

JV Clark School Council

December 1, 2020

Minutes

Call to Order: 6:40pm

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

School Staff: Nicholas Vienneau (New Principal)

Public: Sandy Washburn

Agenda Approved: moved by Ian Spencer, Second by Kerri Ellis

Principal Report:

We have a new principal Nicholas Vienneau as of December 1, 2020. Nicholas will be with us until June. The Principal position will be posted in February, School Council to be involved.

Nicholas comes from Dawson, where he was the ILC teacher. Prior to that he was at FH Collins in Whitehorse and an outdoor education consultant for the Department.

Nicholas has introduced himself to the staff. Over the next week or so he will be interviewing each teacher to identify what we do well and areas that need work. EA's will be included in these interviews. Teachers are already asking for support. Nicholas has an open door policy.

The replacement teacher for Bryan Clubb arrives January 15, 2021. She will be teaching Eng. Lang. Arts, and SS.

All teaching positions are currently filled. There is one half time EA position open, currently filled by a TOC.

Nicholas will be looking into the school wide literacy testing which was conducted last month. As well, he will talk with elementary teachers on how literacy is being taught in their classes. Are teachers using PM benchmark or Read Well Programs? Reasons for their decisions? Is there opportunity to teach both or tailor literacy programs to each student? Some parents have expressed a want for their child to continue with the read well program at school (not just at home) as they were seeing more improvement with that particular program over the benchmark program.

Bussing issues – reports from bus driver that kids are not listening and are behaving unsafely. Current driver has given notice and will not be continuing after January. Standard bus is responsible for hiring a new driver. There is one fill in driver.

Is there video footage for the bus? If not, can we install a camera? Should we enforce a 3 strikes you're out policy. After three warnings, you will not be allowed to ride the bus for a certain amount of time. To discuss further if things do not improve. Council to review bussing policy. Put ownership back on parents to talk to their kids about proper bus behavior. Driver needs to be reporting students to administration; admin. to follow up with parents.

With the escalating case counts (COVID 19) are teachers ready to go to online learning if needed?
Nicholas to talk to teachers.

Are they sending work home for students that are away sick so they don't fall behind? This needs to be done, more than just posting assignments online. Instruction is needed as well.

If parents pull kids from school on their own accord teachers should have at least two weeks worth of work ready for them to complete at home. After two weeks if students still stay home voluntarily they may have to look for distance education to continue their learning.

There is talk of a possible delayed start in January at the department level. However, this is still just a maybe and not likely at this point.

Can classrooms be setup to zoom the whole class if needed? Currently classrooms are not setup this way.

Has been brought up that some kids may be bullying others when they stay home sick (such as saying they have COVID). This needs to be addressed in the classroom if it has not been already.

Parenting together group is planning a drive in theater. It will be a Christmas theme during the week of Dec. 21. Could be coupled with a grad fundraiser. To be held at Campus or Anglican Church. More details will follow shortly.

Teachers are planning a video montage of each classroom in replace of a Christmas concert.

Retirement Gift for Hilda Germaine – Can council purchase frame for a beading project being organized by Sandy and Teresa?

- Purchase from the frame shop
- Carmen can lead beading projects at youth center, Sandy at college so Hilda does not know
- Nancy or Dawna can instruct fish scale art or moose hair tufting project at school
- Timeline – art needs to be done by spring break
- FNNND can commit to purchasing half of frame

Motion: Council to purchase 50% of frame for Hilda Germaine's retirement gift.

Moved: Kerri

Second: Teresa

All in favor, yes

If we purchase a retirement gift for Hilda, council needs to remember to do something for Mike McGinnis, should he put his retirement notice in this year as well.

FNNND Northstar Agricultural team – running FNNND farm

- Community engagement – talk to older students about helping
- Working with Carlton University on art piece based on student engagement. This may open avenues for students who may wish to attend the university later
- Athletic coaches are willing to lead online workouts at school, could be used as part of PE class.

There is a possible snowshoe workshop organized by Yukon University and FNNND. May use school shop class if project moves forward. Depends on availability of instructor. COVID limited.

Teachers have expressed interest in bringing elders into school.

Reading Night

- Break into smaller group, try and get older students to read to the younger ones.
- Next event to be held Dec. 10, 2020 at 6:30pm (keep at second Thursday of every month)
- Sarah to update poster and post around town.

