

Bev Facey Parent Council – Meeting Minutes for January 16, 2018

Attendees: 1 School Trustee: Trina Boymook
4 Staff: Paul Pallister, Matt Shudra, Sharon Gach, Pat Forsyth
10 Families Represented: Lisa Clamp, Michelle Dugan, Jody Tom, Beverly Kotun, Maxine Mackay, Debbie Moore, Jeff Hanrahan, Guy Martin, Leah Hesson, Sherri Kaldenhoven, Carol Reivonen
0 Students Represented

Call to Order at 6:35 by Michelle Dugan

Round Table introductions were made

**Additions to Agenda requested: 4.4 Graduation Info on Website, 4.5 Parent-Teacher Interviews
Approved**

**Approval of November 21, 2017 minutes put forward by Maxine Mackay and seconded by Jody Tom.
Approved**

ONGOING BUSINESS:

Learning Clicks – Michelle Dugan:

It was decided at the November meeting that December was too busy of a month to try and accommodate a meeting with Learning Clicks. Michelle expressed that it was difficult to coordinate between the Learning Clicks Advisor and the Bev Facey Liaison. She requested that the two communicate directly with each other to come up with a date. Paul agreed that Michelle could make the connection between the Learning Clicks Advisor and Tiffany Tattrie from Bev Facey and that they would arrange for the parent information session.

School Fees – Paul Pallister:

At the November meeting, Paul asked that parents think about three questions regarding school fees after the policy changes handed down by the government regarding fees, and to provide feedback at the January meeting. The questions and feedback were as follows:

Question 1 – What are parents willing to pay for option courses?

- Question posed asking what happens if a student can't afford an option class. Paul replied that the student can't participate in the option if they cannot pay for it as Bev Facey does not have flexible funding and the consumables and costs related to the classes have to be paid for from somewhere. He also said that the football team and other sports teams may have team funds to help subsidize fees. It was mentioned by a parent that there are organizations like KidSport that will also help with sports teams' fees.
- Comment made that there is no problem to pay fees so long as those fees are being paid toward something worth its value
- Question posed asking if there are any option classes that don't have fees. Answer from Paul was yes.
- Question posed asking that if fees paid for a class were used in that class only and not used to subsidize other classes or programs. Paul replied that the fees collected for a particular class were used for that class only. He also mentioned that he requires a detailed budget from any class that has fees and "expendables" (eg: baking supplies, wood) and that these budgets are available and transparent for anyone to see. In addition, extracurricular sports receive no funding from the school directly other than the Metro Sports fees, and that athletics programs must be self-sustaining. Funds generated from a program (eg. Construction class is building items for an elementary school and charging them a fee) are unrestricted funds and while they are usually used by the program that generated them, they can be used in other areas.
- Paul asked if there was a ceiling or maximum that parents felt should be implemented for option classes. Parent replies included:
 - o Education should be provided, but supplies, etc should be provided by parents where possible and students should be responsible to come up with cost effective solutions for things like costumes
 - o Core equipment should have a fee, but for the most part, consumables should be up the family to pay for thus controlling the cost. Example given was for building construction – if a student wants to make a bigger project or use a more expensive material, then that is up to them to provide.
 - o Fees have been reasonable thus far and parents believe that the student has gotten a great return on the class fee
 - o Each class is very different, so it is difficult to come up with a maximum number that would apply across all classes and experiences
 - o Consensus that if the fees were reasonable and that if the parents were aware of the fees before agreeing to register their child in the class, that there was no need to come up with a finite or maximum number

Question 2 – What is a reasonable number of field trips for each course keeping in mind that field trips cost extra money? Parent replies included:

- Depends on the field trip, what they do, and how relevant it is to curriculum. Field trips can be very rewarding and enriching.
- Field trips are more for elementary and junior high
- Field trips are very necessary to classes like Phys. Ed. who need to access the pool, curling rink, and other facilities not available at the school
- Discussion by parents that they would prefer a “pay as you go” policy on field trips rather than a fee at the beginning of the year as this would provide flexibility to go on a trip that may come up on short notice and it would also allow an “opt out” for the student if missing class time or fees were an issue. This model is not possible at this time as the government now requires approving all fees the year before.

