



Walter and Gladys Hill School Council

Thursday, January 21, 2020

## Meeting Minutes

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**Present:** Freya Fourny (Chair), Tiffany Lavechia (Secretary), Shawn Short (Parent Council Advisor), Kriscinda Maki (Director at Large), Nikki MacDonnell, Marie McKay, Iman Akhban, Mr. Toner (Principal), Natalie Doucette (School Counsellor), Cst. Howatt (RCMP)

Freya “I want to acknowledge that we are meeting on Treaty 8 territory and we honour and acknowledge all of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples who have lived, traveled and gathered on these lands for thousands of years”

1. Meeting called to order at 6:32pm by Freya
2. Freya welcomed and Introduced special guests Natalie Doucette (Walter and Gladys Hill Counsellor) and Cst. Howatt (RCMP)
3. Review of tonight's (January 21) agenda
4. Freya asked if there should be any changes to prior Meeting Minutes (November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Freya noted one change/addition of a line for 'Secretary' be added to the bottom and submission to/approved signature line by Freya.
5. Freya motioned to approve previous Meeting Minutes. Nikki approved. Shawn second
6. Review of previous AGM Meeting. No changes needed.
7. Topic of 'Bullying'
  - There was a previous request to have 'Bullying/Anti Bullying' as a topic of discussion and a request for resources to use for the subject
  - Mr. Toner & Ms. Doucette gave a hand outs that reflect the four different stages:
    - Teasing:** Everyone is having fun. No one is getting hurt. Everyone is participating equally
    - Conflict:** No one is having fun. There is a possible solution to the disagreement. Equal balance of power.

**-Mean Moment:** Someone is being hurt on purpose. Reaction to a strong feeling or emotion. An isolated event (does not happen regularly).

**-Bullying:** Attacked physically, socially or emotionally. Unequal balance of power. Someone is being hurt on purpose. Happens more than once over a period of time.

- The discussion on the different topics covered how 'Bullying' can become more difficult once a student enters high school and are dealing with larger issues (more social media outlets, riding the bus, etc.). It was also noted that 'hazing' has become increasingly less over the years. Dealing with smaller schools or children at a younger age is just as important of an issue. If we educate children now on what 'bullying' is, children will have a better understanding, along with coping skills/techniques to dissolve 'bullying' or any type of conflict they may encounter.

-Mr. Toner explained 80% of referrals for a 'bullying' situation are children who are just being "rude" and rather not bullying.

-1 to 2 cases of a referral of students are purposely being mean (they have intent or are frazzled with a situation)

-3 types of referrals are regular (bullying), where you see a distinct pattern in their actions

8. Ms. Doucette discussed what the Response Model would be the school can/will take:

**-Teasing, Conflict & a Mean Moment:** Can be resolved through mediation or in the moment with the use of mediation and social skill building, using the WITS Program- **Walk Away, Ignore, Talk it out, Seek Help** (The WITS Program can empower kids, not just adults)

**-Bullying:** Can cause psychological effects, as well as likely stems from psychological effects. This is when HR gets involved with an action plan on how to work with both the "Bully" and the "Victim" with a strong plan on how to resolve the situation.

-One way the school has done this is by using the "Undercover Anti Bullying Program". This is where students go 'undercover' and work as a group to establish who they think may be a bully and who may be a victim and work as a group together using the "Leader in Me" approach.

9. Constable Howatt discussed what the RCMP do if they need to be involved with a 'Bullying' situation. Cst. Howatt explained that in his history with the RCMP in Fort McMurray, he's never had to attend a 'Bullying' situation, however if there were a case where the RCMP needed to be involved, it would be something severe enough that included someone breaking the law.

Cst. Howatt further explained once the RCMP were involved, they would also be involved with the school and putting a solution order in place (along with utilizing the WHITS program)

10. Ms. Doucette discussed a previous workshop where parents and students covered the topic of the 7 Habits Families and handed out Family Mission Statements that previous families and written out

11. Ms. Doucette suggested a future workshop where parents could come to the school and learn about The Leader in Me program. There would be a minimum requirement of 13 families and would be a full day of class.

-If that wasn't a viable option, families could also have the option to purchase a book

-March was suggested for the month to do a class lead course for parents, along with Sunday being suggested for the day and how we should advertise (ie. Email, flyers around the school)

-A date will be secured at the next council meeting (February 20<sup>th</sup>)

12. Ms. Doucette explained that The Boys and Girls Club is looking for strictly male volunteers 18 years or older to work with young males. Noted that it is also paid for.

13. Sports Try Outs

- Because Walter & Gladys student population is larger than most schools in Fort McMurray, there are a greater number of students missing the opportunity to join/'make' sports teams. It was suggested that next year there be an option for multiple teams in the same division, so that more students could have the opportunity to participate.

-If this were to happen there would be a call to parents for a greater number in volunteers/coaches

- There was a small conflict in opinion on the idea of having multiple teams as some feel students having disappointment is a part of regular growth, how the school could accommodate the amount of coaches needed, and whether we could do multiple teams with different rankings (ie. A & B Teams)
- The idea of having multiple sports teams will be revisited again in August

14. Principal Report: Mr. Toner

- Explained the PLF Days include guest speakers and planning

- There have been questions about the 'Animal Titles' at the Awards Assembly and it was explained these titles are to reflect the 7 Teachings/7 Habits.

-7 Teachings/Habits: Love/Kindness, Respect, Courage, Honesty, Humility & Truth

- School fees have increased for September 2020 (with the roll out of the new budget)
- The School calendar: PLF days will be given 6 months to a year in advance
- Kindergarten Graduation will take place June 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>
- Resources to help students moving from grade 6 to Jr. High will be brought in again in Semester 2 (February)
- The school is trying to scale back on how many outlets they use for outside communication (ie. Social media platforms, email, phone, text, etc) and is trying to narrow it down to 2 forms of communication.

15. Cst. Howatt asked if there was anything we wanted to bring to his attention regarding any way The RCMP could help. We requested that there be more police presence in the area at the time of drop off and pick up. Cst. Howatt advised Freya to send a message to Melanie.

16. Bell "Let's Talk Day" is January 29<sup>th</sup>. Students are requested to wear Blue or Green in support of Bell Lets Talk Day to raise awareness for mental health. There will also be a 20 minutes assembly for each division that day.

17. Pink shirt day is February 20<sup>th</sup>

18. Mothers Cupboard Update

- The idea of it has been sent to admin
- We've established which families will likely utilize this program
- We're in the process of establishing 'suppliers. Save On Foods has given us some offers

19. 12 Days of Giving (Food Drive)

- The school collected 2300 lbs. of food and it was one of the biggest food drives The Food Bank had picked up that year

20. Dr Jody Carrington (Author: Kids these days) will be at Keyano March 12<sup>th</sup> &

13<sup>th</sup>

- Council is hoping to fund any Members, Teachers, EA's who would like to attend (24 max teachers), \$1125

21. February's Council Meeting topic will cover Co Parenting. The meeting is set for February 20<sup>th</sup>.

22. Meeting adjourned 8:22pm

Meeting Minutes Completed by: Tiffany Lavechia

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Minutes approved by: Freya Fourny

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