Council/FNNND could host skating party at 5mile? Possible fundraiser for grads (selling hot chocolate) if allowed due to COVID rules. Question to be asked at next inter-agencies meeting.

Jordan's Principal – is sending extra hampers to FNNND to be distributed to FNNND students. As there are extras they may also be distributed to all students. FNNND needs confirmation from the school on enrolled students in order to make this happen and funding rules.

Do we want to respond to letter received from Minister McPhee in response to our two letters sent regarding teacher retention and housing issues in Mayo.

- For now, we will not respond
- We have not sent our letter to HR. Nicholas will follow up with Paul to see if our concerns are things that HR can change or if we need to direct our concerns elsewhere.

Dispute Resolution Policy:

- To be added - If violent behavior is displayed or if one person is uncomfortable confronting the other person involved in the conflict, then they should not have to confront them. The conflict can be brought straight to the administration.
- Add in some traditional methods of conflict resolution. Perhaps a circle discussion? Teresa shall follow up with other suggestions, relative to NND traditional ways.
- Fwd. draft policy to Nicholas to share with staff. Everyone needs to feel like they are involved and working as part of a team. Council will join staff meeting January 5th at 3:30pm to discuss policy with staff.

Council asked to pay for teaching supplies bought off of teachers pay teachers website. Setup a credit account. Nicholas, to look into school budget to see if there is money already available.

- Council is concerned about what teachers are buying. Is it supporting materials or full lesson plans so teachers don't have to make their own? Are these materials re-useable and left at the school?
- Teacher's should not have to pay for their own supporting supply's

PE Teacher asked for money to rent the school bus to take students to 5mile for skating. Part of PE class. Field trip still needs to be planned properly, so timeline is unknown.

- FNNND will donate a bus for this trip if needed. Teresa to follow up with Teacher.
- Nicholas to follow up with details on white bus owned by the school.

Council Pancake Breakfast:

- Find out COVID rules around how this could be made possible (ask at inter-agencies meeting)
- We could serve to just students and have them eat in class
- Have just council do the cooking. Ask Crystal for advice on how much food needs to be ordered.

Attendance Policy:

- Suppose to be developed in conjuncture with school council. Nicholas to send current policy for review.
- Doors being locked, what to do?
 - Bring teachers into conversation
 - Locked for safety reasons (keep strangers out, students come in/out through front doors so staff knows if they are at school, students have not been signing out) and to know when staff are coming in late too.
 - Students are not comfortable walking past front desk. Administration can make them feel bad about their attendance.
 - Community perception is it feels like residential school
 - Students need to learn consequences to actions – if they don't follow the rules (i.e. sign out) they could be suspended (one option)
 - Maybe we could just lock them during class time; open in morning, breaks, lunch, and after school
 - Yukon school policy is to lock side doors so strangers cannot come in. Safety.
 - Teachers should be reporting to administration if students are missing from class. Admin. Should then be following up with parents.
 - Nicholas, to work with all staff to make the school a welcoming environment, especially the front
- Currently council provides \$1000/year for the attendance awards. Top 10 students for attendance get \$100.
- Kids should want to be at school, otherwise they wont come
- Teacher turn over plays a role in attendance too. Students need to be able to build relationships with teachers over many years
- Parents don't come to meetings due to: lack of child care, and no trust in council.
 - Can we zoom our meetings? Yes! Teresa to setup standing zoom meeting. Number can be advertised on website and admin. Building bulletin board.
 - Council to create Facebook page. All members will be able to add information. Advertise events. Share letters, meeting minutes etc. Teresa to setup page.
 - School website should be kept up to date too

Motion: Teresa to setup Facebook page for all of council to use.

Moved: Sarah

Second: Kerri

All in favor, yes.

What is being done for the Christmas concert? Teachers are putting together a video.

Emergency Plan – hand back to Nicholas for review. Council does not need to review this document

COVID Plan for council Meetings:

- Maintain 10 people (including guests). Can move to a bigger room if needed
- Zoom all meetings so parents do not need to physically come
- Wear masks if 6ft cannot be maintained

Meeting Adjourned 9:29pm

Next meeting January 5th, 2021 at 6:30pm