Question 3 – What are parents willing to pay for extracurricular sporting activities? How many tournaments (both local and away) are parents willing to pay for? Parent replies included:

- Maximum 3-4 (2 home and 2 away). Need to limit the number not just because of the cost, but because of time away from school. Would hate to see students lose the opportunity for tournaments as they are a great experience and allow for the preparation and development of other life skills.
- Pat Forsyth clarified the difference between “league events” and “tournaments”.
- School athletic fees are very reasonable compared to outside sports like hockey or gymnastics and it would be a shame to not have them.
- No problem to pay fees as long as the cost is justified and the fees are known prior to committing to the team. Trina Boymook replied that there is a board policy as of June 2017 that team fees need to be communicated PRIOR to team try-outs. The spirit of the policy is about making an informed decision before making a commitment. Matt Shudra stated that he is working to implement this policy but that there are some challenges putting an exact figure on a team prior to try-outs because the team size isn’t known and some costs are reflected by the number of students on the team. Trina clarified that a reasonable price range is sufficient in these circumstances. Pat Forsyth commented that the sports teams are required to provide a budget/cost analysis to the school.
- Question posed asking why the teams couldn’t stay in the Metro area for tournaments thus reducing travel and accommodation costs. Replies included: for competition that is not in our area, fun, and experience against teams not normally played in league.

High School Redesign – Paul Pallister:

At an Information meeting on Dec 11/17, Paul revealed his plans for Bev Facey Redesign. They were slightly modified from what was presented at the November 21, 2017 Council Meeting and included:

- The student/teacher advisory time will take place on Wednesday mornings between Block 1 and 2 from 9:40-10:20am and attendance will be mandatory for all students.

- Thursday and Friday mornings from 8:35-9:15 will be set aside for Personal Learning Time (PLT). This will be mandatory for Grade 10 and 11 students. Grade 12 students have the option to not attend unless they are told otherwise by their advisor. There will be slots for extra homework help and there will also be special groups and clubs set up during this time which will all be organized by the teachers and staff.
- Class times will all be reduced from 83 minutes to 73 minutes on Thursdays and Fridays. They will be reduced to 58 minutes on Wednesdays. They will remain 83 minutes on Mondays and Tuesdays
- Every Wednesday will be an early dismissal day at 2:17 to allow for Teacher Collaboration Time. Students who require bus transportation on these days can remain at the school to study/ do homework until their bus arrives. They will be supervised by support staff, but will not have access to teachers for instruction. Rewrite exams can also be taken during this time.

-There is a Redesign section on the website. In the next few days they will be adding a 50 FAQ section (see attached)

-For the advisory part of the program, teachers have collaborated on what they will do, and counsellors are devising plans as to what should be done/discussed during this advisory period. The first advisory periods will be on January 31, Feb 1,2,7, and 14. The first PLT block will begin on Feb 15. The reason students will have 5 advisory periods to begin is to educate them on PLT and how to sign up for it and to implement the character education piece of Redesign.

-Teachers are busy developing PLT classes that go beyond curriculum (eg: Astronomy with Mr. Kowalchuk). The teachers will also be meeting in cohort groups during exam week to make sure that the advisory groups are set up as anticipated.

Questions and Comments from Parents regarding Redesign:

-Will exams only be written on Mondays and Tuesdays during full class time days? Answer: No.

Teachers can choose any day to administer an exam, keeping in mind the length of class vs. length of exam.

-Will teachers still be available at lunch and after school to help students? Answer: That is up to the teacher. Paul would like to see the teachers start utilizing their lunch time as a break. Most teachers will probably continue with whatever practice they are already utilizing in this regard.

-What will happen when the “popular PLT” classes are full and therefore a student can’t access them? Answer: The student is to report it to the teacher that provides it or their advisor. Departments will analyze this info and determine if more PLT classes in that subject area need to be added.

-How are students going to be gauged that they are with the right advisor? Answer: They are already determined by teachers and the counselling department based on past experiences with that teacher. If there are issues, a student can ask a counsellor or Administration for a switch. Admin may have chosen to keep various students together or apart for various reasons. Hopefully by next week students will find out who their advisor is. It will show up on PowerSchool as a class with the teacher’s name. Advisory groups are by grade (not cross-graded) and they are hoping that a student’s advisor will follow them through to Grade 12.

-Can a parent contact Administration to change an Advisor? Answer: Yes.

-What is the next step after this for the continuation of Redesign? Answer: If this is successful, then next step will probably be adding Mondays and Tuesdays as PLT days. After that, there is likely to be a focus on Assessment.

-What is the measure of Redesign's success? What is our midterm? What is our long term? What is our final goal? Answer: The "Tell Them From Me" survey is not happening anymore so that will not be able to be used for comparison, but the Accountability Survey will be used for comparison. In the short-term Paul will consider comments from students, parents, and teachers. The March 2nd PD day will be used for staff discussion to see how Redesign start up has gone. As for statistics, the only hard data that can be collected will be attendance in the various PLTs and how many Grade 12 students participate. This data will be shared with the parent group.

-Concern by parents that there are a lot of changes being made very quickly and all at once. Because of this, it will be very hard to determine what works and what doesn't. Unclear as to why so many changes must be implemented all at the same time and with such short notice – very frustrated and concerned with all of the change. Paul replied that from his research, everything needs to be started together for most chance of success.

