



Walter and Gladys Hill School Council

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Present: Freya Fourny (Chair), Shannon Smith (Co-Chair), Tiffany Lavechia (Secretary), Shawn Short (Parent Council Advisor), Charity Baldwin (Director at Large), Kriscinda Maki (Director at Large), Sepi Semimi (Director at Large), Nikki MacDonnell, Iman Akhban, Natalie Huntley, Mr. Toner, Ms. Robertson

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 6:27pm by Freya

2. Approve October 29th, 2019 minutes. Tiffany motioned to approve, Shannon second.

3. Review of previous AGM Meeting. No changes needed.

4. Review of communication between school and Parents/Guardians
 - Concern raised that communication is flawed between teachers and students: that there needs to be some streamlining put into place so that Parents/Guardians are able to be communicated all that is going on at the school (example: events, meetings, homework, projects, etc.)
 - Discussion of how to streamline. Possibly getting teachers to communicate using the same app across the board, returning to the use of agendas along with social media, email, and letters home
 - Concluded to revisit this during Convention week with a solution to streamlining communication.

5. Review of Parent Rep “program”

- Initial idea from Mr. Toner where in previous years as Principal at a Highschool, he noticed that having Classroom Reps bridged the gap between Teachers and Parents/Guardians and gave a better opportunity for Parents/Guardians to be more involved and understand more of what was going on in the classroom.
- General consensus that the “Parent Rep” program hasn’t been functional and we need to try to get the Teachers more on board with involving the “Parent Rep”
- Suggested ways to do this: Have the “Parent Rep” reach out more to the Teacher, offering additional help in the classroom where it may be needed

6. New topic: “Mother Cupboard”

- How can we fund this program? Suggestion to look for funding from Save on Foods or Corporations whose budget may allow this
- Suggestion of a referral to get an idea of who would need or utilize the program and to protect their privacy (ex. Teacher referred to Councillor & Santa’s Anonymous referrals)
- Ideal time for pick up of food baskets would be 4pm-6:30pm as there are generally no after school programs or sporting events taking place
- There are approx. 6-12 families that Mr. Toner is aware of that would likely utilize this program
- We could also incorporate Hot lunch Donations with a “pay it forward” idea for students who may not get hot lunch or are in need of lunch

7. Twelve Days of Giving:

- Start collection of Food Donations for the Food Bank December 2nd - December 18th
- The 16th, 17th and 18th are the Concert dates. Promote Donation Collections for these nights

8. Principals report:

- From January-June: would like to establish specific nights or a program to prepare students for different transitions when grading up. (ex. Preparing Grade 6 students for Middle School- what to expect in terms of new school schedule, taking the bus, how to use a locker. Preparing Kindergarteners for Grade 1.)
- Sharing the message from the public division about our budget: Teacher's contracts run out September of 2020 and there is fear that there will be a "Work to Rule" order put in place. The roll out of the budget states the Province will be funded at 8.2 Billion for the next 4 years with an expected 6% growth which gives the idea of having to do more with less funding. The total cut in Funding is 4.6 Million

9. Crosswalks and Playgrounds:

- O&M have spoken with The RMWB. There will be no lights going in at the crosswalk for the time being. Suggestion to have parents start contacting the Liaison with The RCMP to have more supervision at the crosswalks when school is beginning and ending for the day
- There is a lot of ice under the snow in the lower play ground area which has resulted in having to call indoor recess due to safety

10. School initiatives and Council support

- All books ordered have arrived
- Do we want to support the same in Div 2 with high interest vocabulary books for older children at a lower reading level?
- What can council do to support the school for literacy? After December look at hosting a literacy or numeracy meeting to determine Student's literacy and numeracy levels.

11. Any other topics up for discussion?

- Council and Teachers working together for events. How can Council be involved or help Teachers when *Teachers* are hosting events? We'll try to make Teachers aware that we would like to be involved so we are all working together. January to June, start working in alignment.
- More streamlining for ECDP drop off/pick up needs to be done. Parents/Guardians are still confused whether they're allowed in the school or not. The school has an open door policy and all Parents/Guardians are welcome to enter the school.
- Topics for January to June; topic suggestion: co-parenting, and bullying will be on the council agenda for January. February is anti bullying month so this is an ideal time to come up with some type of presentation/program.
- Suggestion of Pink t-shirts in support of anti-bullying be sold by the School so the funds go towards the school.

12. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm