school culture
- vii. Planning for next year

- 2) Facebook page creation update** – its available

- 3) Attendance policy review – start discussion** – Principal feels so far, they are not enforcing it fully. Hopefully having ASPEN changed will help with tracking this. Question brought up regarding attendance and grade 12 graduation. There are 3 ways to leave high school – dogwood (formal graduation), adult grad (over 18), school leaving certificate (you've come but you haven't been able to obtain enough graduation credits). Generally, all three groups of people share the stage to commemorate leaving high school. With regards to leaving certificate it comes down to administration and teachers if they are willing to sign off on adult grad or leaving certificate for students who did not attend regularly. Should we create a policy around this so the expectation of students becomes known, and is not changed from year to year? Tabled for later discussion.

- 4) Bussing Policy Review – start discussion** – no written reports have been given so far. Change "the bus driver has usually tried several verbal warnings" to a one strike rule. The following items are not permitted on the school bus during regular.... "no hockey sticks" – put it with the baseball bat – stored with the driver.

Action: Sarah will make these changes

Next Meeting- February 2, 2021- 6:30pm