-Concern from many parents that some teachers in some classes are having a difficult time getting through the required curriculum with the current class time, so with a loss of instructional time to advisory time and for early dismissal every Wednesday, how are these same classes going to get completed without "rushing". Paul replied that teachers are required to have long range plans and detailed assessment plans for the year. When he becomes aware that a teacher is rushing to get through curriculum, he will speak with that teacher. One parent commented that it is often too late for anything to change by the time the student is told that they are way behind as it is often in the last week or two of classes. Paul stated that Quality Instruction is part of the Redesign model. Comments were made that a focus on this aspect of Redesign would be more beneficial to students.

-Concern about how exam/assignment/lab/assessment intensive this last week of classes are. Paul has asked that teachers keep the last week of classes for review, but some teachers argue that students are more engaged in the last week if they are writing exams. Pat Forsyth commented that in her long term plans she leaves the last week for review, but if it takes a lesson or two longer to ensure a concept is understood with a particular class, then it cuts into this time.

-Concern about attendance in PLT and disproportionate numbers in each session. Worry about students getting left behind if their PLT is "better" than their current teacher.

-Concern that the PowerSchool computer system will be able to handle the number of students accessing it to book their PLT sessions during their advisory session. Paul replied that the same system has been tested at other schools.

-Trina Boymook commented that there is a resource on the Alberta Education website called "Telling Our School Stories 2.0" in which schools who are participating in High School Redesign are sharing their challenges and successes. (See Attached)

-Concern about how students feel about all of these changes. Paul commented that he is willing to send out a student satisfaction survey to see how students feel about Redesign and how it worked.

Graduation Info on Website – Michelle Dugan:

-No dates/ themes/decisions/fees have been posted on Remind 101 on the website for Grad 2018 yet. Sharon Gach will update and refresh the grad info on the website in the next week.

-Sharon Gach reported that the ceremony will most likely be a \$50 fee for the whole event. There will be no option as in previous years to pay a lower fee to attend the commencement portion of graduation only. Parents are still very concerned over the cost of this model as there is no smaller fee option for grandparents and extended family.

Parent – Teacher Interviews – Sharon Gach:

-Parent-teacher interviews for the second term will be held on March 14 and March 20. As a result, the March Parent Council meeting will be moved from March 20 to March 13.

REPORTS:

Trustee Report – Trina Boymook:

It has been a very busy time with EIPS since last meeting with much to report. Please **see attached** report as presented.

-Parent questioned about EICS still offering half day kindergarten while EIPS is not, and fear that families may choose EICS instead. Trina replied that she is not concerned that this will be a risk factor as many EIPS schools already didn't offer half-day programs and were very successful. The decision was made to ensure that every student had accessibility to their designated school and because noon hour bussing can not be offered, half day kindergarten would not allow for this. The public was not consulted on this decision because for a consultation to be true and fair, there must be more than one viable option and there was not in this case.

Chair & COSC Report – Michelle Dugan:

-In December Lisa and Michelle attended the EIPS Results Review session that included Bev Facey, Lamont, and Ardrossan schools. It was very interesting and informative.

-The Grade 10 Accountability Pillar Survey will be mailed out mid January and is due back Feb 23. Michelle strongly encouraged all those eligible to participate.

-Inquiry as to Parent Volunteers and parental involvement at the school this year. The discussion was tabled for next meeting.

-The 2018 ASCA Conference will be held in Edmonton on April 20 and will have a focus on mental health. EIPS will pay for 12 parents from the district to attend. Michelle attended last year and really enjoyed it. She asked if there are any other parents interested in attending this year. If there are not, she will likely attend.

-COSC presented a numerous amount of parent information sessions coming soon. Please [see attached](#) dates and information.

Administrative Report – Paul Pallister:

-Paul extends regrets from the student group that they did not have a representative at tonight's meeting, but it is a very busy time of year for them with exams. Paul explained that his Principal's Council of students is a general call to students (many are from FLI) to meet with him 2x a month over a pizza lunch where they discuss current school issues. It ranges from 10-25 students.

-Paul wanted to let the parents know that his priority as principal is to provide and create the best opportunity for students to be successful. He is grateful to the parent group for our comments and feedback and assures us that his decisions are not taken lightly or without much research and debate. He appreciates the public's support of his decisions.

-Parent questioned what staff morale and support was like surrounding the Redesign decisions. Paul reported that he conducted a non-anonymous survey and that 70% of staff were on board and 30% were unsure of the changes and how they would work. Another parent suggested that an anonymous survey may have brought more accurate results.

Student Report:

No students in attendance.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 by Michelle Dugan.

Next Meeting will be Feb 20, 2018 at 6:30

Minutes prepared by Lisa Clamp, Vice-Chair