

Blueberry School Council Meeting
January 27th, 2020

Jen Richens, Vice-Chair, called meeting to order at 6:30pm

In Attendance: Jen Richens, Heather Sandboe, Heather Bader Kopp, Trina Shiner, Chelsey Litzenberger, Jacklynn Cadeau, Maggie Zolner, Allison Crossman, Suzanne Fellows, Shawna Kuhl, Sheryl Bridgeman

Agenda approved by Heather Sandboe, seconded by Chelsey Litzenberger

November minutes adopted by Trina Shiner, seconded by Chelsey Litzenberger

Committee Reports – Jen Richens (Vice-Chair. Malinda Ferris absent)

- Parents at Large
 - All parents at large who were in attendance have reached out to their respective grades and haven't heard anything back from parents
- Condition of BBQ's
 - Carmen was not in attendance. It was mentioned that they may have been taken out and looked at and may just need a good clean. We will wait for a report from Carmen.
- Hot Lunch Room
 - Sheryl spoke on this as Malinda was absent. Upgrades are currently on hold due to budget cutbacks. There is a plan in place with Interlab Inc (Malinda) if and when funds are available. Sheryl will hold on to the plans for the future.
- Staff Appreciation Luncheon – March 30, 2020
 - This is a luncheon put on by volunteers as a thank you to all of the teachers and support staff at Blueberry. Some years the lunch has been catered and other years it's been donated by parents.
 - Jen Richens will lead the committee and has a list of people who will help. A letter that can be given to businesses, asking for donations, is to be distributed. Donation letters will also be sent home. There will also be a post on the Facebook mom's group.
 - We will need to get a count of males/females for the gift bags. Suzanne will help with the bags. It's believed there were 52 in total last year.
 - Each teacher/support staff gets a grab bag and a larger gift, all of which is donated.
 - We will reach out for food donations as we did last year and will ask parents to supplement that once we know what will be donated.
 - We are going to get a business letter out so that we know what we're receiving from businesses and then we can ask for donations of the rest.
 - It was suggested that we contact Mrs. Owen to ask for the help of the leadership kids.
 - There will be a Facebook Messenger thread started to communicate with the luncheon committee.
 - We may need to ask the Fundraising Committee for some money, this will be requested at the next school council meeting.

Vice-Chair Report – Jen Richens

- Nothing as she was chairing the meeting

Treasurer Report – Jacklynn Cadeau

- Amount has remained the same at \$462.13

Trustee Report – Sally Kucher-Johnson

- No report, not in attendance

Principal Report – Sheryl Bridgeman

- Report Card Feedback
 - Parents all agreed that they like the new format. They like that it's concise but all necessary information is there. They found it easier to understand. It was noted that for junior high students (Grades 7-9), the parents liked the actual grades instead of the "meets/exceeds" of the old report cards.
 - Parents also liked that the parent teacher interviews were separate from the report cards. If there were areas that their child needed to improve in, it gave them time to work on it before the report card came out so that the parent could see if they were making progress.
- COSC
 - It was explained that this is a divisional council made up of members of individual school councils.
 - They have a separate meeting date. Anyone wanting these dates can contact Sheryl. It was mentioned that these dates could be posted on the Blueberry Facebook page with a brief description of who's speaking on what topic. All parents are able to attend.
 - We don't send anyone as we've found that parents have a very busy schedule and often don't have time to attend
 - They're looking for recommendations from parents on where they believe the school and division could spend less or need to spend more. As it stands right now, if we spend more in one area it would have to come from another area as there are no additional funds.
 - With budgets tightening up and no funding for new students, we will try to keep class sizes as low as possible for 2020-2021 but we may need to consider combined grade levels. Parents gave positive feedback regarding split classes

Presentation – Google Platform – Michelle Visscher

- Pushed to next meeting as Michelle was absent.

Discussion Items

- Education Plan – Element 6. Pushed to next meeting
- Special presentations for school council meetings were discussed. It was decided that we would like to do the following:
 - Google Platform presentation by Michelle at the February meeting

- ZenDen presentation at the March meeting (ZenDen is regarding anxiety & self regulation)
- April meeting wasn't decided
- Blanket exercise presentation at the May meeting. This take about 1 hour and is in regards to educating people on how Indigenous people have been treated in the past. We want to start the May meeting at 6pm so that we can include the blanket exercise as well as have a quick meeting (we have to vote in the school council members at May's meeting as well). We may have a Grade 8 student come in as they've done this. Sheryl mentioned that if we have 20 or more people committed to coming, we may be able to bring in an Elder to lead us through the activity.
- Trina Shiner mentioned that she'd received a survey in the mail. Surveys have been sent out in the mail to Grade 4, 7 and 10 families. These are for the schools to get feedback from the parents on what they like and don't like, the good and that bad.
- Jacklynn Cadeau mentioned that she likes the fact that literacy is taken very seriously at Blueberry and she's noticed it's not at all schools. It was agreed upon by all parents that literacy should remain important at Blueberry
- It was asked if there is a specific gym teacher at the school. For Grades 7-9, yes there is. For Kindergarten-Grade 6, it's a homeroom teacher that teaches gym class. Suzanne Fellows mentioned that she thinks that as students get older there should be more sports techniques taught and less games played. Sheryl mentioned that the curriculum is covered and that classes do participate in skill building. It would look different in a class setting as opposed to a team setting as students in the class may not all be at the same level, where in a team setting they're specifically being taught skills and techniques to improve their game as it's at a competitive level.
- It was discussed that 95% of the school's budget goes to towards teachers and staff salaries. The other 5% goes towards technology, supplies and materials for the school, among other things.
- The idea of a student council was proposed by Suzanne. Sheryl would oversee it. One or two children from each grade would be part of the council. It was suggested that it should be split into lower grades and higher grades as younger children probably wouldn't have the same interests as older children. It was also suggested that the parents at large attend those meetings so that they can bring the students ideas forward at the school council meetings, or possibly have a child from the student council attend the school council meetings. Sheryl mentioned that not many schools do this anymore. It was discussed that students could benefit from seeing how meetings like this work. It was also discussed that moving forward with the new playground, it may help to hear more from the students in this capacity. Sheryl will bring it forward at the March PD meeting.
- Suzanne discussed that the Grade 6 students don't participate in the "Fun in the Sun" event but instead go to Wabamun beach and bowling in Wabamun. It was suggested that they'd rather go to the Waterpark at West Edmonton Mall. Sheryl mentioned that fees can only be re-directed but no further fees can be collected, so a different activity could be chosen but it would have to be the same dollar amount. It was asked if the students could fundraise for the outstanding amount but Sheryl didn't believe that would be possible either.
- Allison asked by we're raising money for a new playground. It was discussed that it was a student generated idea and that the wood structure is nearing the end of its life. Sheryl also

explained that all fundraising money has to be spent on what is was originally indicated for. We could build a smaller structure than originally planned but we can't change our minds on where we want the money to go now. If we went smaller, we could finish off this project and move on to something else sooner. It was also discussed that with the new lunch hour for the junior high students, teachers are seeing those students actually use the playground structures where they weren't previously.

- Suzanne would like to talk about the Chickakoo run at February's meeting

Next meeting is Monday February 24, 2020 @ 1:30pm.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:33pm